

Malik can question 'em

LAHORE, Jan 1: A judicial commission warned two former Pakistani captains Wasim Akram and Salim Malik there was enough evidence to punish them over match-fixing allegation, officials said, reports AFP.

The judge called Wasim and Malik to his chamber and told them there was evidence "against them of involvement in match-fixing and betting so they come fully prepared in the next meeting," the Pakistan Cricket Board's legal advisor Ali Sibte Faizi said.

The commission had summoned 12 players over the allegations but Faizi said only eight responded.

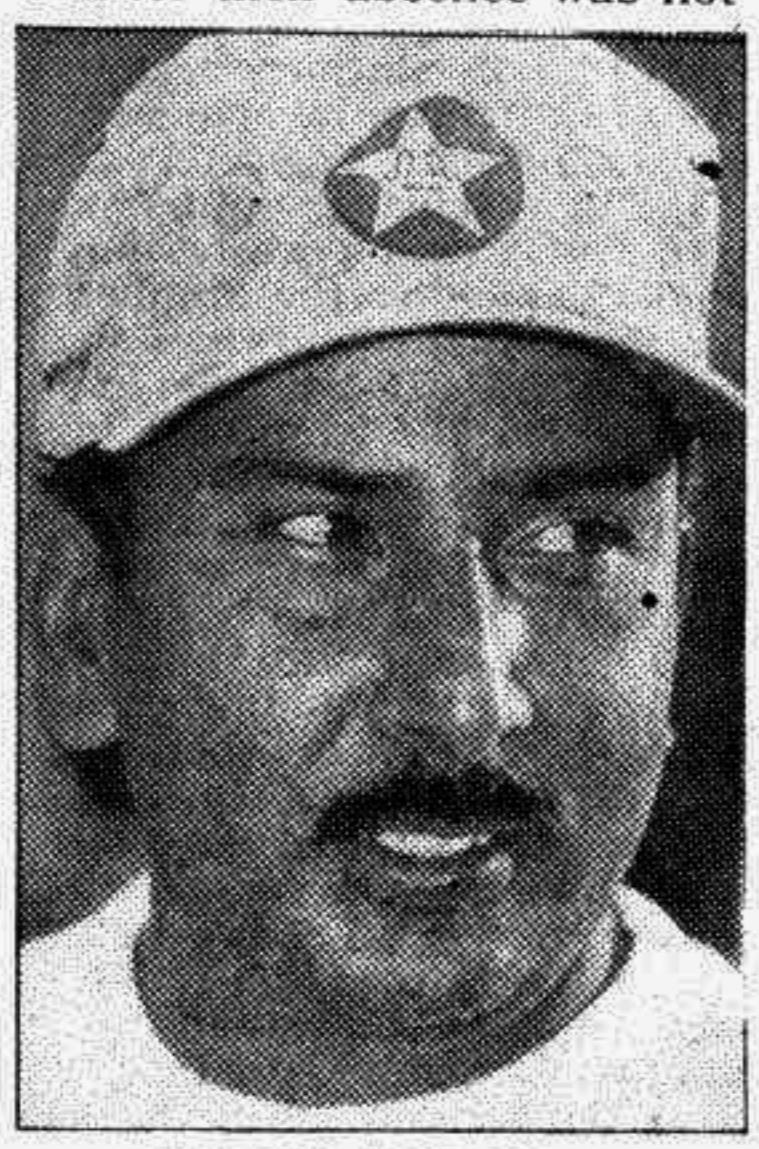
The commission issued bailable warrants against a wicketkeeper, Rashid Latif for his failure to turn up for cross examination, Faizi said.

Rashid, who is attending to his sick father, criticised the working of the commission in a

Donation for junior booters

Bangladesh sub-junior (under-13) Football team, which won the CCN Rimi Cup title in the Indian town of Shillong, will earn a special grant of Tk one lakh from NSC, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Gauder on Thursday announced this special reward for the promising footballers when the team members made a courtesy call with the minister at the NSC conference room.

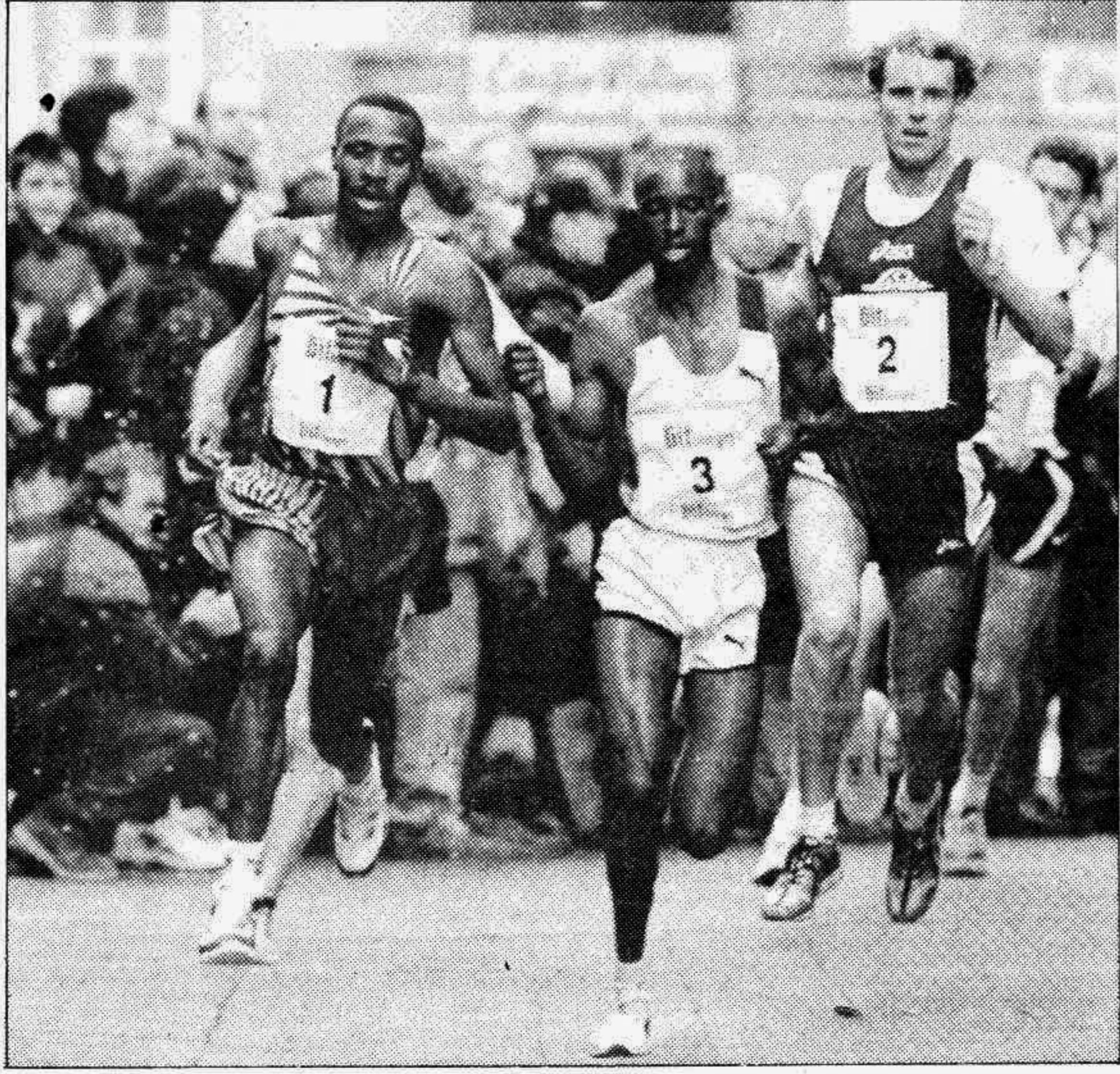


SALIM MALIK

immediately known. However, fellow paceman Ata-ur-Rahman, who also did not show up, has said his wife is sick in England, sources said.

Wasim, Malik, Ijaz Ahmed, Mushtaq Ahmed and Waqar Younis — all allegedly involved in match-fixing and betting — appeared to cross examine their accusers.

Wasim, Malik and Ijaz were implicated in an interim report by an earlier investigation committee in September.



Kenya's Daniel Gachira (N-3) is on his way to win the 'Run of the Aces' which was held in Trier, Germany on December 31. — AFP photo

press interview on Wednesday. "What he has said can come under contempt of court so warrants have been issued and Judge Malik Mohammad Quayyum was furious over his remarks," Faizi told.

Current captain Aamir Sohail, paceman Aaqib Javed and former manager Intikhab Alam, who accused team players of involvement in illegal practices, were present in the court.

"We have also told Malik he can have a last chance to cross question Australian players if he intends to join the commission in Melbourne," Faizi said.

Mark Waugh, Shane Warne and another Australian player Tim May had alleged Malik offered them bribes to perform poorly during Australia's 1994 tour of Pakistan.

Malik was absolved of charges after the Australian trio refused to come to Pakistan to substantiate the allegations.

Faizi, his assistant Ali Sajjad and registrar of the Lahore High Court Abdus Salam Khawar, are to leave for Australia on January 5 to cross examine Waugh and Warne over the allegations.

The hearing is scheduled in Melbourne on January 8, he said.

A former international player, Salim Pervez, has also claimed he gave Malik and Mushtaq 100,000 dollars to throw a match in 1994 in Sri Lanka.

A warrant was also issued against Pervez for not attending Thursday's proceedings.

Paceman Ata-ur-Rehman has also alleged Wasim had offered him money to bowl poorly against New Zealand in the Christchurch one-day international in 1994.

"We felt it was good to come a little bit early and get use to the weather and get a few matches before the Australian Open. I was hurt last year when I was going to play at Kooyong (leadup Melbourne event) and that hurt my preparation," he said.

Chang lost in the second round at last year's Australian Open and failed to make it past the third round in any of the Grand Slams, but the 1989 French Open champion said he felt he could win another major title this year.

"Last year I lost in the second round (in Melbourne). I made the semifinal the year before and the year before that I made the final. I am looking to take it that extra step," he said.

"I feel like winning another Grand Slam isn't out of my reach and I want to get back into the top five. Things are heading in the right direction but I'll just take it day by day."

Chang is seeded sixth at the hardcourt championships behind Australia's world number three Patrick Rafter, Thomas Enqvist, Gustavo Kuerten, Jason Stoltenberg and Byron Black.

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