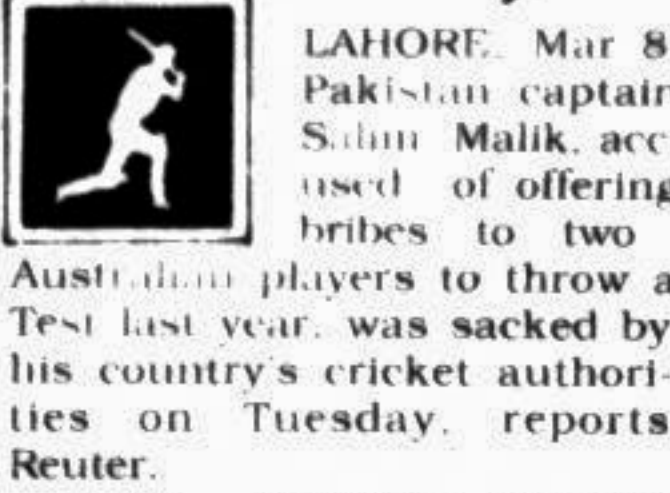
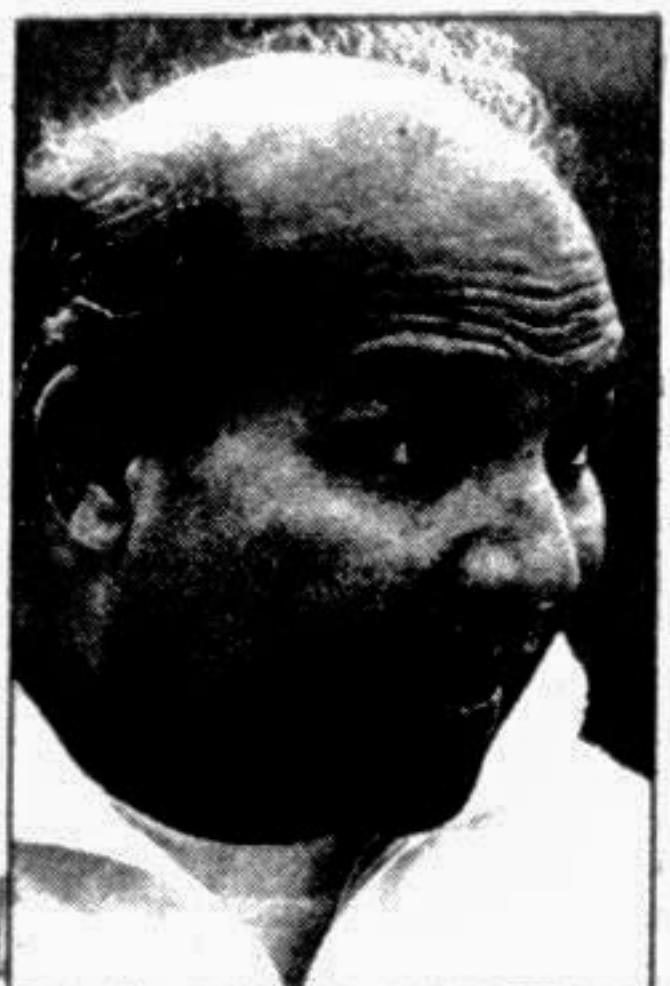


Basit Ali, Rashid Latif may get life-ban

Malik, Intikhab dismissed



INTIKHAB ALAM



SALIM MALIK

LAHORE, Mar 8: Pakistan captain Salim Malik, accused of offering bribes to two Australian players to throw a Test last year, was sacked by his country's cricket authorities on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

A story in Melbourne's the Age newspaper last month said Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne and off-spinner Tim May would allege in reports to the Australian cricket Board (ACB) that Malik had offered them 50,000 dollars each to lose the first Test in Karachi last September. Malik denied the charges.

The ACB subsequently sent details to the International Cricket Council (ICC), the sport's world ruling body, at their Lord's headquarters. BCCP ad-hoc committee chairman Javed Burki then discussed the issue with ICC chief executive David Richards in London, and later said his committee would conduct its own inquiry into the charges.

The ad-hoc committee meeting considered a number of issues, including the results of its ongoing inquiries relating to suspicions of violation by players of their contracts and of the cricket code of conduct," the BCCP statement said.

"Based on the evidence available to it, the ad-hoc committee has asked Salim Malik to show cause why disciplinary action should not be taken against him," it said.

"He was asked to reply to the charges within seven days. Until that time he is suspended from playing cricket for Pakistan or any first class team."

It said the committee was also seeking explanations of "certain other players," but did not name them.

Ad-hoc committee members earlier declined to talk to reporters.

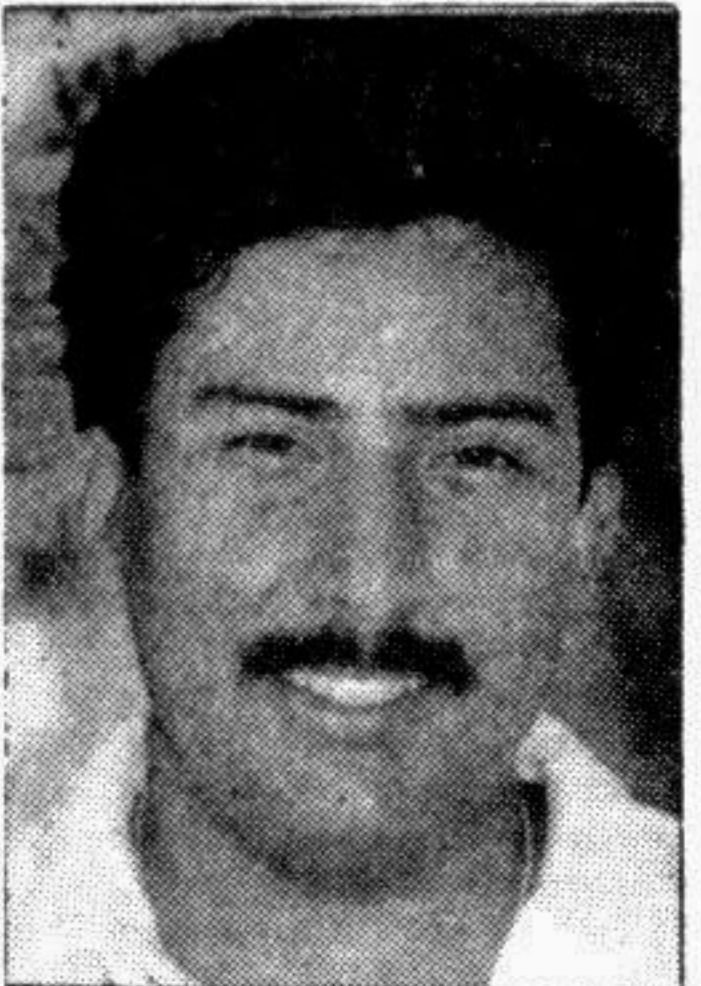
Malik was first appointed Pakistan captain in January last year to defuse a players' revolt against then skipper Wasim Akram. His initial assignment, a tour of Bangladesh and New Zealand, immediately followed.

Malik has recently returned from leading Pakistan on a three-month tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe that was marked by erratic form and controversy.

Malik was fined half his match fee in the third and final

Test against Zimbabwe for accusing local umpire Ian Robinson of ball-tampering. Meanwhile, an AP report from Islamabad added: The Associated Press of Pakistan, the national news agency, said cricket authorities were considering lifetime bans against International Test players Basit Ali and Rashid Latif.

Their names also have surfaced during the recent controversy, and they announced their retirement while the Pakistan side was still in the field.



BASIT ALI

Latif has accused other Pakistani players of accepting money to fix matches during a recent tour of South Africa.

The news agency said that Basit and Rashid may be banned for "defaming the country and bringing the game into disrepute."

Cricket officials feel the two players "badly let down the team and badly tarnished the image of the country."

Sarfraz Nawaz, a former cricket star and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's special adviser on sport, has said an anti-corruption committee launched an investigation last September against six cricketers, including Malik and Alam.

If the cricketers are found guilty of throwing matches, they will be banned from the sport. They could even be charged with treason for embarrassing the country, he said.

New face in Kiwi squad

AUCKLAND, Mar 8: Rookie seam bowler Kerry Walmsley was Wednesday named in a 12-man New Zealand cricket squad for the first Test against Sri Lanka, which begins in Napier on Saturday, reports AP.

The Auckland right-arter has played just three first-class matches, taking 12 wickets for 259 runs at an average of 21.58.

He won selection after a five-wicket haul and match figures of six for 93 for the New Zealand Academy XI against South Africa in Nelson last week.

Allrounder Shane Thomson, who missed the Test against South Africa because of a knee injury, returns to the side, but left-arm spinner Matthew Hart has been dropped.

The selectors said three players — Chris Cairns, Martin Crowe and Simon Doull — were unavailable because of injury.

Crowe, who had knee surgery earlier this year, returned from a thigh muscle injury to play against South Africa, scoring just 16 in the first innings and 14 in the second innings.

SQUAD

Ken Rutherford (captain), Mark Greatbatch, Stephen Fleming, Gavin Larsen, Danny Morrison, Darin Murray, Dion Nash, Adam Parore, Dipak Patel, Shane Thomson, Kerry Walmsley, Bryan Young.

Jordan down Japan in ABC jr meet

MANILA, Mar 8: Jordan beat Japan 73-56 Wednesday, but their hopes of reaching the semifinals depended on defending champions China beating the Philippines in the Asian Basketball Confederation junior championship, reports AP.

Jordan's coach Morad Borakat said his team was on target to gain at least a third-place finish in their debut in the tournament.

"That's just we're looking for now, a third-place finish," Borakat said. "We know we can't beat China and Korea."

China faced the home team later Wednesday. A victory by the Filipinos would put them into the semifinals instead of Jordan.

In another quarterfinal round game, Thailand beat Indonesia 60-49 and were waiting for the result of the South Korea-Taiwan game to find out whether they would advance to the next round.

South Korea are already assured of a semifinal place, but Taiwan have an outside chance of overtaking the Thais for the other spot if they can beat the Koreans.

Courier begins in style

INDIAN WELLS, California, Mar 8: Jim Courier, the No 1 player in the world when he won the Newsweek Champions Cup two years ago but now ranked 11th, got off to a successful start in this year's tournament Tuesday, beating Markus Zöckle of Germany 6-3, 7-5, reports AP.

Courier, seeded ninth and the highest seed to play Tuesday, needed only 74 minutes to dispose of Zöckle despite being aced eight times.

Courier is coming off a victory in the Mass Mutuel Championships in Scottsdale, Arizona, last weekend, his second tournament championship of the year.

Courier scored his biggest victory to that time in 1991 when he won the Newsweek Champions Cup. The victory was considered a breakthrough and Courier went from there to the No 1 ranking.

However, after winning the French Open in 1991 and 1992 and ascending to No 1, Courier has mostly struggled.

In other first-round action, No 10 seed Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine beat Oliver Gross of Germany 7-6 (7-4), 6-3; No 12 Magnus Larsson of Sweden eliminated Emilio Sanchez of Spain 6-4, 6-2; No 14 Thomas Muster of Austria downed Bernd Karbacher of Germany 6-4, 6-2; No 15 Patrick Rafter of Australia rallied for a 2-6, 7-5, 6-2 victory over Alex Corretja of Spain; and No 16 Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia overpowered Aaron Krickstein 6-2, 6-0.

All eyes on Agassi in HK

HONG KONG, Mar 8: Two-time French Open winner Jim Courier will play in next month's Salem Open in Hong Kong, joining a field that includes Andre Agassi and Michael Chang, reports AP.

Now it is world number two Agassi's turn to come to Hong Kong looking to usurp Sampras' title.

Early indications suggest the flamboyant Agassi will take over as number one either shortly before or during Hong Kong's only official men's professional tournament.

Ken Rutherford's men left in ruins De Villiers the destroyer

AUCKLAND, Mar 8: Medium-pace man Fanie de Villiers upstaged skipper Hansie Cronje's century with a match-winning bowling performance Wednesday as South Africa completed a 93-run win over New Zealand in the one-off cricket Test at Eden Park, reports AP.

Cronje set up the victory by making 101 and then declaring his team's second innings and giving New Zealand a sporting target — 275 runs to win in 63 overs at 4.36 runs per over.

New Zealand, however, were bowled out for 181 in their second innings with 43 balls remaining.

The Kiwis appeared well on course for victory at tea, which was taken at 114 for three.

The quick loss of Stephen Fleming (27) and skipper Ken Rutherford (56) then put paid to their chances as De Villiers bowled impressively.

He accounted for openers Bryan Young and Darrin Murray in his first eight-over spell, and then returned to break the backbone of the home team's resistance — removing Rutherford and Matthew Hart.

Gavin Larsen and Dion Nash looked like thwarting the South Africans with a stubborn ninth-wicket stand that lasted 32 minutes but fast bowler Allan Donald then returned for his second spell to remove Larsen.

Medium-pace man Craig Matthews finish the match by trapping Nash leg before wicket.

De Villiers finished with four for 42 and a match analysis of 6.120. This followed his match-winning 10-108 against Pakistan in Johannesburg in South Africa's last Test outing. Craig Matthews took three for 47.

Cronje, who led South Africa to a 2-1 win over New Zealand back home earlier in the season, said the home team's positive approach had made an outright result possible.

"That's how you should play on this pitch," Cronje said. "It was a great Test match considering we lost three hours at the start of match."

"I was a bit concerned at the tea break that the game would slip away from us. But our bowlers came back strongly and were rewarded for the hard work they put in."

Man-of-the-match Cronje earlier became the first player of the match to convert a half-century to a three figure innings after a century had narrowly eluded one of his teammates and two New Zealanders.

South Africa resumed on 232 for four and declared minutes before lunch on 308 for six.

Cronje's 227-minute innings set the pace for the early morning declaration. He hit seven boundaries and three sixes off 155 balls in his 101.

On reaching his fifth century, and the second against New Zealand in his 21st Test, Cronje was caught at cover point by Matthew Hart off medium pace man Larsen.

Larsen also picked up the only other wicket to fall in the session, bowling Jonty Rhodes (28) to end a 69-run fifth-wicket stand with Cronje.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of the final day of the century



South African captain Hansie Cronje displays the Centennial trophy after beating New Zealand by 93 runs on the final day of the one-off Test at Eden Park in Auckland yesterday.

cricket Test between South Africa and New Zealand at Eden Park today:

**SOUTH AFRICA:** 1st Innings 294 (D J Cullinan 96; D J Nash 4-72)

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes: G Kirsten c Parore b Nash 76, R Steyn c Rutherford b Patel 13, A C Hudson c Young b Patel 64, D J Cullinan c Parore b Hart 12, W J Rhodes c Hart b Larsen 101, J N Rhodes b Larsen 28, D J Richardson not out 8, C Matthews not out 4, Extras: (lb-1, nb-1) 1, Total: (6 wickets declared) 308, Fall of wickets: 1-41; 2-123; 3-135; 4-218; 5-277; 6-300.

**Bowling:** O M R W

Table with columns: Player, Overs, M, Runs, Wickets. Includes: Morrison 23 6 78 0, Nash 22 3 67 1, Patel 30 6 81 2, Larsen 18 6 31 2, Hart 12 3 50 1

Overs: 105

**NEW ZEALAND:** 2nd Innings

B A Young c Cullinan b De Villiers 4, D J Murray c Matthews b De Villiers 24, M D Crowe c Cullinan b Matthews 14, S P Fleming c Richardson b Matthews 27, K R Rutherford c Hudson b De Villiers 56, A C Parore c Cullinan b Eksteen 24, D N Hart c Richardson b De Villiers 6, G R Larsen c Richardson b Donald 1, D J Nash lbw b Matthews 6, D K Morrison not out 0, Extras: (lb-1, lb-4, nb-2) 181, Total: 181

Fall of wickets: 1-11; 2-42; 3-50; 4-114; 5-145; 6-167; 7-174; 8-174; 9-179; 10-181.

**Bowling:** O M R W

Table with columns: Player, Overs, M, Runs, Wickets. Includes: Eksteen 14 5 25 1, De Villiers 18 6 42 4, Donald 8 2 44 1, Matthews 12 5 47 3, Cronje 3 1 18 0

Overs: 55.5

Result: South Africa won by 93 runs.

Kiptanui needs a break too

NAIROBI, Mar 8: Kenya's world 3,000 metres indoor record-holder Moses Kiptanui, will not compete in this week's world indoor athletics championships in Barcelona, Kenya's track and field governing body said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA) secretary-general David Okeyo told Reuters suggestions by International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) officials that Kiptanui could be persuaded to run at the championships, which start on Friday, were misplaced.

"Kiptanui plans his races very well. He went to Europe for five races in the indoor circuit and, as far as we are concerned, that is done and he is on his way back," Okeyo said.

"There is nothing we can do to help our IAAF friends," Okeyo added, reacting to a suggestion in IAAF circles that Kiptanui would be called on to help boost the Barcelona Championships in the absence of some of the sport's top stars, including American Michael Johnson and Briton Linford Christie.

Okeyo said the IAAF had given Kenya only three places at the indoor championships.

The KAAA had filled these with 400 metres runner Kennedy Ochieng and merging middle-distance runners Joseph Tengelei and Benson Koeh.

Nebiolo to coax Christie to run

BARCELONA, Mar 8: Olympic and world champion Linford Christie could run at the World Indoor Athletics Championships here after all, reports AFP.

International Amateur Athletic Federation president Primo Nebiolo said on Wednesday he would make a personal appeal to the British star who withdrew at the last minute.

"If I see him I will ask him to run. I believe it's my duty," Nebiolo said. "I think it will be good for him to compete. First he said yes, then no, yes then no. I hope that in the end, when he sees the opening ceremony, as a great champion and athlete he will decide to run."

Christie, as great Britain's captain, has agreed to come to act as team cheer leader.

Nebiolo also said prizes money may be introduced at the 1997 World Championships. "We are open to the problem," he said.

After the 1996 Atlanta Olympics he said an "indemnity" may well be introduced.

But he would not pull the plug on Mexico City staging those championships.

The country's economic plight led to Mexico pulling out of the race to stage the 2002 World Cup soccer finals so it seems hardly likely they can put on the athletics championships in two years' time.

"The Mexicans must inform us about the decision," Nebiolo insisted. But he added: "I believe there will be a rapid answer."

Talbot turns BSF down

LONDON, Mar 8: Top Australian coach Don Talbot has turned down a bid to recruit him as national performance director for British swimming, the British Swimming Federation said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Guests leave Kiwis broke

AUCKLAND, Mar 8: When you throw a birthday party, you don't expect two of your oldest friends and your neighbour to come around and give you a beating, reports Reuter.

But that is exactly what has happened to New Zealand's cricketers in a special programme drawn up to celebrate the centenary of cricket in the country.

South Africa beat New Zealand by 93 runs in the century Test on Wednesday to deliver the latest blow to festivities that have turned into a public relations nightmare.

Last month West Indies, who gave New Zealand its first Test win in 1956, handed New Zealand their worst ever Test defeat — by an innings and 322 runs.

The other Test in the short tour was a washout, while the tourists also thumped the party hosts 3-0 in a one-day series.

A one-day tournament involving Australia, India and South Africa was only marginally more successful. New Zealand won through to the final where Australia beat them easily by six wickets.

New Zealand and Australia may boast a proud reputation of standing together in times of war, but that antipodean camaraderie does not extend to the sports field, and the loss was a bitter pill for the public to swallow.

McClellan comes round

LONDON, Mar 8: American boxer Gerald McClellan has regained consciousness for the first time since being critically injured in a world title fight on February 25, neurosurgeon John Sutcliffe said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

McClellan, 27, collapsed in the ring shortly after being counted out in the tenth round of a brutal contest for Briton Nigel Benn's World Boxing Council (WBC) super-middleweight title at the London Arena.

McClellan was opening his eyes and moving his arms and fingers after being taken off sedation, Sutcliffe said.

"He is slowly but steadily improving — his responses are getting better as the drugs are wearing off."

Sutcliffe performed emergency brain surgery to remove a massive blood clot after McClellan collapsed in the ring.

McClellan's family, including his girlfriend Angela Brown, have remained at his hospital bedside since being flown in the day after the fight.



Czech pair Radka Kovarikova and Rene Novotny perform their short programme at the World Figure Skating Championships in Birmingham on March 7.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 39 Ms. beast, 1 Yellow-stone, e.g. 41 — La Douce, 5 Sternward, 8 OR, 12 Lotion add-in, 13 Matlock's field, 14 Desert water-course, 15 South American rodent, 17 Oil acronym, 18 Gladiators' milieu, 19 Mate actor, 21 Bogosian, 24 In the env., 25 Rudiments, 28 Proverbs, 30 Chop, 33 Nest-egg acct., 34 10th-century French king, 35 — been had!, 36 Chart, 37 Gumbo base, 38 Tiny pest, 23 Bay of Naples isle, 25 Intention, 26 Underwear with underwire, 27 Volume of use, 29 Evidence of use, 31 One of the Gabors, 32 Drenched spring?, 34 Wind? activity in the Wallace family's books, 42 Bell and Kettle, 43 Roll up and bind, 44 Sutherland solo, 45 Canyon phenomenon, 47 Bakery employee, 48 Foolproof, 49 Urban fall, 52 —, 53 Favorite

Solution time: 21 mins. MUTE ALP ATOZ, ASIA LEI ROLE, SAMPSPADE REDS, EON CLOSET, SEALS GROW, WAGS CLUBSODA, ICE WHOSE PIX, THE HEART GAME, EERY HOLES, SHERPA PAL, HOWE DIAMONDS, ORES EKG RANK, EASY SEE STAY

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-59 and letters.

CRYPTOQUIP FRDZVFR MZNYRQ VBFA M GMYAAB MBQ GMVQ, "V G FUR NMD FRBQRD URDR?" Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HAVING LOST INTEREST, WISE OWL DIDN'T GIVE A HOOT. Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals M The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.