

Malik to seek explanation

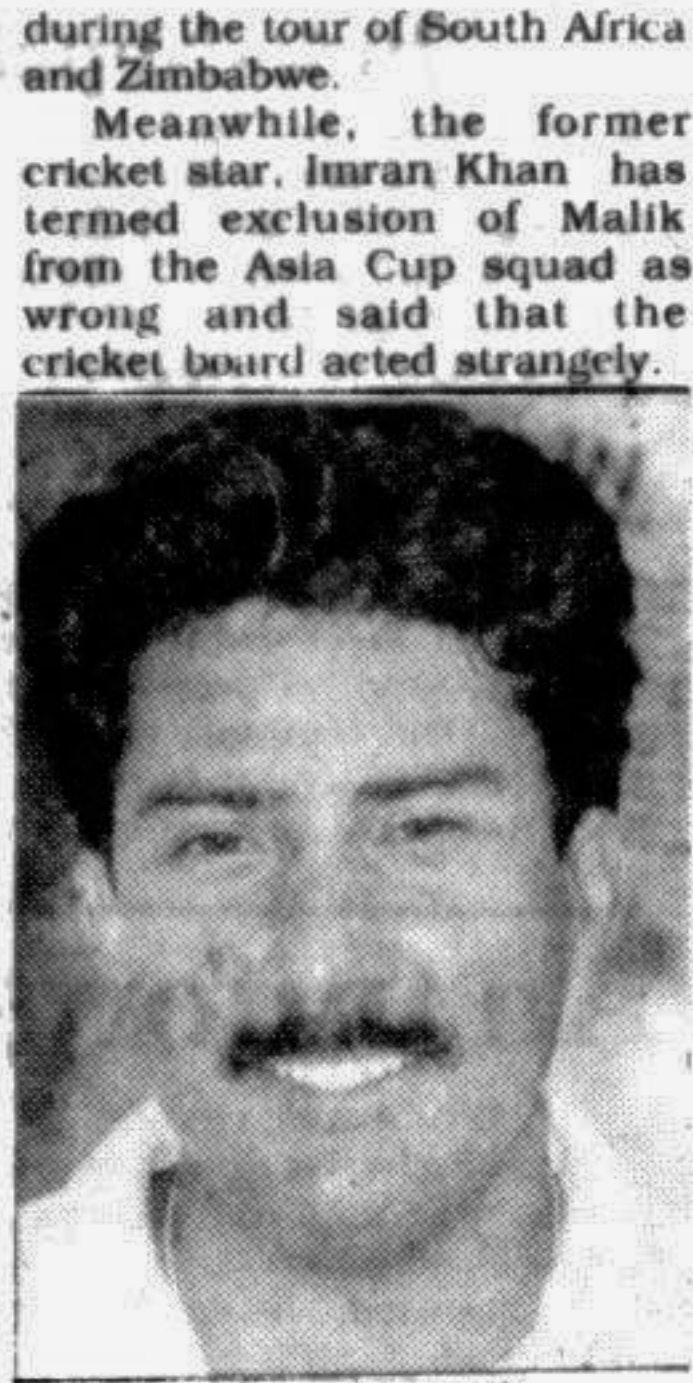
ISLAMABAD, Apr 1: Former Test captain, Salim Malik has decided to seek an explanation from the newly formed Pakistan Cricket Board through his legal experts for dropping him from the national team for the Asia Cup, reports PTI.

A report from Lahore quoting Malik said that once the dissolved ad-hoc committee of the cricket board had lifted the ban imposed on him to play international and domestic cricket, there was "no logical reason" for him not being considered for the Asia Cup.

"This is why I intend to send a notice through my legal advisors to the PCB and the selection committee, because I want to know what is the reason that they have dropped and humiliated me," Malik said.

Malik is currently facing an inquiry by the cricket board for allegations that he attempted to bribe two Australian cricketers during a Test match in Karachi last year.

There are also allegations against him for misbehaviour



SALIM MALIK
Talking to reporters after his daily physical training at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, Imran said that when the decision to lift the suspension on Salim was lifted and he was allowed to play cricket, it meant that the allegation of

betting and had not proved. Imran has already expressed his desire to return to world class cricket saying that "I think with the spot of crisis facing our cricket, I should seriously consider returning to the game again."

42-year-old Imran had announced his retirement from the game following Pakistan's victory in the 1992 World Cup. He maintained that he was considering coming out of retirement for the 1996 World Cup being organised in Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, Malik said that it was "fair enough" if the cricket board did not want him as a captain but "I do not see any reason why I am not good enough to play even as an ordinary member of the team."

Asked about the pending inquiry against him, Malik said that it had been decided by the dissolved ad-hoc committee to allow him to play cricket.

At the same time the prolific scorer wished good luck to the new captain Moin Khan and the Pakistan team for the Asia Cup. "If discipline can be controlled, the team has the capability of performing well in the Asia Cup," Malik added.

Lankans spoil Kiwis' party

AUCKLAND, Apr 1: Sri Lanka turned in a polished all-round performance to beat New Zealand by 51 runs in the third one-day international on Saturday at Eden Park, reports Reuter.

The win denied New Zealand's aspirations of a series clean sweep after they won the first two matches.

Batting first, Sri Lanka amassed a useful 250 for six with Asanka Gurusingha scoring his second one-day century for the visitors.

New Zealand's reply came to a juddering halt at 199 with 3.3 overs to be bowled and was almost symbolic of their sorry centenary summer which also came to an end today.

Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga won the toss and decided to make first use of pitch which offered some early bounce.

His decision paid good dividends with Gurusingha and Sanath Jayasuriya blazing away to put on 91 for the first-wicket before Jayasuriya departed for 49 made off 63 balls.

It fell on Gurusingha to shoulder the lion's share of the work and the opening batsman responded with a 106 from 149 balls including 10 boundaries and two sixes.

And it was left to New Zealand's Justin Vaughan to rue dropping Gurusingha at the long-off boundary when he was just on two.

The left-handed batsman

brought up his 16th one-day 50 off 92 balls, but more importantly shared a 112-run stand for the third-wicket with his captain Ranatunga.

The Sri Lankan captain was out for 39 at 218 but he had remained to guide Gurusingha through to his century which came off 143 balls.

Given the solid foundation

the lower batting order responded well to scramble the Sri Lankans to their good total.

New Zealand made a poor start to their run chase, losing a disinterested Bryan Young with 13 on the board and then Mark Greatbatch for 43 when the total was 80.

Like Greatbatch, Nathan Astle (35) and Ken Rutherford (30) also made starts but didn't go on against a well planned fielding and bowling effort.

One-day specialist Jayasuriya backed up his contribution of 49 with the bat to claim three for 35.

And when New Zealand had slumped to 139-5 their chances of winning the match had diminished considerably and they had to settle for a meandering finish to their innings.

It was the tourists' first one-day success over the Kiwis in New Zealand and was ideal preparation for the four-nation Asia Cup starting next week in

Sharjah.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of Saturday's third limited-overs cricket international between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at Eden Park:

SRI LANKA

A Gurusingha b Cairns	106
S Jayasuriya c and b Patel	49
De Silva c and b Patel	9
A Ranatunga b Pringle	39
R Kalpage c Rutherford b Cairns	9
H Tillekeratne c Fleming b Pringle	16
C Mendis not out	3
C Vaas not out	1
Extras: (b-3, lb-7, nb-3, w-3)	16
Total: (for six wickets)	250
Fall of wickets: 1-91; 2-106; 3-218; 4-224; 5-239; 6-246.	

Did not bat: R Kalpage, M Muralidharan, J Gamage.

Bowling:

O	M	R	W
Pringle	10	0	56
Patel	10	1	28
Cairns	10	0	45
Vaughan	4	0	30
Larsen	10	0	49
Astle	6	1	32

NEW ZEALAND

B Young b Gamage	6
M Greatbatch c De Silva b Muralidharan	43
N Astle b Jayasuriya	35
K Rutherford c Jayasuriya b De Silva	13
C Cairns c Gamage b Jayasuriya	18
S Fleming b Jayasuriya	11
A Parore c Mendis b Kalpage	19
D Patel c Mendis b Kalpage	11
J Vaughan run out	5
G Larsen not out	2
C Pringle lbw b Kalpage	4
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-1, w-4)	11
Total: (46.3 overs)	199

Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-80; 3-104; 4-135; 5-139; 6-173; 7-178; 8-192; 9-192.

Bowling:

O	M	R	W
Vaas	8	0	34
Gamage	7	0	27
Muralidharan	10	1	32
Kalpage	9.3	0	47
Jayasuriya	10	0	35
De Silva	2	0	18

Result: Sri Lanka won by 51 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka)

Series result: New Zealand 2-1.

Indonesia move ahead

JAKARTA, Apr 1: Indonesia took the second singles match Saturday to lead 2-0 against Taiwan in the qualifying round of their best of five Davis Cup tie in the Group Asia/Oceania zone, reports AP.

Playing at the outdoor Jakarta's Senayan tennis stadium, Bonit Wiryawan outclassed Taiwanese Chen Chih-Jung 6-3, 6-7 (5-7), 6-4, 6-3 in a continuation of the second singles match from Friday.

Wiryawan had led 6-3, 1-1 when the match was stopped Friday because of heavy rains.

Indonesia took the first lead as the first singles player Suwandi beat Chen Wei Ju 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 Friday.

The host team came close to winning the tie, but heavy rains Saturday again forced the doubles to be adjourned.

Indonesian pair Donny Susetyo and Teddy Tanjung have led 6-2, 6-2, and the Taiwanese duo of Lien Yu-Hui and Chen Chih-Jung were up 4-3 in the third when the match was postponed to Sunday.

The match is to be followed by the final two singles, pitting Suwandi against Chen Chih-Jung while Susetyo is to play Chen Wei Ju.

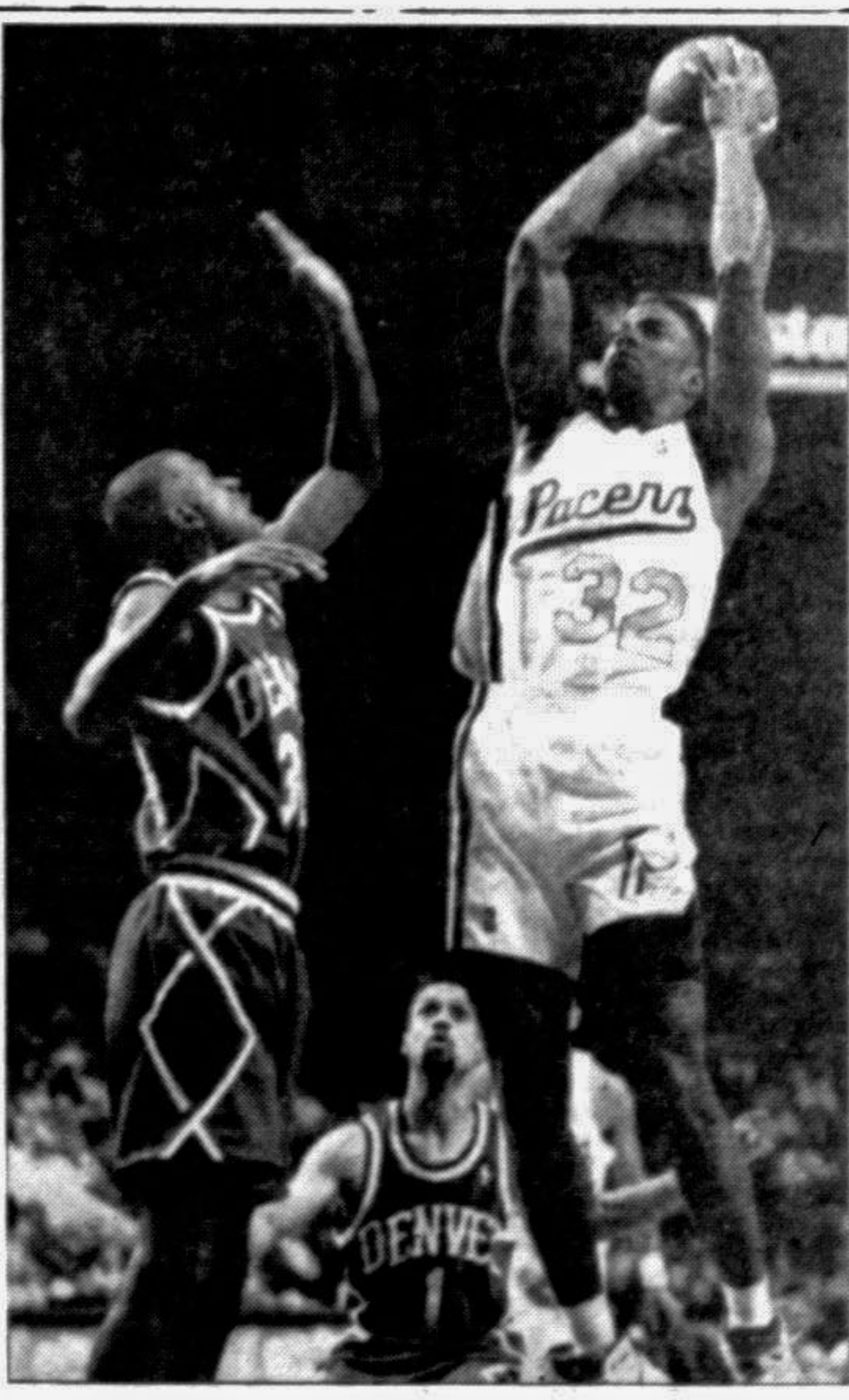
The loser will be relegated to group two in the qualifying rounds of the Asia/Oceania zone.

NZ take command

CHRISTCHURCH, Apr 1: Brett Steven and James Greenhalgh scored a straight-sets doubles victory Saturday to lift New Zealand to a winning 3-0 lead over South Korea in an Asia-Oceania zone second-round Davis Cup tennis match on the grass court at Wilding Park, reports AP.

Steven and Greenhalgh downed Cahng Eui-jong and Kim Chi-wan 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (7-3).

In singles played Friday, Greenhalgh rallied to defeat Yoon Yong-il 5-7, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 and Steven beat Chang 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.



Indiana Pacers forward Dale Davis (R) rises above Denver Nuggets forward Reggie Williams (L) and guard Mahmoud Abdul Rauf (C) during their NBA game at Indianapolis on Mar 31. The Pacers lost 107-92. — AFP/UNB photo

Sweden in Davis Cup semis

VAXJO, Sweden, Apr 1: Jan Apell and Jonas Bjorkman won Saturday's doubles match over Austria to clinch a semifinal berth for defending Davis Cup champion Sweden, reports AP.

The ATP doubles champions' 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Thomas Muster and Alex Antonitsch gave Sweden an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the best-of-5 series and its fourth consecutive trip to the semis.

The Swedes are likely to play the United States in the semifinals Sept 22-24. The Americans, with Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras playing singles, led Italy 2-0 before Saturday's doubles in Palermo, Italy.

Sweden beat the Americans 3-2 in the semis last year at home in Goteborg before trouncing Russia 4-1 in the final in Moscow, so a possible semifinal against the Americans would be played away.

"It would be a dream matchup to play the Americans," Bjorkman said.

The Swedes swept Friday's singles matches with Magnus Larsson overpowering Thomas Muster 6-1, 7-6 (7-5), 7-5 and former world No 1 Stefan Edberg defeating Antonitsch 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Reverse singles, expected to be shortened to best-of-3 sets, will be played Sunday.

Russia stay clear

MOSCOW, Apr 1: Russia pulled ahead of South Africa 2-1 in second-round Davis Cup competition on Saturday, but they took a spectacular comeback in a five-set doubles match to do it, reports AP.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olkhovskiy defeated South Africa's Wayne Ferreira and Gary Muller 4-6, 4-6, 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-3), 6-3 at Moscow's indoor Olympic Stadium.

South Africa and Russia each won singles matches on Friday. The reverse singles will be played on Sunday to decide the best-of-five series.

The Russians fell behind early, losing the first two sets as Kafelnikov repeatedly hit the ball into the net. Kafelnikov, ranked No 6 by the ATP Tour as a singles player, admitted having trouble finding his rhythm.

"It was only after two sets that I calmed down and started to play well," he said later.

South Africa seemed poised to win the match in the third set, but failed to put the Russians away on a match point in the tie-breaker. It missed another opportunity, serving for match point in the fourth set.

The Russians easily dominated the final set, with Ferreira and Muller looking broken after the disappointment of the two previous sets.

"In my opinion, our team played better than Russia, but we had bad luck," said Dante Visser, the captain of the South African team.

Olkhovskiy said he had remained hopeful, despite the early setbacks.

"One can always hope for something, even when the opponent has a double match ball," he said. "Even under such circumstances, I was sure of our win."

The South Africans made a last-minute substitution in their doubles team, sending Muller in to play for David Adams, who often plays in international tournaments as Olkhovskiy's partner.

"It was their tactic," said Anatoly Lepeshin, the Russian team captain. "Because Olkhovskiy in all the tournaments is a constant partner of Adams, he has learned his playing pretty well. Therefore, I believe that if Ferreira had played with Adams, our victory would have been easier."

India firmly in control

NEW DELHI, Apr 1: Leander Paes and Gaurav Natekar defeated Robert Angelo and Sofronio Palahang to give India an unbeatable 3-0 lead over the Philippines in their Asia-Oceania Group One Davis Cup tie here Saturday, reports AP.

Paes and Natekar, the Asian Games champions, downed the Philippine pair 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-1 to advance into the play-offs for next year's elite 16-team World Group.

India swept the opening singles rubbers Friday without losing a set.

Thai shuttlers aim for SEA Games' double

BANGKOK, Apr 1: Thailand will have a shot at two badminton gold medals at the Southeast Asian Games which will be held on their home soil in December this year, reports Xinhua.

The Thai Badminton Association said that they would try all out to win the men's and women's titles.



American Pete Sampras plays a backhand return against Renzo Furlan of Italy during their Davis Cup tie in Palermo yesterday. Sampras won 7-6 (7-3), 6-3, 6-0. — AFP/UNB photo

US Davis Cuppers beat Italy

PALERMO, Sicily, Apr 1: The United States clinched its Davis Cup match against Italy with victories Saturday by Pete Sampras and his doubles teammates, reports AP.

The wins, following an opening day victory by Andre Agassi, gave the heavily favored US team an unbeatable 3-0 lead.

Sampras, the world's No 1 player, rolled through Renzo Furlan 7-6 (7-3), 6-3, 6-0.

Richey Reneberg and Jared Palmer then went out and defeated Stefano Pescosolido and Cristian Brandi 6-1, 6-7 (2-7), 6-4, 6-3.

The sun came out after a day of intermittent rain that postponed Sampras' Friday match, but the change in the weather did nothing for over-matched Italy's fortunes.

Although showing some uncertainty on the slow red clay, his least favourite surface, Sampras' big serve and complete game proved too much for Furlan, ranked only No 77.

The Italian played gritty

tennis in the first set, coming back from 1-4 and saving five set balls to force a tie breaker. But he lost that quickly and never threatened again.

It was only the second of 11 tiebreaks that Sampras has won this year, and he said it "gave me a lot of momentum and confidence" for the rest of the match.

The 5,100 fans at the Palermo Tennis Club reacted to the turning point.

"Once I got the first set, I could sense the air coming out of the balloon," Sampras said.

Furlan said there was little Italy could do against America's one-two punch.

"When they have a chance to win, they don't let it slip away," the Italian said.

Making his return to Davis Cup play, Agassi crushed Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi in straight sets Friday to give the US team the opening match victory over Italy.

Agassi, ranked No 2 in the world, had not played on the US team since 1993. When he and Sampras decided to beor Furlan, ranked only No 77.

The Italian played gritty

most formidable combinations in years.

Although Agassi hadn't played on clay since the French Open last June, he appeared at home on the surface, especially slow and soggy from the dismal Sicilian weather.

Agassi beat Gaudenzi, Italy's top player, 6-4, 6-4, 6-1 in just over two hours.

"The conditions favoured me but we could have played on sand, in mud, on grass or in the Colosseum — he's always a better player," said Gaudenzi.

Italy had his chance early on, breaking the American at 5-3 in each of the first two sets. But Agassi broke him back each time for the turning points of the match.

He had not played on the Davis Cup team since 1993 when he was fined for refusing to play a meaningless second match against the Bahamas.

The combination of Sampras and Agassi marks the first time since 1984 that the world's No 1 and No 2 ranked players have been on the same US Davis Cup team. Then it was John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors.

Injury forces Sanchez to withdraw

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina, Apr 1: World number-one Arantxa Sanchez Vicario pulled out of her quarter-final at the Family Circle Cup here on Friday with a sprained ankle, reports AFP.

It was the first time in her 10 years as a professional that Sanchez had withdrawn from a tournament. She injured her right ankle in a three-set victory over South African Amanda Coetzer on Thursday.

It was painful enough to keep her lying on the ground for several minutes during the match, but after treatment she was able to continue.

X-rays on Thursday night showed no broken bones, but Sanchez was to undergo further tests for a possible stress fracture.

"I really don't have anything else to say until the bone scan," she said through a WTA spokesman on Friday night.

Sanchez was to have played fifth-seeded Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva in the quarter-finals. Maleeva will now automatically advance to a semifinal against Italian Silvia Farina, who beat France's Lea Ghirardi 6-1, 6-4.

Second-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez fared better than her compatriot, though she had to struggle through some painful tennis of her own to beat Croatian Iva Majoli 2-6, 6-3, 6-0.

Martinez, the Wimbledon champion, dropped her serve six times in a row as Majoli took a 6-2, 3-0 lead.

But she turned the match around with startling speed.

"I didn't give up, even at 3-0," Martinez said. "If I did that, I would have been the loser."

Majoli said: "In the first set I was in control and I was making winners and everything. In the second and third sets, she started doing that and I was just making errors."

The Wimbledon champion now plays Natasha Zvereva of Belarus. Zvereva beat her former Soviet teammate Larisa Neiland, now of Latvia, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Japan sweep HK away

FUJISAWA, Japan, Apr 1: Japan on Saturday clinched their best-of-five Davis Cup series over Hong Kong, sweeping the tie with a straight sets victory over Hong Kong, reports AP.

The Japanese pair of Goichi Motomura and Satoshi Iwabuchi scored 6-3, 7-5, 6-0 over the Hong Kong team of Thorsten Poelzl and John Hu at the Ebara-Shonan Sports Centre in Fujisawa, southwest of Tokyo.

Despite Japan's unbeatable mark, two singles matches were scheduled for Sunday.

Japan were guaranteed of staying in Group 1 play, the top level, in the Asia-Oceania region. Hong Kong could drop out of the group if they lose one more tie.

SCEMRB sports

The annual sports competition of the Society for Care and Education of Mentally Retarded, Bangladesh (SCEMRB) was held at the Dhanmond Women Sports Complex here on Friday, reports BSS.

One hundred students from various branches of SCEMRB took part in different events of the meet.

Tyson's first bout in Sept

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Apr 1: Mike Tyson will fight again within six months, according to his new business partners, who add the former heavyweight champion could return sooner if he becomes fit faster, reports AP.

Jay Larkin, vice president of Showtime television network, said Tyson was aiming for a 30 million dollar return bout in September.

"It might be earlier, depending on the condition he's in," Larkin said. "He is already looking at tapes of his old fights and at potential opponents, he's chopping at the bit."

Tyson, who has not fought in nearly four years, would like to get into a routine of fighting every 90 days, Larkin said.

Tyson, who last Saturday completed a three-year prison

sentence for rape, said here Thursday he will stay with Don King and complete agreements the wild-haired promoter signed with MGM Grand and Showtime.

The deals, worth a reported 150 million dollars, include a three-year pact with showtime for pay-per-view rights and an analyst job plus a six-figure deal to stage bouts at the MGM Las Vegas showplace.

"We expect his first fight to be within six months," MGM Grand chairman Larry Wolf said.

King aide All Braverman said Tyson would need at least two months of training.

"He exercised while in prison, but he ate a lot of starchy food," Braverman said. "He has to change his diet and do the exercises you need for fighting."

Tyson has put Don King back upon boxing's throne, but rival Moslem promoters vow

the battle for the Heart and mind of the former heavyweight champion is not yet complete.

"Mike made a deal with the devil," said promoter Akbar Muhammad, one of three Moslem boxing figures thrown out of Tyson's announcement ceremony by security guards.

"They thought we were a major threat just by a presence," Muhammad said. "In order for a person to change his life, he has got to change his scenery."

His promoter might be King, but Tyson is boxing's true emperor. Tyson, who converted to the Moslem faith in prison, will decide how much contact he wants with the Moslem promoters despite any measures King might employ.

"He wants to isolate the Moslems from Mike," Balli Muhammad said before being taken out.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Fast-forward past the ads

4 Sink or —

8 Watergate evidence

12 Rocks

13 Amahl's night visitors

14 Overeager

15 Large brass container?

17 Safe place for a ped

18 "Le Coq"

19 Pleases the next video renter

21 "Beat the Clock" repertoire

24 Happy companion?

25 Ewing wares

26 "I Want You" figure

28 Life-jacket filling

32 One, on a one

34 "Holy mackerel!"

36 Lugosi or

DOWN

1 Nothing: slang

2 Expert

3 Swinger in a pit?

4 Intelligence

5 Comedian

6 Lab aide?

7 Sought ore

8 Member of an urban fleet

9 Not "fer"

10 Walden, e.g.

11 Future phalaropes

16 Heavy-weight?

20 Stir-fry

need

21 Mephistophelean purchase

22 Ike's ex

23 Spotted

27 Swab

29 Some jewelry

30 Couturier

31 Petruccio's shrew

33 Sonora citizen

35 "Charlotte's —"

38 Ill-lit

40 Ate a little of everything

43 Tremendous

45 One-million link

46 Teens' hangout

47 "Now — me down..."

48 "Nautilus" commander

49 Ancient Persian

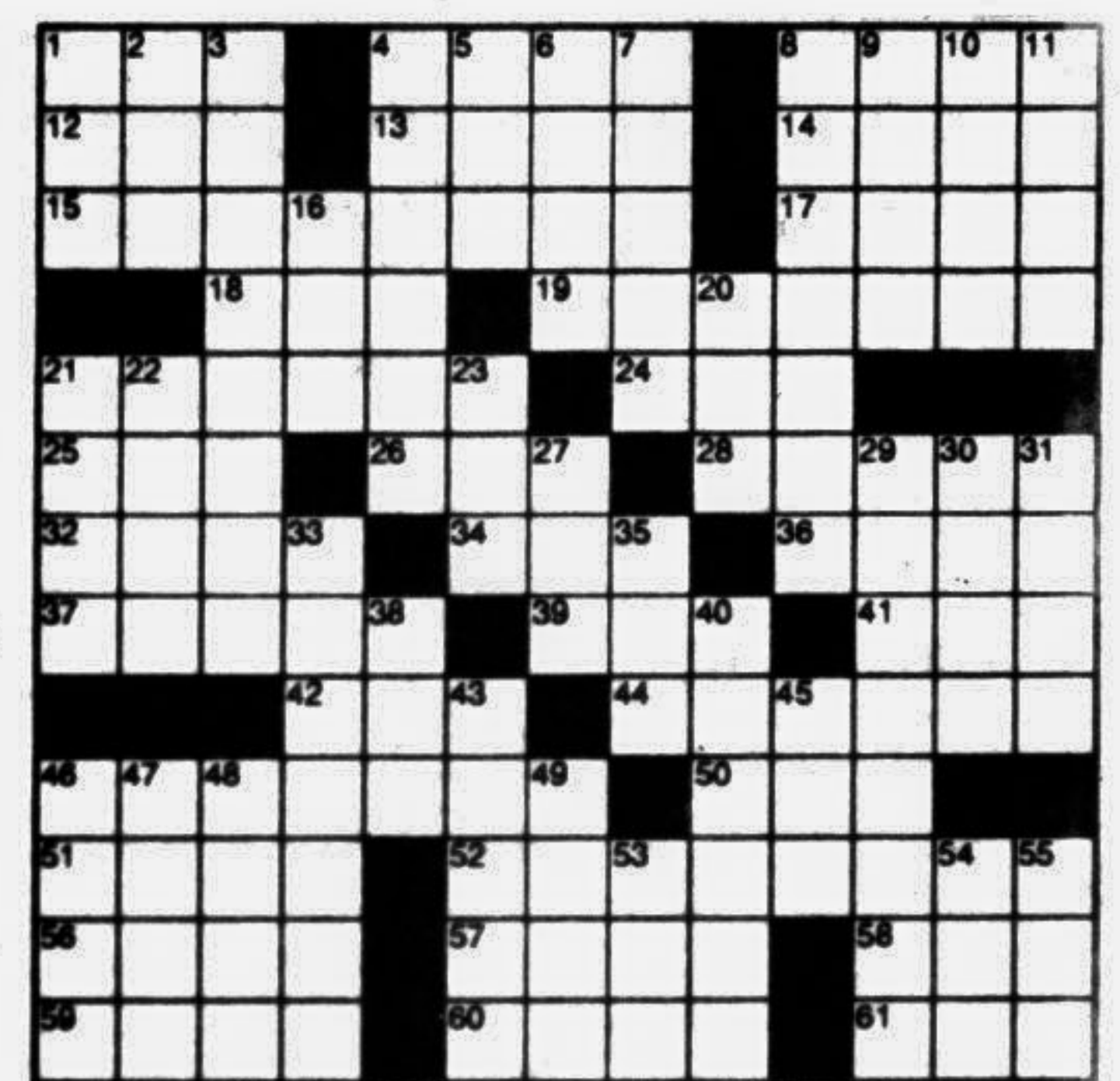
53 Diarist Anais

54 Greek X

55 Lamprey, for one

Solution time: 23 mins.

LAM JOCK BASH
ERA ORAL AGIO
SIR HOMEPLATE
SAXON EEL
ASBIT GOMEZ
FORKOVER TAVI
AVA NEROS GEN
LAIK SPOONING
ALLOW SKIN
COC RELAX
JACKKNIFE AIR
AGUE ALEE IDA
BOLT WEBS DAY



CRYPTOQUIP

"B P J L A A F U Q Q U B A I Q
P J Z D E A F X P Z Y U F A U Q F I O."
"L A Z D E A F F O P I I
I A A X P Z D A P D."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IMAGINE A SURE-FIRE CURE FOR SNORING: INSOMNIA.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: U equals P

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.