

Ice-skater Ilhan

Former Turkish international Ilhan Mansiz, who played in the semifinal of the World Cup in 2002 has traded his football career for a far more finer pursuit. According to German weekly, Welt am Sonntag, the popular and skilful Turkish forward has launched himself into ice figure skating and wants to represent his country in the next Olympic winter games.

-AGENCIES



Pakistan taint cricket again

AFP, London

Pakistan's cricket team were embroiled in an alleged betting scam Sunday after British police arrested a man on suspicion of conspiracy to defraud bookmakers during a Test match against England.

The News of the World newspaper said it paid 150,000 pounds (230,000 dollars, 185,000 euros) to a middle man in return for details about the timing of three no-balls in the match, which ended Sunday in victory for England.

The report said that two Pakistan bowlers, Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif, delivered the blatant no-balls at the exact points in the match agreed with the alleged fixer.

The Pakistan team manager said the bowlers and captain Salman Butt had been interviewed by Scotland Yard detectives about the allegations.

The newspaper published a photograph of the alleged middle man, Mazhar Majeed, counting wads of banknotes given to him by a reporter posing as a front man for a betting syndicate.

A spokesman for London's Metropolitan Police told AFP: "Following information received from the News of the World we have arrested a 35-year-old man on suspicion of conspiracy to defraud bookmakers."

The match, the fourth and final Test between the two countries, resumed as normal at Lord's on Sunday with Pakistan collapsing to defeat with the rapid loss of six wickets to give England victory in the four-match series.

Unusually, the post-match presentation ceremony did not take place on the outfield but was moved inside to the Long Room of the Lord's pavilion.

During the ceremony, England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman Giles Clarke refused to shake Aamer's hand when presenting him with the Pakistan Man of the Series award.

The International Cricket Council stressed that no players or

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



PHOTO: AFP

A SLEAZY CHAPTER TO LORD'S HISTORY: Pakistan manager Yawar Saeed (R) reads the day's News of the World as he sits in the Lord's balcony as Pakistan bat during the fourth day of the fourth and final Test against England yesterday. Also sitting in the famed balcony is wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal (C), one of the four alleged by Mazhar Majeed to be involved in spot-fixing.

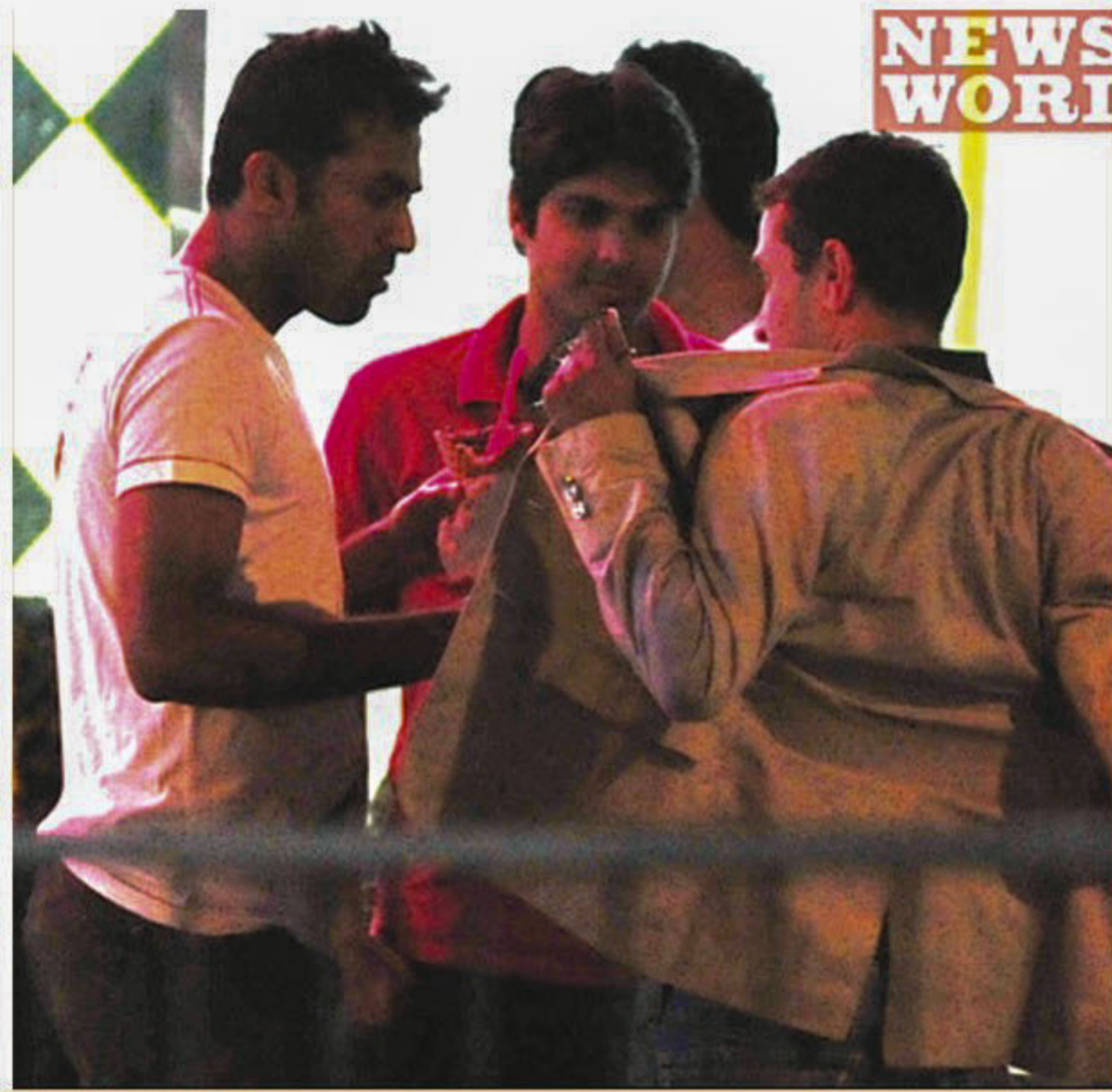
Spot-fixing know-how

Spot-fixing is about getting players or officials to act in a specified predefined manner at a particular time or during a particular session of a match, with or without adversely affecting the overall outcome of the game. It is also known as micro-fixing or fancy-fixing. What kinds of events does spot-fixing target?

Anything from the ordinary to the bizarre can be the focus of spot-fixing. Who will win the toss, which umpire will stand at which end of the wicket, how many players will be wearing sunglasses, how many times the wicketkeeper will take the balls off in an innings, which bowler will come on first change, when the new ball will be taken. All of these and any number of other similar (and at times very silly) aspects can become the subject matter of both legal and illegal bets. If a fixer has prior information relating to a predetermined occurrence during a specific period or session of a match, he can make a killing and happily share a part of the booty with the player or official who is his accomplice.

What is session betting? Each innings of 50 overs in an ODI is divided into three sessions of 15, 15 and 20 overs

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



OUR MAN
Reporter posed as front man for betting syndicate

THE CAPTAIN
Pakistan's Salman Butt was in control, the fixer claimed

THE FIXER
Crooked Majeed manages players and set up no-balls



PHOTOS: NEWS OF THE WORLD

HOW THE CRIME WAS REVEALED: (From R-L) Mazhar Majeed sits with the piles of cash given to him by undercover News of the World reporter (posing as front man for the betting syndicate). Pakistan captain Salman Butt poses with the arrested fixer and the reporter during a dinner, during which Mazhar received cash from the posing front man, in a London restaurant. Pakistan players Wahab Riaz and Umar Amin see the cash lined inside Wahab's jacket worn by Mazhar during the exchange of money.

'Money, women & food'

PTI, London

A lot of Pakistani cricketers are "just looking for money, women and food" and very few of them have any love for the game, claims the bookie arrested for alleged 'spot-fixing' in the England-Pakistan Test here.

Mazhar Majeed, the bookie who has made sensational claims of bribing Pakistani cricketers for bowling no balls in a sting operation by a British tabloid, claimed a lot of players were only bothered about money.

"You'll find there's only a few players who are genuine and who are actually here for the love of the game, and there's not many believe me. A lot of them are just looking for money, women and food," Majeed has been quoted as saying in the videotapes of the sting released

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

No-balls: who, how & when



NEWS OF THE WORLD

They are the three no-balls that will be recorded in the statistics books forever -- and will be remembered for shaking cricket to its core.

Millions of fans who watched Pakistan bowlers Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif send down the trio of deliveries over two days' play at Lord's, had no idea they were bowled as part of a match-rigging scam.

Incredibly, during live coverage, respected TV and radio pundits exclaimed to worldwide audiences how bad every one of the faked no-balls looked -- little knowing they were ordered by money-grabbing fixer Mazhar Majeed, who just a day earlier had collected 150,000 pounds from undercover News of the World reporters.

And it all played out like clockwork exactly as Majeed promised it would. He claimed the players had demanded we pay the cash as our entry ticket into an existing shady gambling syndicate based in India.

In return he revealed solid details of the three no-balls he'd planned for the Lord's Test:

Majeed: "There's no risk, there's no signal... these three are definitely happening. They've all been organised, okay? So, the first ball of the third over of the innings, yeah."

"[Mohammad] Asif and [Mohammad] Aamer are going to be bowling. Aamer is to bowl the first over (meaning he will also bowl the third), yeah?"

"Okay? Then the tenth, the last ball... sixth ball of the tenth over."

Reporter: "The tenth over. Who's bowling it?"

Majeed: "Asif will be bowling it."

Majeed then explained that the third no-ball would come in the first over that teen wonder boy Aamer got to deliver to an England right-hander, after one of the opening two left-handers had been dismissed.

Just to convince us Aamer was onside Majeed telephoned the young star at his hotel. "Are you sleeping?" he asked crudely.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



IAN BOTHAM ON SKY:
You don't see that too often with bowlers who play two forms of the game

1 NO-BALL, THURSDAY THE FIXER'S PLEDGE 1

"So the first ball of the third over, yeah. Amir is going to be bowling. No signal"

Zardari wants preliminary report

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari Sunday expressed his disappointment over an alleged betting scam involving his country's cricketers.

"The president, who is also patron of the Cricket Board, taking note of the reports, has directed that he should be kept posted about the developments as to what happened and what is the status of any inquiry that may have been ordered or held in London," his spokesman Farhatullah Babar said.

"The Chairman PCB [Pakistan Cricket Board] has been directed to immediately submit a preliminary report about the incident," Babar said in a statement.

Federal Sports Minister Ijaz Jakhri said the government will wait for the British police to complete their inquiries, labelling it "a matter of the honour and dignity of Pakistan".

"We will take strict action but first we will have to look at the inquiry report and once it is out and implicates someone then we will give exemplary punishment," he said.

"All the players involved must forget to play for Pakistan in future," he warned if wrongdoing was proven.

Jakhri said he is in touch

SEE PAGE 18 COL

SPORTS POLL
TODAY'S QUESTION
Do you think Tamim Iqbal's behaviour was justified?
Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote
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