

# The nook Condon can't see!

**Cricket**

REUTERS, London

One of the more chilling lines in the International Cricket Council report into corruption released this year comes about midway through a lengthy document.

"Despite the publicity given to the ban on Hansie Cronje, the sentences handed out to players from Pakistan and India and the formation of the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), there are indications that some players are still acting dishonestly to the order of book-makers," the report said.

If corruption is still present, despite the international furore over the Cronje affair and the subsequent scandals, the future seems bleak. More immediately, events in a Pretoria court this week may not bring any comfort to cricket lovers.

On Wednesday the former South Africa captain, banned for life along with two other former international captains, Salim Malik of Pakistan and Mohammad Azharuddin of India, appeals against the ban. If Cronje wins, he could even be back playing for the Free State when the South African season starts next week.

Azharuddin, a Muslim, created a furore in India when he abandoned his wife and children for a Bombay actress in the so-called "Bollywood". Much of the corruption report compiled by former London metropolitan police chief Paul Condon would provide fertile material for Bollywood scriptwriters.

Condon painted an almost melodramatic picture of corrupt cricketers, shady bookmakers, clandestine deals and even a possible murder. For fans throughout the world nothing would ever be the same.

Since the report was published there has been some relief for the authorities. Internal inquiries decided there was no substance to allegations from Indian bookmaker Mukesh Gupta that several prominent players, including former national captains Alec Stewart (England) and Martin Crowe (New Zealand) had taken money from him.

West Indies' authorities are still investigating similar allegations against their leading batsman Brian Lara, another former skipper.

The scandal still rumbles on. A Pakistan judicial inquiry has now been instigated to investigate allegations that games involving Pakistan in the 1999 World Cup were fixed.

Under particular suspicion is the group match against Bangladesh at Northampton. Bangladesh, 33-1 outsiders, won by 62 runs and their victory was instrumental in their admission as the 10th Test playing nation.

Nothing about the game mattered in the context of the Cup, with Pakistan already through to the second round. But the manner of



PAUL CONDON

their defeat was almost comically inept. When Bangladesh batted, Pakistan bowled 28 wides among the 40 extras. When Pakistan batted they lost three wickets to runouts.

The Pakistan inquiry will also investigate the performance of Pakistan umpire Javed Akhtar in the 1998 series between England and South Africa, won 2-1 by England. It was England's first victory in a five-match series for 11 years.

In the deciding match at Leeds, Akhtar awarded nine of the 10 lbw decisions. Eight were against South Africa. Akhtar has denied he was acting under bookmakers' instructions. "Whatever mistakes happened were genuine, not for money," he said.

The most corrosive element in the corruption scandal has been not so much the match-fixing allegations as the myriad opportunities cricket offers for bookmakers to corrupt players. Condon detailed some of them, including betting on the result of the pre-match toss, innings' totals and batsmen and bowlers' individual performances.

According to a seasoned international cricket reporter, who has watched Pakistan play all over the world, corruption on an international scale started on Pakistan's tour of India in 1979-80.

He said then Pakistan captain Asif Iqbal told India captain Gundappa Viswanath that India had won the toss before the coin hit the ground. The allegation surfaced at a Pakistan judicial inquiry under Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum and has subsequently been denied by Asif.

The reporter said he had also been present on two occasions when Malik had claimed he had won the toss because he had called in Urdu.

The first time, he said, the New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford complained. On the second, in Zimbabwe, the match referee asked Malik to toss the coin again and call in English.

At the centre of the mess is the enigmatic Cronje, the figure of apparent Christian rectitude who says he was fatally tempted by Satan but is now genuinely repentant and deserves to have his life ban lifted.

At best Cronje's memory seems selective and Judge Edwin King, who headed a South African judicial inquiry, was not sufficiently convinced that he had told everything he knew and so should be given immunity from prosecution.

Whatever the result of the court case, Cronje is irretrievably tarnished. So is the talented Malik and so is Azharuddin, a genuinely great batsman with his magical wristy strokes. So also is Pakistan's Wasim Akram, possibly the greatest left-arm fast bowler ever, who Qayyum said had been "not above board" and should never captain Pakistan again.

Condon's goal is to eliminate corruption by the 2003 World Cup scheduled for South Africa and to this end the Anti-Corruption Unit is examining the plethora of often meaningless one-day tournaments where betting is rife.

"They'll never stop it," said one insider. "The opportunities are too many and the money too tempting for people who would never otherwise see such sums. The authorities have got to cut out all that one-day cricket and they won't because it means too much money for the boards."

## Gibson becomes an ECB coach

INTERNET, undated

Former West Indies fast bowler Ottis Gibson has joined the coaching staff of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

The 32-year-old will take responsibility for developing talent in the north-west region of the country.

He succeeds John Abrahams, who was recently appointed assistant coach for the new National Academy.

Gibson has plenty of experience of English cricket, having played for Glamorgan and been a member of the 1995 West Indies tour party.

The Barbadian made his Test debut at Lord's, taking two wickets and scoring 29 and 14 in a match West Indies lost by 72 runs.

He had to wait three and a half years for his only other cap when he was summoned from South African provincial cricket to play for West Indies in Cape Town.

## No for

FROM PAGE 13

Neither Nizam nor Prof. Mamun, who is the younger brother of BFF general secretary Harun, was entertained by former president Saber Hossain Chowdhury in their bid to be included in any of the standing committees on multiple disciplinary grounds.

The meeting will also discuss on the preparation of hosting Zimbabwe in November.



Australia's Ilie Andrew plays a forehand return against Gouichi Motomura of Japan at the Hong Kong Open yesterday.

# FIT opens door for rebels

**Tennis**

AFP, Milan

The Italian Tennis Federation (FIT) Monday offered an olive branch to their senior professionals who boycotted this year's Davis Cup, ANSAnews agency reported.

FIT president Angelo Binaghi said he hoped to persuade the rebels to return as Italy reflected on a 3-2 defeat at home to Croatia which saw them relegated from the David Cup World Group at the weekend.

"We are happy with the current Italy but our hope for the future is to add to this group other players and to put at the disposition of the captain all available players," Binaghi said.

Italy slumped to defeat against Croatia with a team missing top players Gianluca Pozzi, Andrea Gaudenzi and Davide Sanguinetti, who are in dispute with the Italian federation.

Instead it was inexperienced players like Filippo Volandri, Federico Luzzi, Mose Navarra and Giorgio Galimberti who were pressed into action against a Croatian team including Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic.

Volandri pulled off a sensational win over Ivanisevic in the first match while Navarra and Galimberti came within two points of winning the doubles but in the end the gulf in class was too much.

Binaghi said he backed the team of youngsters picked by captain Corrado Barazzutti but a possible

return of the other players could now be on the cards.

Pozzi indicated that the renegade players' stance had softened, but said unspecified changes needed to be made before his colleagues considered making themselves available for selection.

"We want to give our contribution to getting back into the World Group and the growth of this sport in Italy which, nonetheless, as half-empty seats showed does not have much of a following and for that to happen certain things need to change totally," Pozzi said.

"We expect certain things to change before we can say 'yes' to any call-up," he added.

It is thought the players want representation on the FIT board and more say in federation policy.

The plight in Italy's tennis fortunes comes 25 years after the country's only Davis Cup victory, a 4-1 win in the final in Santiago against Chile.

Barazzutti, who has been a fierce critic of the absentees, was a key member of that team which pulled off what many in football-crazy Italy consider the greatest non-soccer sporting achievement in the country's history.

The captain had hinted he favoured continuing with the youngsters, saying: "These boys have the potential to go a long way at the top level as well."

"But they are young, they must grow and seek consistency. To get it they must give themselves rules and objectives in life." 6

## Elena sails

**Tennis**

REUTERS, Leipzig

Last year's finalist Elena Likhovtseva from Russia advanced to the second round of the Leipzig Grand Prix with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Germany's Jana Kandarr on Monday.

The 26-year-old Likhovtseva proved the more consistent player in a match characterised by plenty of unforced errors. She now faces either seventh-seeded Elena Dementieva, a fellow-Russian, or

Austrian qualifier Barbara Schwartz.

The tournament features the return of Anna Kournikova, who pulled out of the US Open in August because of a lingering stress fracture in her left foot. The Russian has a bye to the second round.

Defending champion Kim Clijsters, a finalist at the French Open earlier this year, is the top seed in Leipzig, followed by 1999 champion Nathalie Tauziat and Jelena Dokic, who captured the Tokyo Princess Cup title on Sunday.

Meghann Shaughnessy, Justine Henin and Sandrine Testud have withdrawn from the tournament because of injury.



Russian Elena Likhovtseva makes a backhand return against German Jana Kandarr at the Leipzig Open on Monday.

# Legal romance

**Tennis**

AP, Miami

A prosecutor testified Monday that he saw no ethical problem when his romance with tennis star Martina Hingis blossomed two days after he obtained a two-year jail sentence for her stalker.

Assistant State Attorney Christopher Calkin said he felt no personal interest in Hingis before sentencing on April 12, and "no moral, ethical or legal obligation" to keep his distance afterward.

Frank Abrams, attorney for convicted stalker Dubravko Rajcevic, called Calkin as a witness on a request for a new sentence or trial based on the relationship between Hingis and the prosecutor, which was disclosed in a newspaper column in June.

Rajcevic, who sat through the nearly six-hour hearing in handcuffs, repeatedly interrupted and was ejected by Circuit Judge Kevin Ermas because of outbursts shortly before the end.

The judge, who called Abrams' arguments "fallacious, specious and maybe an ethical violation," said he planned to rule within two weeks.

Abrams claims Rajcevic's highly publicized trial was tainted by at least an appearance of conflict -- if not an actual one -- when Calkin tried Rajcevic and asked for the maximum four-year sentence.

Calkin repeated his belief that

Rajcevic, a 46-year-old Croatian-born naval architect and Australian citizen, is mentally unstable and lashed out at Abrams from the stand, accusing him of pursuing the case solely to gain fame.

"This is all about you, and that's all it's about," said the prosecutor, who was promoted after winning the misdemeanor conviction. "It's all based on your own personal, disgusting agenda."

Calkin, 31, denied making any misrepresentations in court, breaking office policies or being disciplined over his involvement in the case.

Hingis, 20, the world's top-ranked women's player, invited him to her

Tampa area house the day after sentencing. He flew up that night, and their relationship became physical the next day, Calkin testified.

Abrams obtained Calkin's home and office phone records to document a series of one-hour phone calls to Hingis starting a week before sentencing. Calkin said the calls before the hearing were to discuss the legal ramifications.

Hingis spurned Rajcevic's flowers, love letters and personal appearances at her Zurich home. He was arrested after being thrown out of the Ericsson Open near Miami last year.

Hingis, the star prosecution witness, appeared in person only because Abrams and Rajcevic refused to allow her to testify by videotape.

# Jordan dilemma

**Basketball**

AFP, Washington

Michael Jordan has made no decision about whether or not to return to the National Basketball Association with the start of training camp less than a week off.

A long-anticipated announcement about the former Chicago Bulls superstar's future plans was put off Monday when Jordan's management firm announced that no statement was coming Monday as expected.

"Michael has not finalised his decision," said SFX executive Estee Portnoy.

Jordan's decision, expected to be released in a statement by faxes Monday, will not be sent forth until Tuesday at the earliest.

Officials of the Washington Wizards, the club for which Jordan would play, sat and waited as well for an official word that never came.

The Washington Post, citing unnamed NBA scores, said an announcement was probable as early as Monday. He was expected to end a three-year retirement and play for the Wizards, a club in which he owns a partial stake and one he runs as president of basketball operations.

Jordan, who turns 39 in February, had planned a news conference to announce his return but called off that gathering in the wake of terrorist attacks on New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington.

The former Chicago Bulls superstar has not scheduled any public availability to comment upon his possible return until next Monday here at the team's pre-season media day.

Jordan has hinted at reasons for his even making the attempt to

return. "I'm doing it for the love of the game -- nothing else, for the love of the game," Jordan said two weeks ago.

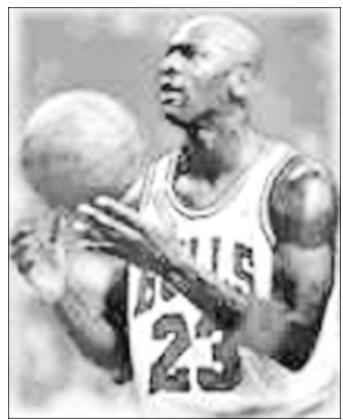
"It's definitely the challenge," Jordan said in April. "I'm not coming back for the money. I'm not coming back for the glory. The challenge is what I truly love."

Six months of speculation about a comeback have dogged Jordan through broken ribs and other injuries in his training, much of it against NBA talent.

The Wizards, whom Jordan serves as president of basketball operations, begin their training camp October 2 in Jordan's hometown of Wilmington, North Carolina.

Jordan's first exhibition game could be October 11 at Detroit and his first regular-season game could be October 30 at New York's Madison Square Garden, the site of some of his greatest performances.

League rules dictate Jordan must sell his 5 to 10 percent ownership stake in the Wizards, a move Ted Leonsis is likely to aid by having Jordan simply take a greater stake in the stock of the National Hockey League's Washington Capitals.



MICHAEL JORDAN

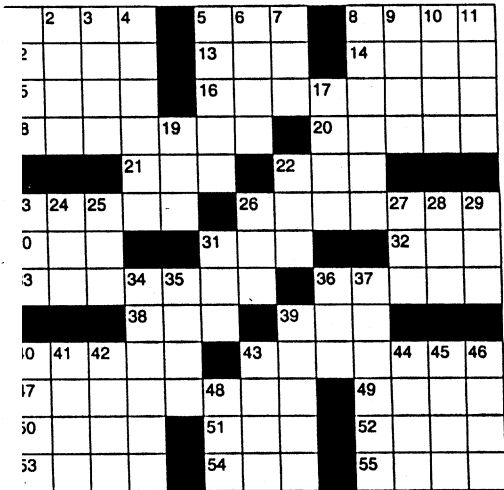
## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 "Free"  
5 Night flier  
8 Speaker's place  
12 Nastase of tennis  
13 "Eureka!"  
14 Basilica area  
15 Pleasant  
16 Benevolence  
18 Hero  
20 Jockey  
21 Vegas Intro  
22 Go blonde  
23 Sweet-heart  
26 "In the Shadow of Man" writer  
30 Exist  
31 Dead heat  
32 Stipend  
33 TV game-show pioneer  
36 Heron's kin  
38 Possess  
39 Tiger Woods' org.  
40 Tennessee aluminum city

**DOWN**  
43 "See ya"  
47 Blimp name  
49 Sullen sailor  
50 "Three Sisters" sister  
51 Wapiti  
52 Cookbook compiler  
53 Long cut  
54 Crucial  
55 The Red and the Black  
1 Bob's longtime pal  
2 Hedge-podge  
3 Puerto —  
4 Tease  
5 Counterfeit  
6 "Hi, sailor!"  
7 Excessively  
8 Began to develop  
9 — in a poke  
10 Man, for one  
11 Broker's suggestion  
17 "The Banana Boat Song"  
19 Festive  
22 Buck's mate  
23 Crone  
24 Acapulco gold

Solution time: 27 mins.

CLAP LAG FAIL LARIA ALA ANNA OVAL TIME CARD TIA MAI LAI CIES TIARO IDO FACE CARD ENTO EGO ELGIN DIN WENT SAVIEFACE NAB NINA AN MALL OLEURE SAVETIME INON OVER MON STUD FEDS BAD HOES



CRYPTOQUIP

I T K D M X X J G N M M X O

Z I N F P D U C L O X F P D A

M U T N N A O S I A N J D M : " L N Z

C F N Y P T X O K S A A G L F N Y . " Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN TWO WITCHES SHARE A HOUSE, I SUPPOSE THEY MAY BE CONSIDERED BROOM-MATES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals L

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.