Malik cleared of suspect action

AFP, Rawalpindi

Pakistan all-rounder Shoaib Malik has been cleared of a suspect bowling action reported against him last month, a senior cricket official said Monday.

"The report after tests on Malik's action cleared him and it is a reprieve for him," Pakistan Cricket Board director of operations Salim Altaf told AFP

Malik's bowling action was reported as "illegal" for a third time during the first Test against England at Multan last month. He was sent to Australia for tests on his bowling action early this month.

Fazle Sobhan **Nat'l Pairs** Bridge Dec 23

SPORTS REPORTER

The Fazle Sobhan National Pairs Bridge Championship will commence at the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) in Gulshan on December 23.

The two-day meet will mark the 25th anniversary of the Fazle Sobhan Trophy, which is an annual event on Bangladesh Bridge Federation calendar.



KHONDKAR FAZLE SOBHAN

Registration for the tournament will be held on December 23 from 9:00 to 9:30 am. There will be two qualification rounds on the opening day while the semifinals and the final will be played on December 25. BEI is sponsoring the event this

The prestigious trophy is dedicated in memory of late Khondkar Fazle Sobhan, father of Professor Rehman Sobhan, chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), ambassador (retd) Farooq Sobhan, president of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute and Naveed Sobhan, who lives in the United States.

The 25th anniversary of the trophy also coincides with the 100th birth anniversary of late Fazle Sobhan, who was born on November 5, 1905 and died on

A devoted bridge player, Fazle Sobhan joined the Indian Police Service in 1928 and took voluntary retirement in 1947. He was the political secretary to Pakistani prime minister in 1951-53, chairman of Karachi Improvement Trust in 1956-1958 and Commissioner East Africa, with concurrent accreditation to several countries in Africa from 1958-1961.

Hosts look

FROM PAGE 12

participants might be increased if the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) allow a combined selection of Kenya and Uganda. "We have already prepared the

MA Aziz Stadium and the Chittagong Divisional Stadium for holding the tournament as instructed by the ACC CEO Syed Ashraful Haque," said BCB jointsecretary Rafigul Islam Babu. He said that so far four teams

have confirmed their participation but there is a chance to increase the number.

"We will get the final picture within the next couple of days," he





Michael Schumacher (Seven-time world Formula 1 champion)

"I have been champion for a long time and I am more surprised by how long it has been. I always knew

it would end one day." After he lost the bid to win his eighth title.

Joe Cole of Chelsea attempts a crack at the Arsenal goal during their Premiership clash at Highbury on Sunday.

PREMIERSHIP

Jose-Arsene feud on

Chelsea close door on gunners

Football

Jose Mourinho reignited his feud with Arsene Wenger on Sunday by claiming Arsenal's players had deliberately attempted to get Chelsea's Michael Essien sent off at Highbury.

Essien appeared fortunate not to receive a straight red card after catching Arsenal full-back Lauren with an elbow in the first half of the match that Chelsea won 2-0 to retain a nine-point lead over Manchester United at the top of the Premiership table.

But Mourinho insisted that Arsenal's players had over-reacted to the incident in an attempt to capitalise on the notoriety Essien earned with a horrific lunge at Liverpool's Dietmar Hamann during a Champions League clash earlier this month.

Asked what he had seen from the dugout as Lauren went to ground, Mourinho replied: "I saw ten players jumping on one. It looked like a strategy, like they were going to use the image Essien has at this moment

and in the first body-to-body situation we have to jump on him. "It is very, very sad, ten players

jumping on one. Wenger, who threatened to sue Mourinho earlier this year after being branded a "voyeur" by his Chelsea counterpart, scoffed at the

"Essien was a straight red in my opinion -- it was just in front of the dugout. The ref was not brave enough to make the decision but it was a straight red. He did not play the ball he played the player.

'We did not even speak about this before the game. If it was a deliberate strategy, we hid it very The Arsenal manager had said

before the game that he would be prepared to shake Mourinho's hand. He did not get the chance however as the Chelsea manager raced straight down the tunnel on the final whistle, although the missed opportunity for a reconciliation did not trouble Wenger.

"I must say that frankly that does not stop me from sleeping," he said. Wenger was more aggrieved over a disallowed goal from Robin van Persie that would have given his side the lead mid-way through the first half. Television replays showed that van Persie was onside when Freddie Ljungberg's pass found

"Eighty-five percent of these type of games are decided on the first goal, so we feel that the referee made a very bad decision," Wenger said. Wenger conceded that his side,

now languishing in eighth place and 20 points behind the leaders, had left themselves with too much to do. The match itself was marked with

drama and controversy. Dutchman Robben broke a bad-tempered deadlock in the 39th minute when striker Didier Drogba put him through just over the halfway line. The speedy winger kept his head

to angle a left-footed shot past Jens Lehmann from 10 metres, the ball hitting the far post before bouncing Cole made it two in the 73rd

minute with another fine individual effort to win the ball from Lauren on the right, cut inside and outflank England teammate Sol Campbell before poking the ball home.

Pakistan clinch series

FROM PAGE 12 Akmal in the next over with a sharp

incomina delivery

Akmal, who hit successive hundreds in Pakistan's seven wicket and 165-run wins in the second and third matches respectively, managed 18.

Paceman Ali, who replaced unfit Steve Harmison in the match, then grabbed the prized scalp of Mohammad Yousuf (11) to leave Pakistan struggling at 58-4.

Malik fell to a full toss catch off Blackwell, while Afridi hit two sixes before he became one of Liam Plunkett's two successive wickets. Naved hit a six and two boundaries

Kookaburras clinch **Champs Trophy title**

AFP, Chennai

Power-packed Australia won the men's Champions Trophy field hockey title with a 3-1 romp over the Netherlands in a rain-drenched final here on Sunday.

Matthew Wells, Liam de Young and Jamie Dwyer scored for the Kookaburras, who repeated the success they enjoyed against the Dutch in the Olympic final in Athens

Ťaeke Taekema reduced the margin four minutes before the final whistle, but the Dutch were outplayed by the superior Australians, who gained five penalty corners and conceded just one.

The title clash, played in heavy rain here, was suspended for 20 minutes in the second half when puddles formed on the synthetic surface and made it difficult for players to hit the floating

Australia, who last won the Champions Trophy at home in Brisbane in 1999, equalled Germany's record of eight titles in field hockey's elite competition.

Dutch coach Roeland Oltmans conceded Australia dominated the

Earlier, defending champions Spain brushed aside Germany 5-2 to take the bronze in another game hit by Veteran Pol Amat and Santiago

Freixa scored two goals each for Spain, who had won their maiden Champions Trophy title in Lahore last before England took the last three wickets for two runs to dismiss Pakistan in 47.2 overs

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the fourth day-night limited-overs international between Pakistan and England at the Pindi Stadium on Monday:

PAKISTAN				
Butt run out				15
Akmal b Ande	erson			18
Younis b Flin	toff			(
Yousuf Ibw b.	Ali			11
Inzamam not	out			8
Malik c Strau	ss Blac	kwell		23
Afridi b Plunk	ett			34
Razzaq b Plu	ınkett			(
Naved c Colli	ingwoo	d b Ali		17
Akhtar c Colli	ingwoo	d b Fli	ntoff	0
Sami c Jones	b And	erson		0
Extras: (lb-5,	nb-4, v	v-2)		11
Total: (All out	in 47.2	overs	s) 2	210
Fall of wicke	ts: 1-3	4, 2-3	4, 3-3	4,
58, 5-118, 6	-174, 7	'-174 ,	8-20	8,
209				
Super-sub: A	rshad f	or You	ısuf	
Bowler	0	M	R	١
Eliptoff	0	- 1	20	

Fall of wicket				
58, 5-118, 6-	-174,	7-174,	8-20	8, 9
209				
Super-sub: A	rshad	for You	ısuf	
Bowler	0	M	R	V
Flintoff	9	1	20	2
Anderson	8.2	2	26	2
Plunkett	9	0	45	2
Ali	10	0	51	2
Blackwell	6	0	35	
Collingwood	5	0	28	(

Trescothick b Arshad Prior c Akmal b Naved Strauss Ibw b Naved Solanki b Akhtar Flintoff Ibw b Afridi 40 Collingwood c Malik b Sami Jones c Naved b Afridi Blackwell run out 29 Plunkett Ibw b Afridi Ali not out 39 Anderson c Younis b Akhtar 11 Extras: (lb-4, nb-2, w-12) 18 Total: (All out in 48.1 overs) 197 Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-13, 3-25, 4-70, 5-77, 6-99, 7-106, 8-114, 9-164 0 by

/U, D-//, b-	99, 7-106	o, 8-1	14, 9-1	c
Super-sub:	Anderso	n for E	Bell	
Bowler	0	M	R	
Akhtar	9.1	0	47	
Naved	10	1	38	
Sami	9	1	44	
Arshad	10	2	21	
Afridi	7	0	34	
Malik	3	0	9	
Result: Pal	kistan b	eat E	nglan	d
13 runs.				

Man-of-the-match: Inzamamul Hag.

Toss: Pakistan. Umpires: Rudi Koertzen and Tony Hill.

Fifth ODI: Dec 21, Rawalpindi.

Shabbir banned for a year

FROM PAGE 12

Shabbir, when reported last month, said he had nearly decided to quit the game but support from captain and coach changed his mind. ICC chief executive officer

Malcolm Speed said Shabbir's suspension was an appropriate "While it is regrettable that any

player is suspended from international cricket, the suspension is an appropriate step on this occasion, he said. "It is clear that Shabbir has the

capacity to bowl with a legal action but it would seem that on occasion he has the tendency to revert to old habits. "Having had the opportunity to

remedy this flaw but not being able to do so consistently, a suspension for 12 months provides him with the opportunity to permanently address the concerns that have been identi-

"At the same time, it indicates the ICC's seriousness in tackling this

The current process contrasts with previous eras where once a bowler was called for throwing or was suspected of having an illegal action there was often no way back to international cricket.

"I hope that Shabbir will be able to use his time out of the game at international level to get the consistency needed in his action to ensure a successful return to the game, said Speed.

The latest assessment of Shabbir's action was based on examination of footage from the Multan Test in comparison with a University of Western Australia (UWA) laboratory assessment which he underwent in September.

The ICC and the PCB agreed to this as an alternative to submitting Shabbir to another assessment. Shabbir can appeal to the ICC's

specialist Bowling Review Group to seek to overturn the ban. He must lodge a request for such a hearing within 14 days of the PCB's receipt of the assessment of his action

Brazil, Ghana take FIFA awards

Brazil won the top team title and Ghana the award for the most improved team in the 2005 FIFA world rankings published Monday. World champions Brazil finished top for the fourth year in a row while unbeaten Ghana's five wins and three draws, which saw them reach their first World Cup finals, improved 27 places to finish 50th.

p.a.		
TOP	10	
Pos	Country	Pts
1	Brazil	840
2	Czech Rep	796
3	Holland	791
4	Argentina	772
5	Mexico	768
	Spain	768
	France	768
8	USA	767
9	England	757
10	Portugal	754

Blame it on fans

REUTERS, Madrid

Brazilian trio Ronaldo, Julio Baptista and Roberto Carlos have blamed Real Madrid fans for creating a tense atmosphere that has made it difficult for the team to play well in home matches.

Real have been jeered and whistled by their own fans in recent games at the Bernabeu and their reaction to the side's narrow 1-0 victory over neighbours Getafe two weeks ago was instrumental in the dismissal of coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo.

"We won't win anything if the team and the fans go out there in an atmosphere of tension," Baptista told reporters after his side's 1-1 draw with Osasuna on Sunday.

"The whistling has to end because if not we won't get any-

Fellow striker Ronaldo complained after the draw against Getafe that playing at the Bernabeu was "like playing away from home". Defender Roberto Carlos said

making the players nervous when they stepped on to the pitch. "We were never able to relax when we had the ball at our feet because the fans wanted us to play so quickly, but we have got to be more patient," he told the club's

the impatience of the fans was

website. Real's caretaker coach Juan Ramon Lopez Caro, in charge for the first time in a league match at the Bernabeu, said he thought the fans were within their rights to complain about the team.

"The fans can do what they want and their views always have to be respected," he told a news conference after the game. "We have to be professional and understand that we all have a major responsibility in working for Real Madrid."

Hodge double

But injured South African allrounder Jacques Kallis said he believed the team had the ability to stave off defeat.

"I thoroughly believe we have got the cricketers to stand up tomorrow and get through the day," Kallis said. "It's not just the senior players everyone has to do it together."

SCOREBOARD

(overnight 310-4)

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first Test between Australia and South Africa at the Western Australian Cricket Association ground on Monday: AUSTRALIA: First innings 258 (Ponting 71, Hodge 41, Langer 37; Ntini 5-64, Nel 3-29)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 296

(De Villiers 68. Boucher 62. Smith 34, Pollock 34; Lee 5-93, Warne 3-AUSTRALIA: Second innings

anger b Pollock	(47
layden c Bouch	er b	Lang	eveld	t20
ee Ibw b Lange	veld	t		32
Ponting c Bouch	er b	Ntini		53
lodge not out				203
lussey c Bouch	er b l	Pollo	ck	58
Symonds c Gibb	sbL	.ange	veldt	25
Silchrist c Rudol	ph b	Nel		44
Varne Ibw b Ken	np			5
Bracken not out				14
Extras: (b-5, lb-4	, w-'	1, nb-	17)	27
otal: (For 8 wkts	dec	:l in		
46.4 overs)				528
oid not bat: McG	rath			
all of wickets: 1				
84, 5-316, 6-37	7, 7-	444,	8-451	l
Bowler	0	M	R	W

Pollock 36 6 98 34 113 8 117 Langeveldt 104 29 Rudolph 0 58 11 Kemp **SOUTH AFRICA:** Second innings Smith Ibw b Bracken De Villiers c Hodge b Warne Gibbs not out Rudolph not out 18 Extras: (b-4, lb-3, nb-1) Total: (For 2 wkts in 36 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-55 To bat: Prince, Kemp, Pollock, Langeveldt, Nel, Ntini 0 M R Bowler

11

26

2 27

McGrath

Warne

Bracken

PRIMERA LIGA

Real held at home

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Ten-man Osasuna spoiled Juan Ramon Lopez Caro's first home game in charge of Real Madrid, as they held Real to a 1-1 draw in the Primera Liga on Sunday.

Osasuna had midfielder Francisco Punal sent off after only 15 minutes, but Real struggled to make the extra man count in a bruising encounter of little quality.

It could have been even worse for Real when Serbia & Montenegro striker Savo Milosevic headed the Navarrans in front in the 76th minute, but second-half substitute Roberto Soldado rescued a point for the home side six minutes from time. Real were jeered off the pitch

once again at the final whistle.

Osasuna stay second on 35 points, two behind leaders and champions Barcelona, who beat Cadiz 3-1 on Saturday -- a club record 12th consecutive victory in all competitions. Real go third on 29 points the

same as Villarreal who came from behind to beat Getafe 2-1 at home

thanks to a sublime free kick from Argentine playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme, and a well-worked winner from Uruguayan striker Diego Deportivo Coruna, in fifth, and Valencia, in sixth, also have 29

points. Deportivo beat Celta Vigo 3-0 on Saturday while Valencia edged a 1-0 win away at Alaves courtesy of Raul Albiol's early strike. Sevilla fought back from two goals down to beat nine-man Real Sociedad 3-2, with all their goals coming in the last 14 minutes. Sociedad had taken the lead

Kanoute completed a dramatic fightback in Seville They are seventh on 26 points. Five players were sent off in

through Mikel Labaka and Gaizka

Garitano, but a double from striker

Kepa and one from Frederic

Racing Santander's 1-1 draw at home with Malaga. Referee Carlos Megia Davila sent off one player in each half for Malaga, and three for Racing after the break.

Brazil base in a castle

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Holders Brazil have booked a converted castle as a base for their World Cup second round match.

Brazil, who will play their secondround tie in Dortmund if they finish top of Group F, will stay at the Schlosshotel Lerbach located in Bergisch Gladbach between Cologne and Leverkusen, said the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) on Sunday.

"It is in the middle of an immense park with its own lake," said the CBF on their Web site.

Brazil have already announced that they will stay on the outskirts of Frankfurt for the first round and before that will spend two weeks at a lakeside hotel in Switzerland.

The CBF added that they had set up an alternative near Kaiserslautern. where they would play if they finished second in a group which also includes Croatia, Japan and Australia.

Brazil's second round match will be against a team from Group E which includes Italy, Czech Republic, Ghana and United States.

SERIE A

Milans put four apiece

Football

AFP, Rome

Inter Milan and AC Milan revived their Serie A title hopes with emphatic 4-0

victories on Sunday. Inter thrashed Reggina in Calabria while Andriy Shevchenko scored twice as AC Milan trounced Messina at the San Siro.

Juventus, held to a 1-1 draw at

Lazio on Saturday, have 43 points

from their 16 matches played, followed by Inter on 35 and AC Milan on Inter coach Roberto Mancini took encouragement from the weekend's

results which enabled his side to trim Juve's lead from 10 to eight points. "There are 22 matches remaining until the end of the season and many things can happen," he said. "We are going well at the moment, but we

have to hope that Juve slip up." Carlo Ancelotti was a little less optimistic about his team's chances

of winning the championship. "It was a win that gives us confi-

dence. We made two points on Juventus and that's something positive," he said. Fiorentina dropped one place to

fourth after they drew 1-1 at local rivals Empoli and surprise-package Livorno won 2-0 at Palermo to maintain their push for a place in Europe Chievo climbed to sixth after

defeating Udinese 2-0, while Cagliari

boosted their chances of surviving

the relegation dogfight with a 2-1 win against fellow strugglers Ascoli. Parma gained a valuable point in their battle to stay up in a 2-2 draw at

Inter enjoyed the perfect start at Reggina, taking the lead with less than two minutes on the clock.

home the rebound.

Juan Sebastian Veron's drilled free-kick was pushed away by Nicola Pavarini and Ivan Cordoba lashed

Inter tightened their grip on the

match when Luis Figo crossed from

ead in the 22nd minute thanks to a nighly-dubious penalty. Nigerian defender Matthew Olorunleke was judged to have

close range header beat Pavarini at

Adriano scored with a left-footed

shot in the 40th minute after good

work from Figo and Claudio Pizarro's

stoppage-time solo effort completed

At the San Siro, AC Milan took the

Shevchenko doubled his tally two minutes into the second half with a cool finish after Kaka's cheeky backheel had unlocked the Messina defence and a sublime Andrea Pirlo

pulled down Alberto Gilardino and

Shevchenko tucked home the spot-

with a right-footed shot five minutes

Harbhajan puts

FROM PAGE 12

The seventh wicket. The stand surpassed the previous best of 104 between Yuvrai Singh and Mahendra Dhoni in the second Test of the ongoing series at

Laxman, 71 overnight, completed his ninth Test century in style when he flicked fast bowler Farveez Maharoof for a four.

He was the lone batsman to be dismissed in the morning session. bowled by Maharoof through bat and pad. He struck 14 fours in his

237-ball knock.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the third and final cricket Test between India and Sri Lanka at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad on Monday:

INDIA: First innings (overnight 247-Gambhir c Tharanga b Malinga 19 Sehwag b Malinga Laxman b Maharoof Tendulkar c Mubarak b Muralitharan

Yuvraj c Samaraweera b Muralitharan Kaif c Atapattu b Bandara Dhoni Ibw b Muralitharan Pathan Ibw b Maharoof

38 Gumbo

base

moley!

42 "I Kissed

singer

Jill

45 Rat on

49 Persia,

50 Calf-

52 Vitriol

53 Diplo-

eat-eria

mat's sine

gua non

ingredient

occupant

fraternity

Solution time: 25 mins

54 Varnish

55 Pedestal

56 Benevo-

39 "Holy

40 Dallas

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Clear the

decks?

8 Courted a

12 Metropo-

13 LAX info

14 Nastase

15 Each

16 1 billion

17 Show

18 Send

20 More

22 Weep

23 Stocky

years

chutzpah

back to

custody

hoarv

steed

24 Probabil

27 Annual

publica

32 In favor o

the brass

afternoon

(Abbr.)

tions

33 One of

34 Prompt

35 Treats

of tennis

5 Newton

Agarkar b Malinga Kumble c Jayawardene b Harbhaian not out Extras: (b-15, lb-13, nb-9, w-5) 42 Total: (All out in 122.4 overs) 398 Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-52, 3-88, 4-88, 5-97, 6-183, 7-308, 8-345, 9-384 Bowler O M R W

Malinga 32 4 113 Maharoof 27 11 52 Muralitharan 36 128 3 0 SRI LANKA: First innings Tharanaga c Dhoni b Pathan

Sangakkara b Harbhaian Javawardene c Kaif b Harbhaian 0 Samaraweera c Kaif b Harbhajan 1 Dilshan not out Mubarak not out Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-6)

Total: (For 5 wkts in 40 overs) 131

Atapattu c Sehwag b Harbhajan 40

Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-74, 3-74, 4-82.5-105 To bat: Maharoof, Muralitharan, Malinga, Bandara 0 Bowler 10 Pathan

> 6 2

13 2 50

11 3

Agarkar

Kumble

By Eugene Sheffer

57 Early love 11 Ante-

boat?

58 Profound

DOWN

1 "Lion

King'

2 Expunge

4 Circum-

6 Judge

7 Jets or

Lance

Sharks

as in a

on first

hearing

collision

8 Laterally

9 Audio.

10 Green

land

response

Harbhajan

lope's

partner

19 "Fuhged-

21 Nipper's

old co.

quently

24 Fre-

28 Shelter

fogy

30 Mongrel

36 Matters

37 Piercina

tool

38 Beat on

eBav

41 Yours

truly

42 Location

43 Evange-

list

Roberts

Raines

attraction

additive

46 Carnival

47 Lotion

48 Kennel

44 Logan or

expanse

29 Old

31 Vast

3 Teensy bit 25 Anony-

5 Evaluative 26 Flaw

daboudit!"

18

0

0

Monday rejected suggestions in the Spanish press he was set to leave Barcelona. "I have a contract for five more years here and I don't see any reason to leave," he told Portuguese state-owned radio RDP. Last week Spanish sports newspaper AS, citing unnamed club

> ment were preparing to sell one of their bigger names at the end of this season and Deco was a likely target. But the 28-vear-old said both Barcelona president Joan Laporta

> and coach Frank Riikaard had

sources, said the Barca manage-

assured him they counted on him. "The press in Madrid were the first to speak about this issue, they want to destabilise Barcelona and this is the only way they can do it,"

Barcelona signed the Brazilianborn playmaker in June 2004 from Portuguese side Porto for four years.

Deco extended his contract with the Spanish giants for one year in

3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

1	12	ľ	*		5	0	ľ		٥	9	10	''
12		Г			13				14			
15		Г			16				17			
18	Г			19			20	21				
			22					23				
24	25	26			27	28	29				30	31
32	Γ				33					34		
35			36	37					38			
		39					40	41				
42	43	Г			44		45	T	Т	46	47	48
49	T				50	51			52	-	Γ	Γ
53	T	T	Т		54	Γ			55		Γ	T
56	\top	T	T		57		\vdash		58			T

CRYPTOQUIP PGBSKKEVWS YIAE

PIGBGPSAB CVLAW G

SKK ZGEF JASGVNW, KEA

ZVCIS PGNN VS KLABJBGYE. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU WORK AS A WINDOW WASHER, I GUESS YOU'D FIND

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals O

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.

YOURSELF ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN.

ree-kick made it 3-0 Gilardino completed the scoring **Deco going** nowhere AFP, Lisbon Portugal midfielder Deco on