

Azhar gets 'life', Jadeja five

Prabhakar, Ali Irani banned for 5 years • Mongia exonerated

HT Correspondent
Chennai, December 5

MOHAMMED AZHARUDDIN and Ajay Sharma were handed the cricketing equivalent of life sentences by the Indian cricket board here today. Ajay Jadeja was banished to cricketing wilderness for five years and so was Manoj Prabhakar and ex-team physio-therapist Ali Irani. The sentences run from today.

Nayan Mongia and Delhi groundsman Ram Adhar were exonerated.

Azharuddin, 38, reportedly admitted to the CBI that he had fixed three one-day internationals, Jadeja, Sharma, Prabhakar and Irani were accused of hobnobbing with bookmakers.

The board's disciplinary committee, reduced to the duo of board president A.C. Muthiah and Mr K.A. Ramprasad (because Mr Kamal Morarka, the third member, decided to skip the meeting in protest), spent over three hours before the verdict was announced. The meeting was held in the board room of SPIC, a company that Mr Muthiah heads.

Mr. Muthiah said he chose to push for a firm and final decision without any further delay because it "would have evoked lot of criticism against the board."

The committee considered the contributions of the players to Indian cricket before deciding that the sentenced men "conducted themselves in a manner which is prejudicial to the interests of the game of cricket."

All the four cricketers and Ali Irani will not be eligible for an official benefit match or the money that has accrued to their respective

WHAT THE VERDICT MEANS



WORST HIT
Ajay Jadeja

India's one-day captain until "bookiegate" broke. Can bat with panache (when he is not on his cellphone) and, on occasion, turn his arm devastatingly. Began this season with two centuries for his adopted state, Jammu and Kashmir. Is now 29; staging a comeback at 34 could be very difficult.

RUN OUT ON 99

Having played 99 Tests, he will have to live with the fact that this is one century he will not get. The Hyderabad has, arguably, at least another couple of years of international cricket in him. An inglorious exit for India's most successful captain.



Azharuddin



END OF TETHER
Ajay Sharma

The non-star in the pack. Best known for scoring runs by the ton in domestic cricket rather than internationally, this Delhiwalian lost his place in his state team and migrated this season to Himachal. At the end of cricketing tether, he had not too much to look forward to in first class cricket.

BAN, WHAT BAN?

The whistle-blower who was, in the end, hoist with his own petard. 'Private Eye' Prabhakar has not played international cricket since 1996. Does not appear to have too much at stake in the cricket establishment to be hit by a ban that prevents him from being a coach or selectorial candidate.



Prabhakar



EXONERATED
Mongia

Cleared, but could be psychologically scarred. Taints take time to wear off. Will have to dig deep into his reserves of mental and physical strength to get back as the No. 1 choice for India behind wickets. CBI report indicates that he was well served - in the end - by not using a cellphone.

benevolent funds managed by the board. Mr Muthiah said that today's decision had the backing of the entire board since "the sense of the house" at its general body meeting in Calcutta last week was to hand down a strict and severe punishment to the guilty.

"The best legal opinion has assured me that whatever decision we take will stand (in court), since these people had violated the code of conduct of the BCCI," Mr. Muthiah said. The BCCI chief was confident that the decision of the board would definitely send a strong message against match fixing. Asked about Mr. Morarka faulting the CBI, based on whose finding the BCCI had now imposed the bans, Mr. Muthiah

made it clear that they were Mr. Morarka's personal views.

capacity and did not reflect the board's views. Muthiah denied reports that the Board had been pressured to spare Jadeja and observed that the two postponements in arriving at a decision could have sparked such speculation. The cricket chief also clarified that since Nikhil Chopra had not been cleared by the board of the charges made by the CBI his selection to the Indian team was not correct. As Mr. Madhavan had not questioned him an impression had gone around that Chopra had been cleared and hence he was selected. Mr. Madhavan is to examine Chopra later.

Related reports on Page 16

ICC probe team to visit Delhi

London, December 5

THE INTERNATIONAL Cricket Council's chief corruption investigator is to fly out to India in the wake of the decision to ban former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin for life and suspend Ajay Jadeja for five years.

Paul Condon, head of the ICC's anti-corruption Unit and the Australian Cricket Board's (ACB) special investigator Greg Melick are flying to India to follow up the Central Bureau of Investigation report's allegations of malpractice.

The pair will hold two days of talks with Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officials, senior Indian Government officials and the Delhi Police Commissioner. The announcement was made at the conclusion of a meeting here today. "The talks were a private exchange of information and an update of current status concerning ongoing investigations into the CBI report," said Condon.

"As a result of this both Greg Melick and myself are going to India to seek further information relating to the allegations that have been made against overseas cricketers. "The visit is being made with the full knowledge and assistance of the Indian authorities," Condon said.

A three-member ICC team of investigators is already in Delhi for the last two days. (AFP)

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

5 DEC 2000

119) British team to probe charges against Stewart

37/11 By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, NOV. 2. British investigators will visit India this week to join the inquiry into allegations of match-fixing against the former England skipper, Alec Stewart, who is in Pakistan playing a test series.

A five-member team, including three former Scotland Yard detectives, has been put together by Sir Paul Condon, head of the International Cricket Council's anti-corruption unit, who has vowed to restore confidence in cricket.

He made it clear that his unit would only help in the investigation which, he emphasised, was not a witch-hunt. It would be for the ICC and individual cricket boards to act on the findings. However, he said, it was important that the confidence of spectators, sponsors and all those connected with the game was restored. The climate of suspicion, which made people suspect anything that happened on the field, had begun to tell on cricketers and it was time to clean up the act.

English cricket has been thrown into turmoil following the CBI report, which said Stewart was paid £5,000 to provide match information. There is much recrimination with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) being criticised for its handling, so far, of the matching-fixing controversy.

The editor of Wisden, Mr. Graeme Wright, said the ECB tended to take the high moral ground suggesting that match-fixing happened only on the subcontinent, and that English cricket was "above all this". He was particularly critical of the ECB chairman, Lord MacLaurin's "insensitive comment" a few weeks ago demanding suspension of Pakistani players who were suspected to be involved.

"There was a holier than thou attitude which has

Azhar's 'links' with Memon

NEW DELHI, NOV. 2. The Mumbai Police Commissioner, Mr. M. N. Singh, tonight said the former Indian cricket captain, Mohammed Azharuddin, had close links with 'Tiger' Memon, one of the prime suspects in the serial bomb blasts which rocked Mumbai in 1993.

"While investigating the 1993 bomb blasts, police came across photographs of Azharuddin with Memon and his family members during a raid on Memon's house in Mumbai," Mr. Singh told 'Aaj Tak'.

At that point of time, police had not felt the need for a follow-up on Azharuddin's links with Memon as the purpose of the investigation was entirely different. — PTI

come home to roost now that an English player has been named," Mr. Wright said.

There has been a demand that Stewart be asked to stand down until he was cleared of the charge. This, it is stated, would be in line with Lord MacLaurin's prescription for Pakistani players. His critics recalled his statement that "if an England player were involved that's what would happen".

Officially, the ECB accepted Stewart's denial but even those who have been surprised by the disclosure are not sure how far to back him. For there is the sense that maybe the allegation is not unfounded, and as one player said, "After all who would have thought Hansie Cronje was involved until he admitted it."

More reports on Page 14

THE HINDU

3 NOV 2000

Pak. threatens boycott of all matches

SPM
D.P.M.
H.P.D.

LAHORE, NOV. 15. The Pakistan Cricket Board chief, Gen. Fauqir Zia, today threatened to boycott all matches with India after India declined an invitation to tour Pakistan.

"This puts us in a position where we would like to review our relationship with India and may not play them even in offshore, tri-nation one-day events," Gen. Zia said.

Pakistan's Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, described the Indian decision as "unsporting" and said "It's regrettable... they have mingled politics and sport, which is unsporting."

The first event to be affected could be a triangular tournament in Sharjah next April between Pakistan, India and New Zealand, the PCB chief said.

"Although we have not been informed about the cancellation of the tour, we have got confirmed news that India's tour is off. It's disappointing," Gen. Zia told reporters during the Pakistan-England Test here.

"We will host the Asia Cup (in September) irrespective of wheth-

er India comes or not and the Asian Test championship whether they play us or not."

"We will protest officially with the International Cricket Council (ICC) and ask them to include a clause whereby Governments of Test-playing countries are not allowed to interfere in cricket," the PCB chief said.

Pakistan had started arrangements for the tour after ICC Chairperson, Mr. Malcolm Gray, wrote to the Indian Government to try to confirm the tour.

"Even Mr. Gray wrote to them but they have not relented," he said. "It's a loss for Asian cricket."

Former cricketer and Pakistan team coach, Javed Miandad, described the cancellation of Indian cricket team's visit to Pakistan as a "black day" in cricket history.

"Politics and games should be viewed separately. India should reconsider its decision." He said. "All the cricket-playing countries should support Pakistan's stand and must not play with India in future if it does not visit Pakistan under the ICC programme."

Pakistan toured India last year,

playing three Tests and a triangular series involving Sri Lanka despite threats from rightwing 'hindutva' elements. — AFP, PTI

Madhavan to quiz Azhar in Hyderabad

By Our Sports Reporter

HYDERABAD, NOV. 15. The BCCI's anti-corruption commissioner, Mr. K. Madhavan, is coming here tonight to cross-examine the former captain, Mohd. Azharuddin.

Mr. Madhavan's visit was confirmed by the secretary of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA), N. Shivlal Yadav. The BCCI secretary, Mr. J.Y. Lele, also spoke to the HCA vice-president, Mr. M. Ranga Reddy, today about the visit.

Mr. Madhavan is coming here after Azhar did not attend the meetings convened in Chennai and New Delhi. Azhar said he was apprehensive about his safety outside Hyderabad; it was made clear that he preferred to be quizzed in his hometown.

THE HINDU

1 8 1992

Former Pak cricketers feel Indian Govt.'s decision will affect Asian cricket

LAHORE: Former Pakistan cricketers on Thursday criticised the Indian government's decision to block a Test tour to Pakistan, saying the move would hurt the game in Asia.

They also urged Pakistani authorities not to snap cricketing ties with India in a tit-for-tat response. "Pakistan and India must continue their sporting links, especially cricket, because 90 per cent of the people want to see Pakistan-India play," legendary Pakistani batsman Hanif Mohammad said.

"It would be a big loss for Asian cricket. If we keep on with these ill feelings we will put ill feelings into the coming generations," said Hanif, who played in the first Pakistan-India Test in 1952-53.

"We share the same culture and same heritage and India's decision is disappointing. India must reconsider."

Pakistan said it would consider a boycott of India in any future One-

day events anywhere in the world. No Indian team has made a full Test trip to Pakistan since Krish Srikkanth led a side here in 1989-90. Waqar Hassan, who appeared in Pakistan's inaugural Test in New Delhi, said cricket must not suffer because of political rivalries.

Former captain Intikhab Alam said the Indians were simply afraid of being beaten. "India is afraid of losing to Pakistan in Pakistan and there is no other reason in it because they play us in offshore events," he said.

Alam backed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)'s decision to review its ties with India. "Why should we play them in offshore events when they do not come to Pakistan? Their teams have come to Pakistan in the past, nothing has changed," he said. PCB advisory council member and former captain Ramiz Raja said the International Cricket Council (ICC) must penalise India for ignoring international itineraries.

(AFP)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

17 NOV 2000

India pull out of Sahara Cup

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HT Correspondent
New Delhi, August 10

INDIA PULLED OUT of the Sahara Cup series against Pakistan in Toronto for the second year in succession, with Pakistan's support for cross-border terrorism and the deteriorating situation in Kashmir prompting the decision.

Disclosing this here today, Union Minister for Sports Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa said: "Keeping in mind the situation in Kashmir now, and in view of what Pakistan is doing right now, it would not be right to partic-

ipate in the Sahara Cup, and the Government therefore decided to withdraw from it."

The decision which was arrived at today, will make it the second year in running when the India-Pak contest in Canada has been called off.

Last year too, the Government had decided to not allow the team to play against Pakistan in Toronto in view of the Kargil War.

Thereafter, both Pakistan and India had played three-match series against the West Indies.

Asked if it was a good practice to mix sports and politics, Dhindsa

stated that he was always against mixing the two, "but the whole nation knows what is happening, and it is not wise to send a team".

Furthermore, the minister stated, the situation within Indian cricket also is not all right, and it was a combination of these factors had influenced the Government's decision.

However, the decision not to send a team did not bracket the bilateral series that the two nations have been planning, scheduled for the winter this year.

The Government would keep an eye on things, and any decision regarding that series would depend on how the situation between the two nations is at that stage.

The Sahara Cup matches were scheduled to be held between Sept 9 and 17.

The sponsors had announced the resumption of the tournament after last year's break a short while ago, although Government clearance was nowhere in the offing at that stage. Government clearance for the tournament had been progressively becoming a remote possibility as the situation in Jammu and Kashmir deteriorated progressively, reaching its nadir with the massacre at the beginning of this month, the victims also including several Amarnath pilgrims.

BCCI to abide by decision

Mumbai, August 10

CRICKET BOARD secretary president AC Muthiah today said that the board would abide by the government's decision not to permit the Indian team to play against Pakistan in the Sahara Cup at Toronto. In a statement issued from Chennai today Muthiah said, "If the government has taken a decision not to permit the Indian team to go to Toronto, BCCI will abide by thye decision. I suppose the same logic will apply to participation in the Olympics by the Indian athletes and the Indian Hockey team."

In Mumbai, BCCI secretary Jaywant Leleday refused to comment on the government decision.

"I don't have any comments to offer," Baroda-based Lele said when contacted on telephone about the latest development on the jinxed series which has been cancelled for the second year running because of the trouble fomented by Pakistan in Kashmir. (HTC)

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

11 AUG 2000

India pulls out of Sahara Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, Aug 10. — India today pulled out of the Sahara Cup series in Toronto, citing Pakistan's support to terrorism, especially in Kashmir as the reason.

Mr SS Dhindsa, sports minister, said India wouldn't participate in the series as long as Pakistan encouraged murder of innocents in Kashmir.

The five-match series was scheduled to be played from 9 to 17 September.

The Board of Control For Cricket in India in Mumbai got a faxed message from the sports ministry conveying the government's decision. The message reportedly said that under the present circumstances it was inappropriate for India to play Pakistan in Toronto.

In Chennai, Mr AC Muthiah, BCCI president said the board would abide by the government's decision. "I suppose the same logic will apply to participation in the Olympics by Indian athletes and the Indian hockey team," he said.

Mr Jaywant Lele, board secretary, refused to comment. "I don't have any comments to offer," he said from Baroda.

India had refused to play Pakistan last year during the Kargil conflict after Kapil Dev's call to do so. To compensate for the revenue loss to the sponsors, India and Pakistan each played a series of three matches against West Indies.

Even before today's announcement, the massacres in J&K had cast a shadow of doubt on the fourth edition of the five-series engagement.

Earlier, the board had as-

sumed the government clearance would be a matter of formality and announced that the team would be selected at Bangalore on 19 August.

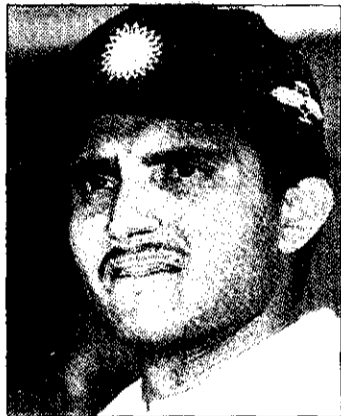
India lost 2-3 in the inaugural year, 1996, thrashed Pakistan 4-1 in the second and lost the third 1-4.

There was no immediate response from the Pakistan Cricket Board, running trial matches in Karachi this week to select a team for Toronto.

Pak board treasurer

Mr Mohammed Naeem, Pakistan Cricket Board and Asian Cricket Council treasurer, ex-

pects improved bilateral ties in the next few months will lead to India visiting Pakistan this winter as scheduled. He's in Calcutta with ACC secretary, Mr Zakir Syed. He held talks on Asian cricket with Mr Jagmohan Dalmiya today. SNS adds.



Sourav: Ruining lost Toronto?

Mr Naeem said "It's too early to rule out the tour. We hope that, as in 1999, when Pakistan came to India, India too would go to Pakistan."

Asked if the Indian pull-out would scupper Pakistan's visit to Toronto, Mr Naeem said: "Well, last time a new format was made and we played the West Indies. It's for IMG and the Sahara group to decide if Pakistan play any other nation. We're ready to face any opposition they put before us."

Imran Khan today implored India to keep politics out of cricket and go ahead with its planned tour of Pakistan later this year, says an AFP report from Karachi.

■ Another report on page 14

11 AUG 2000

Keep politics out of sport, says Imran

Karachi, August 10

PAKISTAN'S CRICKET BOARD today said it would play any team in Toronto next month after India pulled out of the series due to tensions in Kashmir.

The move has thrown India's planned Test tour here later this year into serious doubt and prompted an appeal from Pakistani cricket legend Imran Khan to keep politics out of the game.

India has announced it will not send a team to play Pakistan in the Sahara Cup at Toronto next month in protest over Islamabad's alleged sponsorship of "terrorism" in Kashmir.

"Pakistanis always support Pakistan-India matches and it would be unfair if politics starts dominating team tours," Khan, a former captain turned politician-said.

"Despite all the tension and threats from Indian fundamentalists, Pakistan went to India in 1998 and played Test matches and one-day internationals. It would be sad if they refused to tour Pakistan."

"I always believe in more Pakistan-India series as people in the sub-continent are crazy about the game and they do not want to see cricket destroyed because of politics."

Indian Sports Minister Sukhdev

Dhindsa said India had pulled out of the series because Pakistan encouraged "killings of innocent people in Kashmir and elsewhere".

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), which is running trial matches in this southern port city this week to select a team for Toronto, said it had not been informed of the Indian decision.

But PCB Director of Operations Yawar Saeed said Pakistan would meet its commitment to play in the one-day series despite India's pull-out.

"We are definitely committed to play in the Toronto series and we're waiting for the official information of India's pullout from Indian Board and the organisers," he said.

"It's up to the organisers (International Management Group) to arrange another team for the series," he said.

The two teams were scheduled to play five matches from September 9 to 17 in Canada.

It is the second year in a row that India has backed out of the annual series amid flare-ups in Kashmir, a Himalayan territory divided between Islamabad and New Delhi and claimed by both.

A Muslim separatist group fighting Indian rule in Kashmir claimed responsibility for a grenade and landmine attack today which killed at least nine Indian troops. (AFP)

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

11 AUG 2000

HD-13
17/8

MATCH-FIXING / INTERIM REPORT SUBMITTED

King panel members to visit India soon

By M. S. Prabhakara

CAPE TOWN, AUG. 11. The King Commission, inquiring into match-fixing allegations against South African cricketers, will be extending its investigations to India.

Two members of the Commission's investigating team, Ms. Sharilya Batohi, the leader of evidence and Mr. Jeff Edwards, a police official, will soon be travelling to India.

This was disclosed by the Chairperson of the Commission, Mr. Judge Edwin King, while handing over the 'Interim Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Cricket Match Fixing and Related Matters' to the Minister for Sports and Recreation, Mr. Ngconde Balfour, this morning. The Commission would ensure that "arrangements are made and appointments are set up" to enable the investigating team to collect as much information as possible, Mr. King said.

Though Mr. King said little about the nature of the information that the Commission will be seeking, it is clear that the top priority of the team would be the tape recorded conversation between the former South African captain, Hansie Cronje, and his Indian contacts released by the Delhi police on April 7. The absence of an officially certified copy of the tape, or even of a certified transcript of the conversation, has severely inhibited the Commission's work.

The interim report was handed over to Mr. Balfour for onward transmission to the President, Mr. Thabo Mbeki. The report will be made public only after Mr. Mbeki goes through the report. Referring to speculative reports about the length of the report (about 300 pages) and its 'recommendations', Mr. King pointed to the slim volume in a plastic folder that he was handing over to the Minister. He said he would not tell the media anything about the actual length of the report or even the number of lines lest it encourage "line-betting". The report was essentially an "encapsulation" of the evidence rendered before the Commission in public, and did not make any specific recommendations.

Mr. King, however, said he would be submitting what he described as a "supplementary interim report", with some recommendations, before his final report.

The Commission which ended its first phase of hearing on June 27 is to resume the hearing on October 2. Mr. King indicated that the scope of his inquiry could be widened (just a matter of housekeeping) since references had been made during evidence tendered earlier to events outside the specific terms of reference of the Commission.

Whether Hansie Cronje would be examined once again, Mr. King said he did not rule out calling once again persons who had already testified. However, he could express an opin-

ion on whether Cronje had told the full truth and all that he knew only after he had heard all the evidence. Any decision on providing immunity to Cronje from criminal prosecution is contingent on Mr. King's satisfaction in this regard.

Mr. King also refused to be drawn into a discussion on the disciplinary hearings by the United Cricket Board of South Africa on the suspension of Herschelle Gibbs and Henry Williams.

There are reports that the Board may decide to lift the suspension. Mr. King said it was "theoretically possible" that the inquiry could bring forth more evidence relevant to the two individuals as to any others.

Gibbs and Williams admitted before the Commission that they had accepted a financial inducement from Hansie Cronje to underperform in the fifth one day international during South Africa's tour of India in February-March this year, though in the event they did not fulfill their part of the deal and received no money.

The inquiry and cross examination which has taken place till now appears to assume that this little bit of fiddle as recorded on the conversation on the tapes related only to the fifth ODI though reports from India suggest that the conversation dealt also in part with the third ODI in which Gibbs fulfilled his part of the deal - by scoring less than 20 runs.

THE HINDU

12 AUG 2000

Match-fixing: CBI to give interim report by Sept

Fiscal deficit goes down

THE INTERIM report of CBI inquiry into the match-fixing scam is expected to be submitted by September, Sports and Youth Affairs Minister S S Dhinosa informed the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

In reply to a question, the Minister said that no time-frame has been fixed for the CBI for submitting its report on involvement of cricketers and cricket board members in the match-fixing. He said that the new sports policy, which will

be presented in the next session of Parliament, will make all sports bodies, including the BCCI, accountable to the ministry.

Malnourished children: As many as 49.2 per cent pre-school children are malnourished in the country, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Rita Verma informed the House. In a written reply, Ms Verma said the government has taken several measures including availability of essen-

tial food items at subsidised cost, improving the purchasing power of the people and nutrition education to create awareness to improve nutritional status of the population.

Hospitals: There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to privatise Central government hospitals, Minister for Health and Family Welfare C P Thakur said.

Plastic Bags: There is no proposal by the Centre to impose a complete ban on plastic bags. However,

the recycled plastics manufacture and usage rules, 19 prohibit use of carrybags and containers made of recycled plastics for storing or dispensing ready-to-eat food articles, Minister of State for Environment Babul Marandi informed the House.

Genetic plants: The government has permitted trials of genetically modified crops of cotton, tobacco, tomato, brinjal, cauliflower, cabbages, mustard and potato in the Indian environment. (Agencies)

THE FISCAL deficit of the Central Government for April-June 2000 was Rs 25,073 crore compared to Rs 33,512 crore during April-June 1999, Minister of State for Finance Balasaheb Vikhe Patil informed the Lok Sabha on Friday.

The reduction in fiscal deficit during the current financial year reflects higher receipts as well as lesser non-plan expenditure. The fiscal situation is under constant review and appropriate measures,

both on revenue and expenditure side are undertaken as and when necessary in the light of emerging fiscal situation.

Fake currency: Considering the large number of complaints of fake currency notes in the country, the government has appointed a high level committee of experts in the note printing field for examining the entire gamut of the issues. The committee consists of representatives from ministries of Finance and Home Affairs, National Security Council

secretariat, note-printing presses and Reserve Bank of India. The committee's

report is expected shortly, Mr Patil said. **Film:** As much as Rs 219.20 crore in cash and other valuables was seized during searches at the places of 18 film personalities in 1999-2000, Minister of State for Finance Dhananjay Kumar said.

Hawala: During the last six months, 33 persons were found involved in hawala transactions to the tune of Rs 24.78 crore, Mr Kumar said. These persons have been booked by the Directorate of Enforcement.

Smuggling: Reports and intelligence available indicate that attempts are being made to smuggle duplicate CD cassettes of Indian films via Karachi. However, involvement of Dubai based companies is not yet confirmed, Mr Kumar said in a written reply.

FDI proposals: The government has approved a total of 1,105 foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals, financial and technical, involving Rs 14,640.06 crore in various sectors from January to June, 2000, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Raman Singh said. (Agencies)

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

19 AUG 2000

Gibbs and Williams plead guilty to match-fixing charges

JOHANNESBURG: South African cricketers Herschelle Gibbs and Henry Williams pleaded guilty on Saturday to accepting cash to under-perform in a One-Day International match in India.

The players made the confession while appearing before the United Cricket Board (UCB) disciplinary commission inquiring into the match-fixing scandal involving former South Africa captain Hansie Cronje.

"They plead guilty to the charges," said Mike Fitzgerald, senior counsel for the pair.

Both admitted to accepting an offer of \$15,000 from Cronje before a match in Nagpur earlier this year.



H. Gibbs



H. Williams

Gibbs was also charged with bringing the game into disrepute by lying to the UCB when he denied receiving any offers of financial rewards following the out-

break of the scandal.

Meanwhile, Pieter Strydom pleaded not guilty to charges of breaching the players' code of conduct and bringing the game into disrepute by agreeing to place a bet on the outcome of a match between South Africa and England in January.

Strydom's legal counsel Izak Smuts said that although his client had discussed placing a bet with Cronje, he did not carry out the plan as he was told that the book had been closed when he telephoned an acquaintance with book-making contacts.

Strydom admitted during earlier hearings that he had agreed to place 50 rand (\$7.20) bets for both of them, but had been unable to secure the odds on the rain-affected match.

Mr Fitzgerald called for a suspended sentence for his clients, arguing that both Gibbs and Williams had not carried out the plan to throw the match and were heavily influenced by Cronje.

"My submission would be that the appropriate sentence would be a suspended one on the condition that they do not offend again," he said. (Reuters)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

20 AUG 2000

King doubts testimony of key witnesses

Cape Town, August 25

AN INTERIM report released today by the King Commission investigating corruption in South African cricket appeared to cast doubt on the testimony of many of the key witnesses in the worst sporting scandal in the nation's history.

The scandal broke in April after the Delhi Police said they had tape recordings of South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje's conversations with an Indian bookmaker during the team's tour of the subcontinent earlier this year.

Cronje initially denied any wrongdoing, but later told the commission he had taken about \$100,000 from gamblers for providing match information. He was fired as captain in April.

Several players on the team told the commission that Cronje had conveyed to them a bookmaker's offer in 1996 of up to \$350,000 to lose a one-day game against India.

Players Herschelle Gibbs and Henry Williams told the commission that Cronje had relayed to them separate offers of money if the cricketers would under perform in matches. They said they accepted, but later reneged on the deals.

Cronje has adamantly denied ever throwing a match, but the interim report implied the commission had doubts about Cronje's truthfulness.

The commission, headed by retired judge Edwin King, made no recommendations on Cronje's fate or how the game should be cleaned up, saying it was saving those recommendations for its final report.

"It will be appreciated that until all the evidence has been heard, no aspect of the inquiry can be regarded as finalised," King wrote in the 66-page report, which was published on the internet.

The report mainly summarises the testimony given to the commission in public hearings in June. More hearings are scheduled to begin on October 2.

The commission can recommend that Cronje be given immunity from criminal prosecution if he is found to have come clean about his shady deals.

In his testimony, Cronje claimed he had deceived bookmaker Sanjay Chawla when he said he was prepared to lose a game during a series played earlier this year.

King cast doubt on whether Cronje was being honest.

"It was apparent to Cronje from his first meeting with Sanjay that merely supplying him with information would not be sufficient for Sanjay who wanted Cronje to lose matches and to get other players to assist him in this," King wrote.

"In fact, Sanjay said he needed a match where there was a certainty of South Africa losing. Sanjay told Cronje there would be a further sum of money coming to Cronje if he could give Sanjay the 'right' result," King continued.

"These facts are reiterated with the thought that they are not readily reconcilable with the notion of Cronje spinning Sanjay along."

Elsewhere in the report he wrote: "It is interesting that the first time Cronje was approached to fix a match, he was prepared to, and did, entertain the suggestion."

King also disputed the accuracy of the testimony given to the commission by Johannesburg businessman Hamid Cassim, who claims he acted as an intermediary between Cronje and Chawla, and was not a party to illicit deals. "It would also appear that Cassim was more closely connected to Sanjay's betting activities than he, Cassim, is prepared to admit," King wrote. (AP)

Kingspeak



- Hansie Cronje's contention of 'merely spinning along' with an Indian bookmaker was rejected by the King Commission of Inquiry.

- Bookmaker Sanjay Chawla wanted nothing less than for the captain to lose matches and get other players to assist him.

- When first approached to fix a match, Cronje was prepared to and did entertain the suggestion.

- Had he snubbed the bookie on the first occasion, the script would have been different and Cronje regrets this.

- The Commission found that nothing untoward happened from January 1997 to January 2000.

Charge-sheet against Cronje by June 7

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, May 31

THE DELHI Police will file by June 7 the charge-sheet against Hansie Cronje, former South African cricket captain, four of his teammates and three other accused, including actor Kishen Kumar, for their alleged involvement in match-fixing.

Government counsel S S Gandhi today told the Delhi High Court that police had received the Interpol report and were awaiting replies to the letters rogatory that

had been sent to different countries before filing the charge-sheet. Gandhi was answering queries from Justice R S Sodhi. The judge was hearing arguments on Kishen Kumar's bail plea.

Arguing for Kishen Kumar, senior counsel R K Anand told the court that his client could not be kept in custody indefinitely, only because the police had failed to file the charge-sheet. He also said that Rajesh Kalra would get "mandatory bail" in a few days, for he would complete 60 days in judicial custody without the police filing a charge-sheet. So there was no reason for keeping his client in custody, he argued.

The Delhi Police arrested Kumar on April 28 after the Supreme Court turned down the anticipatory bail granted by the High Court. Delhi Police are conducting a

parallel probe with the CBI into the case against Cronje, his teammates Herschelle Gibbs, Nicky Boje, Pieter Strydom and H Williams. The others being investigated are Kishen Kumar, London-based businessman Sanjeev Chawla and his Indian associate, Rajesh Kalra.

While Anand argued that the police could not continue to hold his client in custody till the charge-sheet was filed, Government counsel Gandhi said that the entire investigation process would suffer a serious

blow if Kumar was released on bail. "He would then establish contact with those the investigating agencies are probing."

"He was one of the key accused in the match-fixing scandal and used to bet on every 10 overs, as per the evidence collected so far."

said Government counsel, adding that Kumar's mobile phone was used by South African players to contact Chawla.

Police had earlier told the court that Kumar had direct links with Dubai-based don Saheeh Hathely, who was suspected to be involved in the scandal.

"A mobile number -- 9810008411 -- registered in the name of Kumar, was kept under observation ... later, some more mobile numbers were identified which were used in the match-fixing scandal," he claimed.

Symcox on Cronje

• FORMER SOUTH African spinner Pat Symcox has hinted that match-fixing might have taken place under his ex-captain Hansie Cronje and that he (Cronje) was 'skating on thin ice'. Perturbed over the scandal, Symcox went as far as to say, "You won't be surprised when one of these days Cronje's body will be flowing down this ocean tied to a pile of bricks."

(Details on Page 20)

• THE CBI, which is probing the match-fixing scandal in cricket, will soon be getting in touch with a former Indian cricketer, who is at present abroad.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

5 1 JUN 2000

Gibbs blows Cronje defence

Cape Town, June 8 (Agencies): South Africa's opener Herschelle Gibbs today said he and his teammate Henry Williams had agreed to their captain Hansie Cronje's offer of \$15,000 each to play badly in a one-day match against India earlier this year.

Gibbs told an inquiry commission investigating allegations of match-fixing that Cronje approached him before the match in Nagpur on March 19 and said he could have the money if he got out for less than 20.

"Hansie appeared in my room with a big smile on his face, saying that someone was prepared to offer me \$15,000 for scoring less than 20. I thought of my mother — my parents were getting divorced, my father had a part-time job and would have to look after my mother — so I said yes. The team was to get less than 270," Gibbs said.

However, the opener said he had reneged on the agreement and scored 74 runs off 53 balls in the game and was never paid.

Gibbs said the targets set in the conversation in a hotel in Nagpur before the fifth one-day international were not met with the team scoring over 300.

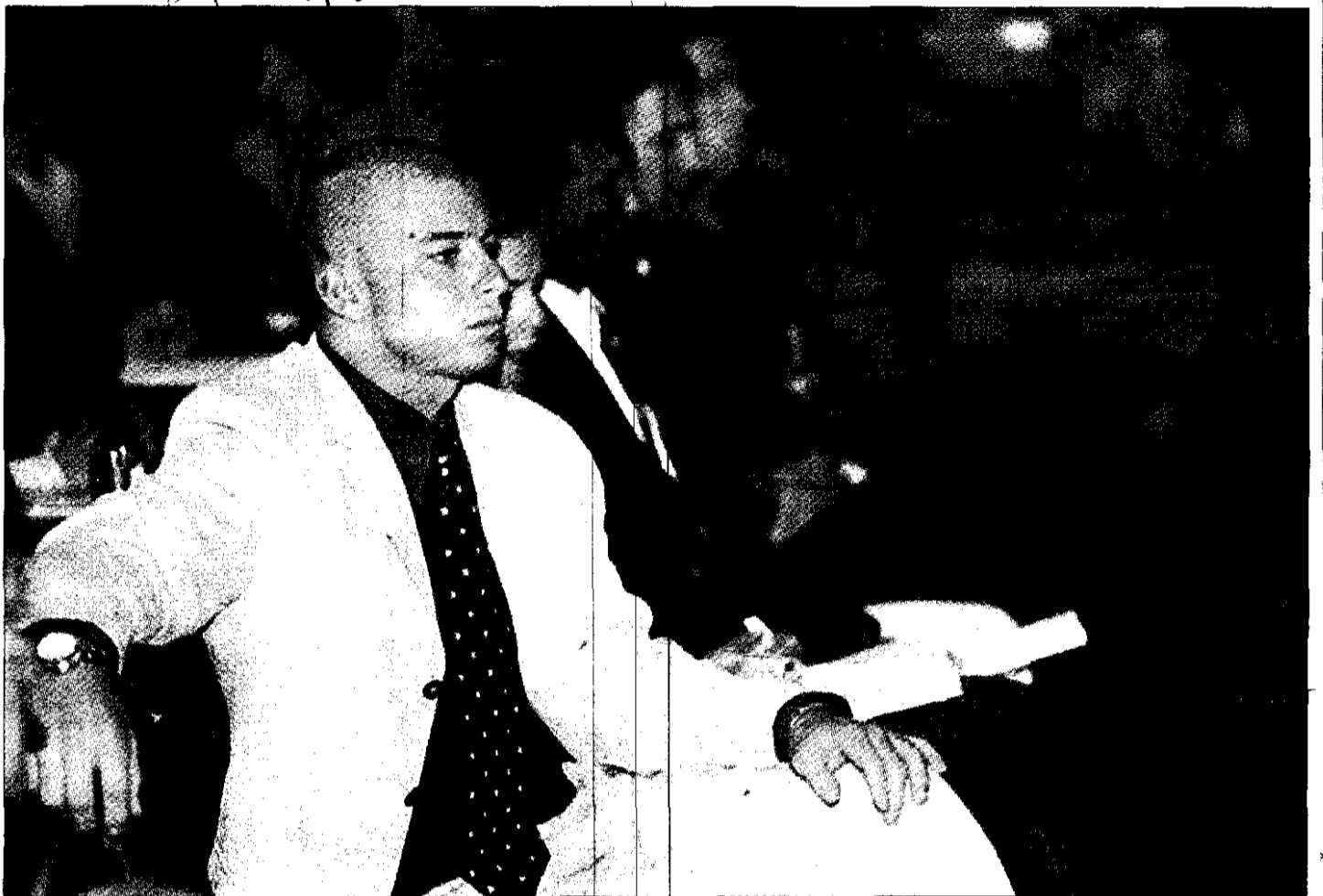
"By the time Hansie got to the wicket, I already had 30 or 40 and I asked him what we should do. After a few overs, I asked him to gain and he said one of us would have to get out," Gibbs told the commission headed by retired judge Edwin King.

The batsman testified that Cronje had also offered Williams \$15,000 if more than 50 runs were scored off his bowling. Williams also agreed, Gibbs said.

Williams, however, bowled only 11 balls in the game and conceded as many runs.

All three players, along with their colleagues on the India visit, spinner Nicky Boje and all-rounder Pieter Strydom, have been accused by Delhi police of tanking matches during the tour.

Gibbs said that he had heard Cronje offered money to three others — Strydom, Jacques Kallis and Mark Boucher. But he did not know whether they accepted.



Herschelle Gibbs awaits his turn to depose before the commission of inquiry. (AFP)

The 26-year-old opener said he had previously lied about his involvement in the scandal. "I was obviously scared and protecting Hansie," he said. "It's never too late to come clean. I'm not proud of what I did. I do apologise."

Gibbs said that on Cronje's advice, he denied on eight separate occasions to fellow players and United Cricket Board officials that he had been involved in match-fixing. "When the story started to come out, Hansie phoned me to say I should say that I was approached, but I shouldn't say an amount was discussed and that I should tell them we had not accepted the offer," he said.

Last week, vice-captain

Boucher met Gibbs in a Cape Town pub and convinced him to reveal the truth. Gibbs said he was willing to go to India to stand trial on the charges.

The testimony contradicts Cronje's assertions that he was never involved in match-fixing and that he never approached any player about doctoring performances.

Cronje was sacked as captain on April 11 after confessing he had accepted up to \$15,000 from bookies for providing pitch and weather information during the tri-series in January against England and Zimbabwe.

A confessional letter written by Cronje on April 11 was read out during today's hearing. "I'm now

willing to go to India and take my punishment like a man," Cronje wrote. The axed captain, who is expected to testify later in the inquiry, also says that no other player was involved in the scandal.

Spinner Derek Crookes added a twist to the case when he testified that coach Graham Ford was party to the decision to have him open the bowling in the third game in Faridabad despite a consensus that he should not do so.

Cronje had referred to the unusual bowling line-up to be used in the match in one conversation taped by Delhi police.

Cronje's confessional statement (text on Page 14) refers to two men, Hamid Cassim and his

friend Sanjay (bookie Sanjeev Chawla), who suggested that the skipper throw a match in India.

"I told him (Sanjay) that maybe (in) the first one-day international I could see what could be done, thinking that if we could get the match out of the way, we'd get rid of them. My idea was never to involve other players," Cronje wrote.

But batsman Daryll Cullinan told the panel that an offer had been made which he had dismissed as one of Cronje's pranks to boost team morale. "I laughed about it and dismissed it as typical of his sense of humour," Cullinan said. "I have come to think of it as a stroke of genius."

THE TELEST

- 9 JUN 2000

Indemnity bait for Cronje troika

Johannesburg, June 10 (Agencies): Former South African captain Hansie Cronje and his colleagues Herschelle Gibbs and Henry Williams have been offered indemnity from criminal prosecution if they tell all about their alleged involvement in match-fixing, an official said today.

Sipho Ngwema, spokesman for the National Directorate of Public Prosecutions, said public prosecutor Bulelani Ngcuka offered the three players the deal in a gesture aimed at ending corruption in South African cricket as soon as possible.

"We want to make sure that each person who participated in match-fixing is exposed," he said.

"The condition is that Judge Edwin King must be happy that the testimonies (of the three) were frank and honest and that they participated with the commission fully."

Confirming the offer, John Bacon, the commission's secretary, said: "Shamila Batohi, the King Commission's advocate, has informed me that Hansie Cronje has been offered indemnity from prosecution if he comes clean to the commission." Cronje is expected to testify early next week.

Officials hoped the offer would result in other people possibly involved being summoned to the commission, Ngwema said. Cases of other people who might come forward with information would be dealt with individually, he added.

Gibbs and Williams have testified that they had accepted Cronje's offer of \$15,000 each to perform poorly in a one-dayer against India in March. Gibbs reneged on the agreement while Williams suffered a shoulder injury and could not keep his part in the deal. Both said they did not receive any money.

However, the indemnity offer will not affect any action the United Cricket Board (UCB) might take against the players. The players would still face action from the board if they have contravened the codes of conduct of the board and the ICC. UCB boss Ali Bacher said Gibbs has been withdrawn from the team that will tour Sri Lanka in July.

The Indian government, too, made a similar offer. In New Delhi, sports minister Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa said the Indian players who come forth "honestly" and reveal any information or involvement in the scandal should be treated with leniency.

"I think leniency should be given to those who reveal the involvement honestly," Dhindsa said. "I suggest they (the players) come out in the open and say it all. It will be good for the country and for the game." But he added that it was finally up to the court to decide their fate.

Former opener Navjot Singh Sidhu said in Patiala he would soon appear before the CBI following summons from the agency.

Sidhu, who had deposed before the bureau last month, had reportedly denied the allegation levelled by Manoj Prabhakar that Kapil had offered him Rs 25 lakh to play below potential in a match against Pakistan in 1994. /

THE TELEGRAPH

11 JUN 2000

110-1

'I LIED AGAIN AND AGAIN SINCE APRIL 11'

Azhar put me on to a bookie: Cronje

By M.S. Prabhakara

CAPE TOWN, JUNE 15. Disgraced South African cricket captain, Hansie Cronje, has named former Indian cricket captain, Mohammed Azharuddin, as having introduced him to Mukesh Gupta ('MK'), "a bookmaker or punter", from whom he received \$30,000 in return for a promise to throw the third Test match at Kanpur during South Africa's tour of India in 1996.

In his long-awaited testimony before the King Commission inquiring into allegations of bribery and match-fixing in South African cricket this morning, Cronje dwelt almost entirely on the temptations and perils he had met in the "subcontinent" or in encounters with players from the "subcontinent". Naturally, the other international cricketer whom he has named is Pakistan's Salim Malik.

Cronje acknowledged at the very outset that he had lied again and again, and tried to explain this by saying he was trying to protect younger players. "My initial denials of involvement made publicly to the United Cricket Board of South Africa were untruthful; my letter of April 11 was also untruthful in a number of respects; and so too was the subsequent press statement issued on my instruction. I misled the UCBSA and members of the South African Government... I also withheld facts from my legal representatives. I was not honest, and I apologise unreservedly," he said.



The former South African cricket captain, Hansie Cronje, taking an oath on Thursday while testifying to the King Commission of Inquiry.

— Photo: Reuters

In his 23-page testimony, Cronje said his very first exposure to the world of betting and match-fixing was during the One Day International (ODI) against Pakistan in the Mandela Cup in Cape Town in January 1995, when "an Indian or Pakistani who described himself only as John" offered him about \$10,000, for the team to throw the game.

The second time he had an offer was "at some stage during the 1996 Indian tour" when he was approached by one 'Sunil' who asked him if he was interested in fixing matches. Cronje told him he was not. Finally, it was through Azharuddin that Cronje met what he clearly viewed as his nemesis.

On the evening of the third day of the third Test against India at Kanpur I received a call from Mohammed Azharuddin, who was friendly

with a number of South African players. He called me to a room in the hotel and introduced me to Mukesh Gupta (MK). Azharuddin then left us alone...

"MK asked me if we would give wickets away on the last day of that Test to ensure that we lost. He asked me to speak to the other players and gave me approximately \$30,000 in cash to do so. I led him to believe that I would.

This seemed an easy way to make money but I had no intention of doing anything. I did not speak to any other players and did nothing to influence the match. In the

Azhar must stay out, says Dhindsa: Page 14

event, however, we lost the Test. I had effectively received money for doing nothing and I rationalised that this was somehow acceptable because I had not actually done anything."

The other offer made during the tour to him by MK, Cronje said, related to the last ODI, to throw which the team was offered \$200,000. He was asked to convey the offer to the team "which I agreed to do". By that stage of the "long and arduous tour", Cronje said, the team was exhausted and a number of key players were suffering from injuries.

Explaining that he could not recall the exact sequence of events which took place "a long time ago", Cronje said he spoke of the offer to some players beforehand and later at a team meeting on the match eve,

"attended by all the players in the squad".

The team rejected the offer, with Andrew Hudson, Daryl Cullinan and Derek Crooks speaking out strongly against it. Despite this, a few players stayed back after the meeting and "we chatted about the matter". "Curious to see" whether the offer could be increased, Cronje telephoned MK and asked to increase the offer to \$300,000. MK said that this was too much but was ready to pay \$250,000. This new offer was discussed the next morning before the match and rejected.

I treat this with contempt: Azhar

By V.V. Subrahmanyam

HYDERABAD, JUNE 14. Reacting to Hansie Cronje's comments, Mohammed Azharuddin said, "It is a pre-planned conspiracy to retaliate and counter-attack by the South African authorities after the Indian Government allowed the Delhi police to expose their captain in the match-fixing scandal."

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Azhar said he was innocent and ready to face any investigation by the BCCI. "I treat these comments with contempt," he added.

Azhar also wondered how one could believe Cronje who keeps contradicting himself day in and day out. "Let the South Africans come clean first and then pass comments on others. The truth will come out soon... I am not a cheap cricketer to get involved in such silly episodes."

THE HINDU

16 JUN 2000

Match-fixing probe taking a new twist each day, says CBI

The Times of India News Service

NEW DELHI: For the CBI, its inquiry into match-fixing and malpractices in cricket is turning into a hydra-headed monster. Check one front and five more open up, check those and they open up many more fronts—it's mind-boggling, say officials.

There is a lot of information, and some evidence. The CBI, confident it will get "something", says it cannot predict what will happen—whether it will be able to build a sufficiently strong circumstantial case warranting the ongoing preliminary inquiry being converted into a regular case, or whether the findings will be presented in the form of a report to the government.

Nor are officials sure what kind of case, if any, could be registered. It could be gambling, a minor offence, or cheating, a more serious one. "The debate is still on within the CBI," says an official.

Stepping into the big, bad world of match-fixing and involvement of (only) Indian players, the CBI is trying to find evidence of the nexus between players, match-fixers, bookies and punters.

It will also try to corroborate the latest disclosure of South African cricketer Hansie Cronje—that former Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin introduced him to bookmaker Mukesh Gupta, who offered him money for losing a Test in 1996 in India. Azharuddin has denied the allegation.

The CBI is already looking into particularly 'fishy' games, but is unwilling to part with specifics, fearing it may jeopardise "cooperating" with various other agencies to piece together the whole sordid story. Among them, the Delhi police, which blew the lid off the 'story', the Mumbai police, the Enforcement Directorate and the Income-Tax department. The Mumbai police and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence were reported to

have tapes of conversations which would help the investigation. The CBI wrote to both, but the Mumbai police has sent a response since, saying it has no such tapes.

The Manoj Prabhakar 'incident'—his allegation that Kapil Dev offered him Rs 25 lakhs to play below potential in a 1994 match—is described as a "minor part of the whole thing".

Kapil Dev, incidentally, has denied the allegation and threatened to sue Prabhakar.

But so far, the only players called in by the CBI have been for this 'incident'—the latest to be summoned being Navjot Sidhu and Nayan Mongia. Former Indian team manager Ajit Wadekar and player Prashant Vaidya have been requested to appear before the CBI again, after Prabhakar formally gave in copies of videotapes secretly shot by him. Many more will be questioned but for the time being, say officials, nobody else is being called in.

Meanwhile, an agency report from Mumbai said that Wadekar had got a call on Friday morning from a CBI official who said he would get back to him the following week after deciding whether he should be called to Delhi or whether he would be questioned in Mumbai, as was done on the first occasion. The CBI wants to quiz Wadekar on Prabhakar's claims that he knew of Kapil Dev's alleged offer to the latter.

The videotape given by Prabhakar has Wadekar saying he mentioned this alleged incident in his report to the cricket board. In a related development, the Delhi police have ruled out any action against Azharuddin and alleged bookie Mukesh Gupta, named by sacked South African captain Hansie Cronje in the match-fixing case, saying the two had no links with the case under its investigation. (Ageries)

SETTING THE FIELD

- Trying to find evidence of player-bookie nexus
- To look into Hansie's disclosure
- To probe 'fishy' games
- May call Wadekar again

Accused should opt out of game, says Dhindsa

NEW DELHI: Union sports minister Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa said on Friday that all players who had been accused of match-fixing should opt out of the national cricket squad until their names were cleared. The minister's remark came in the wake of the confession by Hansie Cronje that Mohd. Azharuddin had introduced him to an Indian bookie. It was not just one player, but all whose names had cropped up in the scandal who should step down, the minister said. (UNI)

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

17 JUN 2000

King Commission to send troika on India mission

FROM DIPYOSHI MAJUMDAR
AND PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, June 17: The Edwin King Commission investigating allegations of match-fixing in South Africa has received diplomatic clearance to send a team to India. The three-member delegation is expected to arrive next week.

The commission wants to build a foolproof case against guilty cricketers and would like to talk to Delhi police and the CBI to find out details about the bookies with whom sacked South African captain Hansie Cronje may have collaborated.

The panel will also try to get hold of the audio-tapes with the

police and make its own assessment of the recordings.

In return for their assistance, Delhi police will try and drive a hard bargain with the commission. The police are willing to hand over the audio-tapes implicating Cronje provided the South Africans explain the implications of the government's amnesty offer to the sacked captain.

The police want Cronje to testify in courts in India to add teeth to their case against him and the three other persons they want to chargesheet — actor Kishen Kumar and bookies Rajesh Kabra and Sanjeev Chawla.

The CBI, on the other hand, wants only the transcripts of all the depositions made before the

King Commission.

The South African high commissioner to India, who is in Pretoria now, is expected to brief officials on the possibilities of cooperation from Indian investigating agencies. She will also hand over India's permission to the King Commission representatives to visit the country.

The cooperation between the two countries suggests that they have decided to forget past misunderstandings. Pretoria had initially been dismissive of the Delhi police's revelations and had doubted their credibility. Cronje's confession and the subsequent disclosures by other cricketers have convinced South Africa that India was not carrying out a diplomatic witchhunt.

The Thabo Mbeki government in South Africa appears to have been satisfied by India's argument that the Cronje saga is a simple case of corruption and Pretoria should not unnecessarily stick out its neck to save an "overwhelmingly white-dominated United Cricket Board" by turning it into a diplomatic tussle.

Hunt for MK

The CBI has launched a massive hunt for a Mukesh Gupta, who it believes is the "MK" named by Cronje. The former South Africa captain had said the bookie had led him astray after a meeting arranged by Mohammed Azharuddin in 1996.

The CBI, in collaboration with Delhi police, has raided

Gupta's house in Defence Colony as well as his jewellery shop in South Extension several times.

CBI officials believe that unlike big-time bookies like Mohan Khattar, Gupta may not have found time to leave the country. They have alerted the airports and copies of his photographs have been distributed.

The investigators believe that if they are able to pin down Gupta and inquire into his financial transactions over the past few years, they might be able to trace his association with a few Indian cricketers.

The only hitch is that Gupta had been trying to dissociate himself from the bookies and the sleuths are not sure whether he was in business in 1996. All

the money he made appears to have been invested in the jewellery shop that he owns in South Extension in partnership with his wife and his father.

The shop was inaugurated only three months ago. Gupta's father has been at pains to explain how his son, who was a clerk with Syndicate Bank only 10 years ago, acquired so much wealth. Gupta's Defence Colony bungalow, which he bought in 1995, is valued at Rs 3 crore.

The elder Gupta's claim that his son dabbled in real estate for some time after leaving his bank job is falling to convince the police. The CBI, on the other hand, is aware that Gupta shared a good rapport with bookies.

More reports on Pages 6, 14

THE TELEGRAPH

18 JUN 2000

Govt. to seek Cronje's extradition

NEW DELHI, JUNE 19. The Indian Government and its investigating agencies are in "close touch" with South African authorities for the extradition of captain Hansie Cronje to India where he faces charges on match-fixing, the Sports Minister, Mr. S. S. Dhindsa, said today. "The Sports Ministry, the CBI and the Delhi police are in close touch with the South African Government to facilitate Cronje's extradition to India," Mr. Dhindsa said. Pointing out that Government-level talks were on, he said the procedure for the extradition of Cronje would be handled by the CBI.



The Minister said the Indian team would be kept under watch during all future tournaments and added that requests had been sent to several countries for extradition of several bookies suspected to be involved in the scandal.

Mr. Dhindsa expressed surprise over reports on the Board of Control for Cricket in India secretary, Mr. Jaywant Lele's reaction to his suggestion that players under a cloud should disassociate themselves from the team until cleared. Mr. Lele had said that this remark amounted to interference in the work of the BCCI, an autonomous body. — PTI

'No response from India'

Meanwhile, a report from Cape Town said the commission of inquiry was yet to hear from India regarding its request for a copy of the rape recordings involving Hansie Cronje and Indian bookies.

Cronje grilling today: Page 13

20 JUN 2000

Police, CBI mission to tie up loose ends

Bet-busters pad up for SA tour

FROM CHANDAN NANDY

New Delhi, June 19: A team of officers from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Delhi police will visit South Africa shortly to hunt for leads in the match-fixing scandal.

The modalities of the trip will be worked out after a delegation representing the Edwin King Commission probing corruption in the sport in South Africa arrives in Delhi later this week.

The CBI and Delhi police want to visit South Africa for separate reasons. The police want to cross-check the numbers that had been dialled by both Hansie Cronje and the bookies and also question Hameed 'Banjo' Cassim, the owner of a sweet shop who claims to have been in touch with several Indian and South African cricketers, including Mohammed Azharuddin and Cronje.

The police also want to examine Cronje's bank transactions. The Enforcement Directorate, which is trying to trace the hawala route, is already in touch with authorities in Pretoria for information on phone calls made there.

The police have prepared separate letters rogatory for Cronje and Sanjeev Chawla, the absconding bookie.

The CBI, which is investigating allegations of match-fixing, will try and understand the bookie network in South Africa and discuss with King Commission

investigators how far they have been able to unravel the involvement of their country's players.

The sleuths, for instance, have to find out more from Cronje about Mukesh Gupta and Sunil Dara, the two India-based bookies, who, according to the former South African skipper, had approached him with bribes.

The government said the Indian cricket team would be kept under scrutiny during all domestic tournaments. Sports minister S.S. Dhindsa said the players' movements would be monitored and their acquaintances screened.

If Delhi police want to proceed against Cronje, they will have to convince courts in South Africa that they have a prima facie case against him. But the police are yet to file a chargesheet in the case even after two months of the FIR.

For the police, the investigation has reached a crucial stage. They are yet to get responses to the queries they have faxed to the South African police and Scotland Yard. The information is key to the chargesheet, without which it will be difficult to demand access to either Cronje or Chawla.

Cronje's cross-examination, scheduled for tomorrow, has been postponed to Wednesday following a case about telecasting the hearings. He has been offered immunity from prosecution as long as King is satisfied he has made a full disclosure.

A PTI report from Cape Town said Azharuddin may be called to testify before the King commission, depending on possible further disclosures by Cronje. The deposed skipper told the inquiry last week that Azharuddin had arranged the meeting with Gupta, also known as MK, in a Kanpur hotel in 1996.

Commission spokesman John Bacon said: "We have not yet looked at the situation of international players who have been named. Once Cronje's cross-examination is finished and after taking into account whatever further disclosures are made regarding international players, we will have to discuss the matter."

CBI sources said the team deputed by the King commission is expected to reach Delhi on Thursday. The commission wants to build a foolproof case against the guilty players and would like to talk to the police and the bureau on their investigations and also find out more about the bookies with whom Cronje may have collaborated.

Dhindsa claim contested

The South African government said tonight it had no knowledge of any request by India to extradite Cronje, adds Reuters. Dhindsa had told PTI that Indian authorities are in touch with their South African counterparts to seek the extradition, though the two nations do not have a supporting treaty.

THE TELEGRAPH

20 JUN 2000

Azhar's tax tormentor suspended

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, June 20. — The Additional Commissioner of Income-Tax, Mr Vishwa Bandhu Gupta, was today suspended on disciplinary grounds with immediate effect. He shot to fame for disclosing that a former Indian skipper had declared Rs 16 crore under the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS).

The finance ministry order, which was passed yesterday, said Mr Gupta was being suspended as his

continuance in office was likely to seriously subvert discipline. It said that during the period of suspension, he would not be allowed to leave his headquarters without permission.

After his disclosures that some Indian cricketers had used the VDIS to legitimise ill-gotten money, official circles were expecting a suspension order.

Mr Gupta has, however, said he would challenge the order in court on Thursday. He told UNI that he had been penalised for bringing to light that money earned by criminal means had been deposited under the scheme.

I-T officials rubbished his claim, saying that he was suspended after he was found guilty of violating service rules by issuing statements left and right. The chief commissioner of the Central Board of Direct Taxes had written to the Union finance minister, asking for disciplinary action against Mr Gupta. He was transferred to the I-T tribunal as addition-

al commissioner, but he has been on protest leave for the last one-and-a-half years since.

Mr Gupta had alleged that a bulk of the fake Rs 500 notes, circulated by the ISI, had been deposited under the VDIS taking advantage of the government's 'ignorance'. "Several criminals made use of the scheme because their antecedents were not asked for," he had said, adding that Rs 150,000 crore had been regularised under the VDIS against the government's target of Rs 35,000 crore.

Azhar apologises

HYDERABAD, June 20. — Mohd Azharuddin today apologised for having hurt people's sentiment by his statement that he was being hounded as he belonged to a minority community. He said the statement was blown out of proportion.

"I was quoted out of context ... I did not say it to defend myself from any inquiry or investigation. It was purely a reaction to the adverse remarks singled out against me for the past months," he said.

In Delhi, the CBI grilled Ajit Wadekar. He stood by his earlier deposition that Prabhakar had not approached him after Kapil's alleged bribe offer. — SNS & UNI

Though he denied it, Prabhakar's tapes put him on record saying that it was Azhar who had declared Rs 16 crore under VDIS. Azhar had said he would file a suit against Mr Gupta for this, while the tax officer said the tapes were fabricated and threatened to sue *tehelka.com* and Azhar for defamation.

I-T officials have probed three cricketers, including one former captain. But officials say

they had not come across anything incriminating except the fabulous assets of an ex-captain. The assets are accounted for, not under VDIS but in I-T returns, adds SNS, Mumbai.

The I-T department has issued a summons to Azharuddin's wife Sangeeta for declared assets of Rs 10 and 14 lakh in the returns filed for the past two years.

The amounts have been claimed to be gifts from people abroad.

■ More reports on page 16

Hansie Cronje regrets having taken money

CAPE TOWN: Former South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje, described by his psychiatrist as clinically depressed, on Wednesday said he bitterly regretted taking money from bookmakers.

Cronje told judge Edwin King's inquiry into match-fixing that he had been fatally tempted by the first approach five years ago. "I wish I could say today that I told him to get lost. But I didn't. I was in fact a bit tempted. I was a bit confused. I went out and said he should call me later. A simple 'no' then would not have put me in the position I find myself in today," he said.

Cronje, sacked on April 11 after first denying and later admitting to having taken money from bookmakers, testified last Thursday that he had accepted nearly \$100,000 over a period of four years, but denied fixing matches.

On Wednesday, Cronje displayed few signs of stress. He answered questions clearly and comprehensively and occasionally cracked jokes. Cronje told the King commission that he had earned close to four million rand (\$579,000) in sponsorships and endorsements arranged by his agent Clifford Green between 1995 and 2000. He said Mukesh Gupta's opening gambit had been that he was a jeweller looking for an introduction to De Beers in South Africa. Only later did he admit to being a match-fixer. "I took the money and said I would do what I could. It was money for jam," Cronje said. "It was a mistake. I didn't talk to any of the players. I kept it to myself. South Africa lost the match, which was the last of the tour."

Cronje revealed that Gupta had come to South Africa later that year when India was touring that country. He asked Cronje for information on the first Test in Durban and was told that India had no chance of winning. Asked for information on the second Test

in Cape Town, Cronje told MK (Gupta) at what point South Africa would declare.

Questioned by his lawyer Malcolm Wallis, Cronje gave more details of meetings with bookmakers and gamblers. He said of his

first contact with John, who had offered him about \$10,000 to lose a one-day final against Pakistan in Cape Town in January 1995. "I wish I could say I had told him to get lost," adding that the temptation of making a quick buck had resulted in his downfall.

Cronje, who has admitted to taking about \$100,000 from bookmakers, testified that he had received the equivalent of \$1.3 million in legitimate endorsements and sponsorships since 1995. He added that he had earned a handsome salary and performance bonuses since becoming a professional cricketer in 1992, and boosted his wealth through astute property and stock market investments. "At no stage did I have any worries about the cost of living. I was very blessed at the time I was playing for South Africa and earning substantial amounts of money," he said.

The details of Cronje's personal fortune raised questions as to why the 'Golden Boy' of South African cricket ruined his career and reputation by taking illicit money that amounted to only a small fraction of the income he was making legitimately. In his statement before the commission last Thursday, Cronje testified that former Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin had introduced him to a bookmaker called Mukesh Gupta during the 1996 tour to India. He also said former Pakistan captain Salim Malik appeared to be aware of a conversation he had had with another gambler about fixing a match in 1995.

However, during cross-examination on Wednesday, Cronje said he had no proof to show that other players were a party to match-fixing. (Agencies)



Hansie Cronje

THE TIMES OF INDIA

22 JUN 2000

Azhar faces CBI, denies Cronje's charge

SF
23/6
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, June 22. — Deposing before the CBI, Mohammed Azharuddin today denied match-fixing allegations against him.

The former Indian skipper denied that he had introduced Mukesh Gupta to Hansie Cronje who offered the former South African captain \$80,000 bribe during the 1996 Kanpur Test against India.

He said he had no knowledge of Manoj Prabhakar's allegation that Kapil Dev had offered bribe to him (Prabhakar) to play below par against Pakistan in Sri Lanka in 1994.

Deposing before the special crime branch of the CBI for over four-and-half hours, Azharuddin alleged that an international conspiracy was on to tarnish his image.

Denying links with bookies, Azhar said: "I am ready to face any investigation or examination by any investigating agency to counter the design and allegations made by Cronje and some of my cricketer friends." Azhar, who arrived at the CBI headquarters around 10.45 a.m., remained there till 2.45 p.m.

"Even after examination of Azharuddin, the agency has not made any major breakthrough," a senior official said.

Sources in the agency said they have examined at least five players, including the former team manager, but failed to make any breakthrough to corroborate the evidence.

Calcutta cops for Mumbai: A Calcutta police team will leave for Mumbai after CMC elections to probe links of bookmakers there and the arrested Saraf brothers.

■ Photograph on page 8

STATESMAN

23 JUN 2000

Cronje clashes with examiners

By M.S. Prabhakara

CAPE TOWN, JUNE 22. The cross-examination of the sacked South African captain, Hansie Cronje, took an ugly turn today when Cronje, looking much more self-assured than he did yesterday, directly clashed with the evidence leader of the King Commission, Ms. Shamita Batohi.

Earlier, answering questions on Mohammed Azharuddin introducing him to Mukesh Gupta, Cronje further complicated his version when he said he did not think that Azharuddin knew what Gupta would discuss with him. "He might have had an idea, but that is speculation on my side," he said.

Ms. Batohi sought to question him about the transcript of the alleged conversation between Cronje and 'Sanjay' during South Africa's tour of India early this year released by the Delhi police on April 7.

The questions were allowed after Cronje's advocate and later Cronje himself raised objections to the asking of any questions on the "purported" transcript. The judge, Mr. Edwin King, however, allowed the questions.

On the tape transcript read out to him, Cronje said he had "a lot of conversations" with Sanjay whom he had met "between five and ten times" during the Indian tour and "might have" spoken those words. About what was meant by the reference to various South African cricketers "playing", Cronje maintained that "playing" simply meant that the players in question were taking part in the match in question.

He maintained this even when it was pointed out that the expression "playing" was used in the transcript only to four players.

He had no explanation to offer when Ms. Batohi asked him why Mukesh Gupta seemed to have entirely "disappeared from his life" since 1997, after paying him "\$80,000, possibly \$110,000" and not making any money out of such investment. He however admitted that he had brought the cash back into South Africa hiding it beneath some clothes in his handbag. He had not declared the amount, he said.

He also could not explain why he had accepted \$30,000 from Gupta for throwing the third Test at Kanpur but rejected the offer of \$200,000 made by Gupta three days later for throwing the last ODI (which too South Africa lost). He said he did not know why he did not do so, and added, with a sinister smile: "I was very annoyed with myself for not taking it."

The cross-examination will continue tomorrow.

CBI grills Azhar

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, JUNE 22. Former Indian cricket captain, Mohammed Azharuddin, was today questioned by the CBI here for over four hours. Arriving at the CBI headquarters on Lodhi Road this morning, Azharuddin was swiftly taken inside by the officials of the Special Crime Branch.

Well-placed CBI sources said Azharuddin was "forthcoming" in his replies and reportedly denied all allegations of his involve-



ment in match-fixing. He was also confronted with the videotapes recorded secretly by Manoj Prabhakar.

Azharuddin was asked about his links with Indian bookmaker, Mukesh Gupta, who had allegedly bribed Hansie Cronje. On his being named by the sacked South African captain in his testimony, Azharuddin reportedly told the CBI that he did not know why Cronje had done that.

Various aspects of his captaincy, his relations with teammates and queries of general nature came up during the deposition.

According to sources, Azharuddin told the agency that he had a feeling of being "victimized", particularly during the last two years. He reportedly told the CBI that it appeared a larger conspiracy to him to drag his name into the match-fixing scandal. The former skipper deposed before the CBI in response to summons issued to him and others last week.

Diamonds and dollars: Page 14

NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

JUN 22 2000

'If SA scores 270, consider the deal off'

EXCERPTS OF conversations between bookmaker Sanjay Chawla and Hansie Cronje during the one-day series in India:

Sanjay: Hello
Hansie: Hello
Sanjay: Hello, Hi Hansie
Hansie: Hello, Hi Sanjay
Sanjay: Yeah, I am in the lobby at the moment, is it possible if I drop in for a few minutes?
Hansie: Where are you? In the lobby?
Sanjay: Yeah.
Hansie: You can come in.
Sanjay: I can come in.
Hansie: Yeah, I am in 346.
Sanjay: All right, no more. Okay bye, see you in two minutes.
Hansie: Yeah, okay.
Sanjay: Okay you are back in London?
Sanjay: Yeah, I am in London.
Hansie: I had a look at pitch today, it can turn big.
Sanjay: It can turn big?
•••
Sanjay: Is Strydom playing?
Hansie: Yes, he is playing, Yeah.
Sanjay: Boje?
Hansie: Boje is playing.

Sanjay: Yeah, Boje is playing ... and who is playing? Gibbs?
Hansie: Gibbs and myself.
Sanjay: Ya, what about anybody else?
Hansie: No I won't be able to get more.
Sanjay: You won't be able to get more.
Hansie: No
•••
Sanjay: Okay just tell me. But you have only four with you and not anybody else?
Hansie: No
Sanjay: Klusener and no one?
Hansie: No. No. Impossible, impossible.
Hansie: No. No. They were saying that they were already doing Cochin. The other guys are already angry with me because I have not received their money you know.
Sanjay: No. But I told you but, I have already given him altogether 60.
Hansie: Ok.
Sanjay: And tomorrow I can deposit the money in your account, it is not a problem because of the

time difference. Tomorrow itself I can deposit the money.
Hansie: Ok.
Sanjay: Okay, I have spoken. Yes, everything is fine. Spoken to Gibbs, and to Williams, and Strydom. Everything is fine.
Sanjay: Already okay. And how many runs for Gibbs?
Hansie: Less than twenty.
Sanjay: Less than twenty?
Hansie: Yeah.
Sanjay: Okay, So everything is according to plan. They have to score at least 250?
Hansie: Yeah.
Sanjay: And if you score 270, it is off?
Hansie: Okay. And financially the guys want 25. They want 25 each.
Sanjay: Alright, Okay.
Hansie: So that's 75 for those three and --- What you can pay me? I do not know how much you pay me ---
Sanjay: You say.
Hansie: If you give me --- 140 for every body.
Sanjay: 140 altogether?
Hansie: Yeah.

Sanjay: Okay that's fine.
Hansie: Okay.
Sanjay: And we will sort something out for the previous one as well.
Hansie: Okay, sure.
Sanjay: Yeah?
Hansie: Alright. So we definitely are on.
Sanjay: Okay and one last thing I want to ask you --- you know just in case India bat first and if they get out for less than 250 and when you come to bat in second innings, is it possible that you could ask Gibbs to --- his wicket --- we will score him out and try and score slowly and not so fast so that you know --- May be we can get out of it.
Hansie: Okay.
Sanjay: And just in case India is out for less than 250 if they bat first.
Hansie: Okay I will tell him.
Sanjay: Yeah?
Hansie: I will tell him.
Sanjay: And because if he starts scoring so early then we won't be able to get out of it.
Hansie: Okay. Not so early for the first five or six in the Indian innings.
Sanjay: Yeah.
Hansie: Okay.

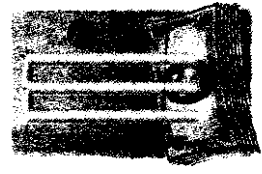
Damning Evidence

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

8 APR 2008

Captain Cronje in match-fixing scam

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, April 7



THE DELHI Police have yanked open a can of crick-
eting worms. And it stinks.
South African captain
Hansie Cronje and three of
his teammates have been
implicated in a match-fixing
scandal involving last
month's one-day cricket
series in this country. India
won the one-day series 3-2,
after being comprehensive-
ly beaten in both the Tests that preceded it.

Telephonic conversations between Cronje
and bookmaker Sanjay Chawla were secretly
taped by the Crime Branch here for almost
three weeks, beginning March 13. The tapes
provide damning evidence of the involvement
of Cronje, Nicky Boje, Herschelle Gibbs and
Pieter Strydom in match-fixing in exchange of
"huge sums of money".

Fellow South African cricketers Lance
Klusener and Henry Williams too figure in the
"10 to 12" conversations taped by Crime Branch
officials, who said the duo's possible involve-
ment is being investigated. No member of the
Indian team is under the scanner, officials said.

At a press conference here this afternoon,

Joint Commissioner of Police Dr. K. K. Paul
stated that cases of cheating, fraud and criminal
conspiracy had been registered against the play-
ers at Chanakyapuri police station yesterday.

Two Indian bookies, Sanjay Chawla and
Rajesh Kalra, have also been spared for their
role in the "conspiracy". While Sanjay Chawla
left for London shortly before the cases were
registered, Rajesh has been arrested and
remanded to two days police custody.



Hansie Cronje



Nicky Boje



H. Gibbs

"Interpol will be contacted for all future
action to be taken against these players. The
Enforcement Directorate will also be
approached as there is information that the
players have been paid money through the
hawala route and into bank accounts abroad,"
Dr Paul said.

Crime Branch officers made the break-
through after receiving a tip-off about an "inter-
national racket of match-fixing and betting"
between businessmen in the capital and some of

the South African players.
Permission was immediately sought from
Government authorities to monitor phones and
cell phones of the suspects. Conversations
between Sanjay Chawla and the South African
captain.

"Hansie used a cell phone that was given to
him by Kalra," the I. Commissioner said. "We
began taping the conversations on March 13
and carried on right up to the Sharjah series."

The cellphone used by the South African
captain reportedly had Global Sim Card that
facilitated its use right through the series in
India and abroad too.

"Our cross-checks showed that the room
number mentioned on telephone was indeed
the captain's room and the voice too matched
his. Thereafter we tracked his movements and
matched the areas where he spoke to Sanjay,"
said a senior police official investigating the
case.

Only when every loop hole had been carefully
scrutinised did the Crime Branch officials actual-
ly go ahead and file charges against the players.
The FIR was filed last evening, following which
Rajesh was picked up.

The transcripts of the conversations show up
Hansie hammering out details about which
players were in league with him and how much
each should get for services rendered.

See Page 20

I've been proved right: Manoj

O H, NO, not South Africans! I'm really shocked. I
never thought South Africans would do such a
thing. I always thought if there was a clean cricket
team in the world, it was South Africa.

Other nations could do it, but never South Africa.
They were so eager to play international cricket. They
looked so committed. I just can't believe that they can
do it.

Frankly speaking, money has become the
name of the game these days. Money is crick-
eters' *dharma*, *iman*. Nobody is playing for
the country anymore. Players who indulge in
such practices should be banned forever. I
agree with Sunil Gavaskar when he says that
match-fixers' records should be erased from
record books. They have never been playing
for their country.

I'm not surprised that captain of the team is
involved in this case. I've always believed that you can't
fix a match without a captain's involvement. Now you
have come to know that matchfixing is not possible
without captain's involvement. It has now been
proved.

Tell me, where are those people who blamed me
when I raised these issues of betting and matchfixing?
Then, they were after me. I still maintain that such
things have been going on in cricket for a long time.

What will be these youngsters' aim when they go on
to represent the country? Indeed, their intention
would be to make money. So, I don't blame the play-
ers alone. The entire system is bad.

(Manoj Prabhakar spoke to Manoj Kasiyanna)



Manoj
Prabhakar

Money is not only at the highest level. It plays
its role at junior level too, especially in team selection.
What will be youngsters' reactions when they know
that their parents have spent so much money in get-
ting them selected for junior tournaments.

What has the International Cricket Council
been doing? How will it face this issue? Where
are those people who have given cricketers a
clean chit? What I feel is that the authorities
are either part of it or showing their innocence.
They have so far been acting like ostriches,
thinking that matchfixing does not exist. Or,
they have been making fool of every one.

INDUSTAN TIMES
APR 2006

S.African cricketers in 'match-fixing' net

By Sutirtho Patranobis

NEW DELHI, APRIL 7. The Delhi police today claimed to have unearthed a multicore cricket betting and match-fixing racket involving five South African cricketers including the captain, Hansie Cronje. A Delhi-based Indian operator, Rajesh Kalra, has been arrested. He told the Magistrate that he did not know Cronje and had nothing to do with the allegations.

Police claimed they were in possession of at least a dozen tapes containing "explicit conversation" between Cronje and another accused, Sanjeev alias Sanjay, now in London. The conversation allegedly revolved round money transfers and the cricket strategy to be followed during the recent series of one-day matches between India and South Africa. Cronje had even identified himself while talking to Sanjeev on his mobile phone at Hotel Taj Palace here on March 14, a day before the Faridabad fixture, it is alleged.

Besides Cronje, the names of batsman Herschelle Gibbs, all-rounder Nicky Boje, fast bowler Henry Williams and spinner Pieter Strydom figure in the FIR registered by police. They have been accused of cheating, fraud and criminal conspiracy. Their names also came up during the telephonic conversations.

It is reliably learnt that the names of at least four Indian



Rajesh Kalra, who was arrested in the match-fixing case, being produced at the Patiala House Courts in New Delhi on Friday. — Photo: R.V. Moorthy

cricketers also came up during the investigations but senior police officers denied it.

Police said the money, in all probability, was transferred through "hawala" channels to banks in South Africa. According to the taped conversations, each cricketer got "25" — the denomination and the currency are yet to be confirmed. The bookies, for whom Sanjay and Rajesh were allegedly the frontmen, only spoke with Cronje about monetary transactions.

According to the Joint Com-

missioner of Police (Crime), Dr. K. K. Paul, police here have got in touch with Interpol for the extradition of Sanjeev. The South African Cricket Board will also be written to. The Enforcement Directorate has been asked to probe the hawala angle of the case.

Dr. Paul said police had got a tip-off that some businessmen in Delhi were running a betting racket and were trying to rig the series between South Africa and India. After nar-

rowing down the suspects, the Crime Branch obtained permission to tap certain mobile phones.

Teams were constituted under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr. Rishi Pal, and Mr. Ishwar Singh, inspector. Police got wind of the racket and Cronje's alleged role in it. A conversation recorded between him and Sanjeev on March 14 was considered particularly damning. It took place at the hotel where the South African team was put up. Sanjeev called up

Cronje from the lobby and was invited to Room 346 where Cronje was staying. Such conversations carried on till the beginning of the tri-series between India, Pakistan and South Africa in Sharjah. From the conversations, Dr. Paul said, it was clear that the one-day series was rigged for money. All those involved had amassed huge amounts in both Indian and foreign currencies.

Sanjeev, a resident of Jungpura in South Delhi, left for London in the third week of March. The money was transferred from here to London and from there to South Africa. Sanjeev was the key man as far as this transfer was concerned, police said.

Police finally raided businessman Rajesh Kalra's house in South Delhi (Flat No. S-252, Greater Kailash Part-II) on Thursday and arrested him. A case of cheating, fraud and conspiracy was registered at the Chanakyapuri police station. Some documents and a mobile phone have been seized. The cell phone through which most of the conversation took place, however, is yet to be recovered.

A Crime Branch team is now going to Mumbai for further investigations. Rajesh Kalra was produced in a court here on Friday and remanded to two days' police custody. The South African cricketers, however, denied they were involved in the racket.

More reports on Page 23

THE HINDU

8 APR 2000

S Africa wants Cronje phone-tap explained

REUTERS

JOHANNESBURG, April 8. — South Africa will demand from India an explanation for the way the match-fixing allegations against its cricketers have been handled. In Dhaka, ICC president, Mr Jagmohan Dalmiya, said the council would, if officially informed, probe Delhi Police's charges.

"The South African government is to contact the Indian government to convey the country's concerns about the match-fixing allegations levelled against ... South African cricketers," said a statement from the United Cricket Board of South Africa today.

"Aziz Pahad, the deputy minister of foreign affairs, has assured UCB managing director Ali Bacher the government would seek an explanation for reports that South African players' telephones were tapped while they were on an official cricket tour in India.

"The government is also to ask for an explanation regarding the process by which the allegations against the ... players were made public. No Indian official has yet contacted the UCB, the players concerned or South African officials in India or in South Africa," the statement added.

It said the UCBSA was dismayed that the integrity of its players has been questioned, and quoted Dr Bacher as saying "we remain adamant that our players have never been

PRABHAKAR NAMES AZHAR, WADEKAR

NEW DELHI, April 8. — Former Test cricketer Manoj Prabhakar today dropped a bombshell, indicating Mohammed Azharuddin and former manager Ajit Wadekar were involved in throwing international matches against money from bookies.

Prabhakar had in 1997 alleged that a team-mate had offered him Rs 25 lakh to perform badly in an ODI in the Singer Cup in Colombo in 1994. The Delhi all-rounder had said many in the Indian team were involved in fixing matches, but had steadfastly refused to reveal names.

Today, during a discussion on the website www.wahindia.com Prabhakar said no match could be fixed without the involvement of the team management, particularly the captain who can change the course of the game.

He said that on being made the offer in 1997, he had gone to the team management. "Team management is what? The manager, the captain and the vice-captain," he said when asked who they were.

A panelist then asked: "You mean when Mohammad Azharuddin was the captain and Ajit Wadekar the manager?" Prabhakar said: "Yeah. I am quoting those. The manager said it's okay. You are too good a player." The captain? "Captain — you know what I said — without the captain you can't do anything." — UNI



Azharuddin: Under a shadow

charges except through some allegations in newspaper." Mr Jagmohan Dalmiya said in a TV interview at the Bangabandhu Stadium during the Asia XI vs Rest of the World match.

"The matter is not in our hands now. When it comes ... we will look into it. We would then cooperate with the police to investigate the allegation."

Fresh leads

Delhi Police has found an "underworld connection" in the match-fixing and betting case involving South African cricketers, adds SNS from New Delhi. Investigators till late tonight were questioning Kishan Kumar, the small-time film actor and brother of the slain music magnate, Gulshan Kumar, in this connection.

The joint commissioner, crime, Dr KK Paul, said Kishan Kumar's name had been divulged by the arrested businessman, Rajesh Kalra, during interrogation. Kumar was interrogated at Kailash Hospital in Noida where he had got himself admitted yesterday.

"We are questioning Kishan Kumar with regard to the underworld's role. We know the underworld was involved in the match-fixing syndicate but (we) cannot give out the details at this stage," said a police officer. The officer revealed police had traced "some known Dubai numbers of the underworld".

Cronje will make his first public appearance since the controversy broke when he leads South Africa against a Natal XI in a game in Durban tomorrow.

Herschelle Gibbs and Nicky Boje too will play in the day-night warm-up match for South Africa against a Natal XI in Durban tomorrow.

More reports on pages 10, 14 & 16

Australia, team manager, Mr Goolam Rajah, confirmed.

In Dhaka, meanwhile, the president of the International Cricket Council said the allegations against the South Africans will be probed once the council has been officially informed.

S AFRICA: Around Rs 100 cr involved in Pepsi series betting

(Continued from page 1)

and got leads to the Dawood Ibrahim aide, Romesh Sharma.

Kalra was arrested on Thursday night from his Greater Kailash, south Delhi home on charges of fraud, cheating and criminal conspiracy. The FIR names Hansie Cronje, opener Herschelle Gibbs, left-arm spinner Nicky Boje, seamer Henry Williams and medium-pacer Pieter Strydom as the other accused.

Police said they were leaving their options open with regard to all-rounder Lance Klusener whose name figures in the transcript of the conversation between Cronje and an Indian bookie, Sanjeev Chawla.

"Rajesh Kalra had already

paid around Rs 5 crore through a middleman to the players. He was to pay a lot more," the officer said. According to him, the amount involved in the betting during the Pepsi one-day series was "around Rs 100 crore", and Kalra and the London-based bookie, Sanjeev Chawla, had made "anything between Rs 5 and 7 crore".

The Enforcement Directorate has been formally informed of the case. "They'll start investigations in a day or two," the officer said, adding that senior officials of the ED, CBI and Intelligence agencies were present during Kalra's questioning.

Kalra had allegedly provided a mobile phone with roaming facility to Cronje. We will seek

the Interpol's help to trace the London-based NRI, Sanjeev Chawla," the officer said. It was Chawla who allegedly struck the deal with Cronje at a five star hotel in the capital.

On the evidence police had, Dr Paul said, "we have gathered sufficient evidence". A Delhi Police officer, however, said they won't depend on only the telephonic conversation recorded. "We have a print-out of the mobile phone bills and the statement of the calls made from different phones. We have also approached the hotels concerned and will be getting a record of the calls the accused made," he said.

Incidentally, police said Cronje did not make a single call from the mobile phone with

roaming facility given to him by Kalra through Chawla. The cellphone is yet to be traced.

An officer said police will not require Cronje's physical presence in India to prove that the voice in the conversation with Sanjeev was his. "This is where Interpol enters the picture. An Interpol link officer will ask Cronje to repeat the conversation on the basis of the transcript. The two voices will then be compared by forensic experts who will give their opinion," the officer said.

Police said they were yet to come across evidence which suggested any involvement of Indian players in the racket. "We have submitted a detailed report on the case to the Union home ministry."

See S AFRICA: page 10

THE STATESMAN

9 APR 2000

S Africa was not kept in the dark, says India

PTI, AFP & REUTERS

NEW DELHI/JOHANNESBURG, April 9. — India today denied that South Africa had been kept in the dark about the match-fixing charges against its cricketers before Delhi Police made the charges public.

The denial, however, failed to arrest a snowballing diplomatic row between the two countries, with Pretoria seeking an explanation from New Delhi as to why Hansie Cronje's cellphone had been tapped without South African knowledge and permission.

"It is not correct. We have kept them informed," the Foreign Secretary, Mr Lalit Mansingh, said on criticism from the government spokesman and cricket authorities in South Africa that New Delhi kept everyone in the dark.

The Indian High Commissioner, Mr Harsh Bhasin, was summoned by the government in Pretoria and asked to furnish a full explanation.

The South African Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Aziz Pahad, demanded that India hand over the tapes so that Pretoria could conduct its own investigation.

"We want to conduct our own investigations. If there is any substance to the allegations, we will take the necessary steps," Mr Pahad told the *Sunday Times*.

He said the South African High Commissioner to India, Mr Maite Nkoane-Ramashada, had listened to the taped voice and was convinced the accent was not South African.

Mr Mansingh declined comment on reports that Pretoria had summoned the Indian High Commissioner to conduct

CRONJE DENIAL

DURBAN, April 9. — Hansie Cronje, flanked by Nicky Boje and Herschelle Gibbs, all accused of match-fixing, today denied the charge. "I am a committed player for South Africa and will not be involved in something like match-fixing," Cronje told his first Press briefing after the charges were levelled against him and four other team mates.

"I am not affected by the allegations and I will do my best for South Africa in the one-day internationals against Australia," he said.

Peter Strydom and Henry Williams, the other two players named in the match-fixing case, were not present at the Press conference. — PTI

SNS adds from Delhi: Investigations assumed new dimensions with names of two Mumbai-based businessmen and a film personality surfacing in the match-fixing case.

A Delhi Court extended the police remand of co-accused Rajesh Kalra till 13 April today. He was arrested on 7 April by a Crime Branch team. Delhi Police officials said several more arrests were in the offing, for which clearance had been sought from the home and external affairs ministries.

Apart from the tapes of supposed conversations between prime accused Sanjeev Chawla and Hansie Cronje, the police reportedly have details of over 100 transactions through hawala by the bookies. Police questioned Chawla's brother Gagan and other family mem-

names of his friends in Delhi.

The hawala transactions had taken place during the Pepsi one-day series between India and South Africa. The Enforcement Directorate will investigate the transactions, an officer said, but refused to divulge the amount.

In a two-page application, Enforcement officer, Mr KV Anantha Krishnan, said huge hawala transactions might have taken place, and there was need to interrogate Kalra in custody for at least two days.

In his application, Mr Krishnan said "ED has come to know from Delhi Police crime branch that Kalra has indulged in cricket match-fixing on a large scale and in lieu thereof large sums of money were transferred abroad in violation of Fera."

The ED said Kalra had disclosed some information on hawala channels through which money had allegedly been sent to London and then deposited by Sanjeev Chawla alias Sanjay in various accounts of South African cricketers named in the case.

Police, meanwhile, have still not been able to question small-time actor Kishan Kumar.

Kishan Kumar was admitted to Kailash Hospital in Noida, complaining of a heart ailment. "Doctors did not permit us to question him," the DC, Crime, Mr PK Srivastava said. He said teams had been sent to Mumbai, Cochin and Bangalore to probe the leads.

"We have certain leads and it is too early to speak about it," the DCP said.

The CBI, which, also represents Interpol in India, will aid Delhi Police with all investigation outside Delhi.

CHARGES: Dalmiya evasive

(Continued from page 1)

Rajesh Kalra has told the police that Sanjeev Chawla was in touch with the South African team SA team from the first-match onward in Cochin. "There was no information about the involvement of Indian players. Interpol has been requested to track Chawla down," Mr Srivastava said.

According to one officer, the racket came to light when Delhi Police was monitoring calls made to Dubai numbers, known to be used by Nawood Ibrahim and his associates.

"There was a sudden jump in

calls from one Delhi number to the Dubai numbers which we were monitoring and we decided to put the Delhi number under observation," an officer said.

The telephone was put under observation when the Indian cricket team was in Australia and investigations revealed that the person whose number was being observed had registered a dramatic change in financial status in a few months.

Subsequently clearance was sought from the Ministry of Home Affairs to tap the telephone. And in one conversation police noticed the suspect "inquiring about the pitch

team's composition and likely outcome".

"The match was being played in Australia and person was asking about it in Dubai," an officer said.

The ICC president Mr Jagmohan Dalmiya said "We have to look into what is the effect of the police inquiry. Whether we should go ahead and make a parallel inquiry, whether to ask the South African board to start inquiry or allow police to complete their work, cooperate with them and then we start." Mr Dalmiya told "Star TV" in Dhaka last night during the World XI versus Asia "6 tie there.

Delhi says Pretoria was informed, S. Africa wants tapes

Diplomatic sparks fly

FROM OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, April 9: Allegations of match-fixing against Hansie Cronje and four teammates were snowballing into a diplomatic confrontation between India and South Africa, even though New Delhi claimed to have kept Pretoria informed.

"It is not correct," foreign secretary Lalit Mansingh said about South Africa's complaint that it had been kept in the dark. The Indian government had informed its South African counterpart soon after the phone-tap revealed the explosive potential of the case.

As South Africa demanded copies of the tapes of purported conversations between Cronje and an Indian bookie, the South African captain came out in public with a denial.

Flanked by Nicky Boje and Herschelle Gibbs, also named in the bribery allegation, Cronje said: "I am a committed player for South Africa and will not be involved in something like match-fixing."

"I have no idea (why the police had implicated him). During the tour, a lot of people walked into the hotels asking for interviews," he added.

South Africa's top cricket administrator Ali Bacher waded into the controversy, saying:

seen soon 1-1
"We want an answer for why the players' cellphones were tapped." Bacher said he had asked deputy foreign minister Aziz Pahad to take up the issue with India.

Pahad has already announced he is asking for copies of the tapes so that authenticity could be checked. "We want to conduct our own investigations. If there is any substance in the allegations, we will take the necessary steps," Pahad said.

The minister was earlier quoted as saying that South Africa's ambassador Maite Nkoane-Ramashada had listened to the tapes and was convinced that the accent was not South African.

Debunking the South African claim, Delhi police, which made the match-fixing allegation on Friday, fired back, saying it had

10/4
not released the tapes to anyone so far.

"We have only released transcripts. The tapes have been sealed," the police said, implying that the high commissioner had passed judgment after listening to the conversation simulated by TV channels on the basis of transcripts.

Mansingh declined comment on whether South Africa has officially sought copies of the tapes. He was also tightlipped on whether Indian high commissioner in Pretoria Harsh Bhasin had been summoned by the South African government to seek an official explanation for bugging the phones of their cricketers.

Bhasin, however, told PTI in Johannesburg that he had not been contacted by the South African government on the

match-fixing allegations at all.

Senior Delhi police officials also disclosed that Pretoria was informed within days of the tapes suggesting a "big crime was on".

"Probably, they (the South Africans) had not realised that the media exposure would have such repercussion," the police, who are not prepared to pass on copies of the tapes at this stage of the investigation, said.

In response to doubts about voice authenticity, the police say they do not believe it was not Cronje, but someone else who was doing the talking.

Asked if this could in any way be a conspiracy to tarnish Cronje and his fellow-cricketers' image, the police insisted that they did not think so. However, they did not provide a reason for ruling out this possibility.

THE TELEGRAPH

10 APR 2000

Match-fixing row takes a new turn

Cronje met bookie in Cochin on March 8

Meenal Dubey
New Delhi, April 9

EVEN AS Delhi Police has involved the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the probe, the match fixing controversy took a new turn today, with Crime Branch sleuths coming out with fresh evidence regarding Sanjeev alias Sanjay Chawla's meeting with South African skipper Hansie Cronje in Cochin.

Sources said Cronje and Sanjay knew each other from before and had also met at Taj Residency hotel in Cochin on March 8. What transpired at the meeting between the two could not be immediately ascertained. It has also come to light that Sanjeev actually traveled from one hotel to another with the cricket team, said a highly placed source.

According to sources, the Delhi Police had sufficient information, which indicated that Cronje had indeed spoken to Sanjay from a

cellular phone from Delhi. Cronje's voice had been checked by Crime Branch sleuths who had obtained some videotapes featuring the South African captain's

voice from Doordarshan. The voice on the tape and video matched. Perfectly.

Sources added that the confusion over Cronje's voice had arisen because of the voiceovers used by Doordarshan and Star TV to report the match-fixing controversy. The voices used by the television channels were obviously not that of Sanjay and Cronje but that of the respective channel reporters.

It had been established beyond doubt that film actor Kishen Kumar had invested money in the betting scandal, said sources. The police talked to him briefly today.

Meanwhile, Kalra was today remanded to police custody for four more days.

It is also learnt that the names of two Indian cricket players had also featured in the conversation between Cronje and Sanjay. But their involvement is yet to be established. Sources, however, refused to divulge the names of Indian players.

'SA was aware'

FOREIGN Secretary Lalit Mansingh has said that the India did not keep the South African authorities in the dark about the controversy before the police went public with the charges. "It is not correct. We have kept them informed," he told reporters when asked about criticism in this regard.

According to a report, South African High Commissioner to India, Nkoane Mashame, had listened to excerpts from the tapes and was convinced the accents were not South African. South Africa wanted India to hand over the tapes so that they could carry out their own inquiry.

PTI, New Delhi/ Johannesburg

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

18 APR 2008

Betting scandal leads to India-SA diplomatic row

Pretoria demands tapes; Delhi police decides to tread cautiously

JOHANNESBURG: A fresh diplomatic row has erupted between India and South Africa with Pretoria seeking an explanation from New Delhi over the tapping of the telephone of South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje, who has been accused of being involved in match-fixing during the team's recent Indian tour.

Indian high commissioner Harsh Bhasin was reportedly summoned by the government in Pretoria and asked why the Indian police had tapped Cronje's cellphone without informing the South African authorities. The South Africans have reportedly also demanded an explanation from their Indian counterparts in New Delhi.

Deputy foreign minister Aziz Pahad has demanded that the Indian government hand over the tapes to enable South Africa conduct its own probe. "We want to conduct our own investigations. If there is any substance to the allegations, we will take the necessary steps," Mr Pahad said. According to Mr Pahad, South African high commissioner to India Maite Nkoane-Ramashada had listened to the tapes and was convinced that the accent on the tape was not South African.

Meanwhile, the news of their cricketing heroes' involvement in betting continued to make big news in South Africa for the second day running. All the Sunday newspapers carried the story as front page leads. "It's not our Hansie. Both voices on tape are Asian," a headline in *Sunday Tribune* read, with the story saying the voices on the tape did not belong to a South African.

At New Delhi, foreign secretary Lalit Mansingh denied reports that the Indian government had kept the South African authorities in the dark about the controversy before the Delhi police went public with the charges. "It is not correct. We have kept them informed," Mr Mansingh said, reacting to South African criticism in this regard.

Meanwhile, the Delhi police has approached the CBI to seek Interpol's help to obtain voice samples of Cronje and London-based NRI Sanjiv Chawla to authenticate the taped conversations. (Agencies)

► See Edit: 'Tain't Cricket, Page 12

NEW DELHI: Responding to a statement made by the South African government seeking an explanation from the Indian government over tapping of telephones of its cricket team members during their recent tour of India, the Delhi police, which is looking into the case, has decided to tread cautiously.

With police commissioner Ajay Raj Sharma on medical leave, joint commissioner of police (crime) K.K. Paul said, "I have to first check the authenticity of the reports quoting South African foreign minister Aziz Bahad before commenting on it."

Sharply reacting to the manner in which the Delhi police had handled the alleged match-fixing scandal, Mr Bahad had said on Saturday that the South

African government would seek an explanation following reports that its players' telephones were tapped while they were on an official cricket tour of India. The South African government, he said, would also seek an explanation from its Indian counterpart "regarding the process by which the allegations against players were made public."

Asked whether the Delhi police had enough material evidence on record to pin down the accused, Mr Paul said, "We have made public the taped telephonic talk (between South African captain Hansie Cronje and Rajesh Kalra, a businessman arrested in the case) and are investigating further."

About the progress of the case, the police officer said actor Kishen Kumar, brother of late music baron Gulshan Kujur, could not be questioned till midnight on Saturday on medical grounds.

Meanwhile, Rakesh Kalra, the only person to have been arrested in the sensational scandal involving \$500,000, is to be produced before the court on Sunday on the expiry of the two-day police remand. Kalra was interrogated by the crime branch officials throughout the night to gather information to strengthen the prosecution's case. On Friday, the Delhi police had claimed that South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje and four of his teammates — Herschelle Gibbs, Nicky Boje, Pieter Strydom and Henry Williams — were involved in betting and match-fixing during their recent tour of India. (PTI)

'200 transactions may be involved'

NEW DELHI: The betting scandal assumed wider proportions on Sunday with the Delhi police sending teams to Mumbai, Bangalore and Kochi amidst indications that there could be about 200 transactions involving several personalities, including politicians. The Enforcement Directorate, stating that huge transactions were suspected to have taken place, filed a petition before the court seeking Rajesh Kalra's remand for interrogation. (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

11 APR 2000

Kishan Kumar arrested

By Sutirtho Patranobis

NEW DELHI, APRIL 15. Film actor Kishan Kumar has been arrested by officers of the Enforcement Directorate for allegedly violating provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) by conducting transactions through "hawala" channels. He is the second person to be arrested — after Rajesh Kalra — in connection with the multicrore match-fixing scandal involving the former South African cricket captain, Hansie Cronje, and four of his former teammates.

A Delhi court sent Kishan Kumar to 14 days judicial remand on Saturday afternoon. Though in judicial custody, the "ailing" Kishan Kumar will remain in the Intensive Care Unit of Apollo Hospital until the doctors pronounce him fit. He continued to suffer from "chest pain" for the eighth consecutive day.

In another development, a Delhi court extended the ED remand for Kalra by one day against the request by department officials for three more days. The Metropolitan Magistrate, Ms. Swaran Kanta Mehra — who visited the hospital during the day — allowed

the Enforcement Directorate officials to interrogate Kalra about his involvement in hawala transactions for one more day.

Besides sending Kishan Kumar to judicial custody, the court directed the doctors looking after him to submit a final report on his condition on Monday. The doc-

everyone when a team of its officers reached the Apollo Hospital around 8-30 p.m on Friday. They had been keeping Kishan Kumar under surveillance since the day his name came up in connection with the hawala transactions in the match-fixing scandal.

Soon after, Kishan Kumar was

Betting may be legalised: Dhindsa

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 15. With match-fixing casting a shadow on cricket, the Government might consider making betting on the game legal to minimise the mischief potential of manipulators, the Sports Minister, Mr. Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, said today.

The Minister's remarks come close on the heels of suggestions that there was scope for manipulators to operate in the subcontinent as betting was illegal.

"The Sports Ministry, after holding a meeting with top board officials and cricket players and seeing the outcome of debate on the issue of betting in the ensuing Parliament session, will come out with concrete plans to counter such happenings in the game in future," Mr. Dhindsa told PTI here.

tors' team is headed by a cardiologist, Dr. Raman Puri.

The ED counsel also filed an application for shifting of Kishan Kumar to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here. The court will hear this application also on Monday.

The Directorate surprised ev-

arrested for allegedly violating Sections 8 and 9 of the Act, which deal with illegal transactions conducted in foreign exchange. Police investigations showed that the actor — brother of slain music baron Gulshan Kumar of T-series fame — had helped transfer large sums.

THE HINDU

16 APR 2000

Match-fixing fiasco lands govt in diplomatic quagmire

SA national acted as 'middleman' between Chawla, Cronje: police

New Delhi
10 APRIL

THE SENSATIONAL match-fixing case took a new turn on Monday with the Delhi police claiming that a South African national acted as a "middle-man" between the prime accused Sanjeev Chawla and South African skipper Hansie Cronje a day before the first one-day international with India on March 9 from a Kochi hotel, where they both stayed.

A top investigator, Rishi Pal, assistant commissioner of police, said both Chawla and Cronje stayed in the same hotel and made calls to same number in South Africa. The deal, police said, was struck apparently on March 8 at hotel Taj Regency in Kochi where Cronje along with his team-mates and Chawla were putting up.

Cronje, during his stay at the hotel in Kochi had made a call to a number in South Africa and Chawla, also made a call to the same number later, the sources quoting police on investigations made so far, claimed.

Police believe that the person acted as a "middle-man" in the deal which was allegedly struck between Chawla and Cronje, who has strongly denied any involvement in the match-fixing.

— PTI

Indrani Bagchi
NEW DELHI 10 APRIL

THE MATCH-fixing scandal has put India in a huge diplomatic and public relations mess. The government is now trying its best to do some diplomatic fire-fighting with the ministry of external affairs (MEA) meeting the South African high commissioner in New Delhi on Monday, while the Indian high commissioner in Pretoria, Harsh Bhasin met the foreign office there. However, the government believes the disclosures by Delhi Police were a trifle premature and an internal inquiry would ascertain why the Delhi Police went public when it did.

In its first statement, MEA on Monday said: "We had informed the South African side prior to the case being made public." This, however, was not the impression given by the South African high commissioner, Maite Mashabane, who after stepping out from a meeting with Pawan Verma (joint secretary-Africa) said this was the first official intimation by the Indian government. Ms Mashabane also said that while she had not come to protest, she did raise the question that India should not have conducted the tapping surreptitiously, a complaint that has been summarily dismissed.

Other sources have confirmed that the Indian government knew of the investigation at the highest levels and had also been in touch with the South African government for some time. But according to highly placed sources, the Delhi Police's press conference came as a surprise to the decision-making centres of the government.



THRASHING IT OUT: South African envoy Maite Nkoana Mashabane with joint secretary (Africa) Pawan Verma outside South Block after their meeting on Monday

AP

Before leaving for Cochin on Sunday, Mr Advani is understood to have given a rare dressing down to the commissioner of police, Ajai Raj Sharma. Government insiders point out that the sensational disclosures have not only created a diplomatic and political mess, it may have alerted some of those involved the police have not yet had access to.

There is an legal angle to this as well. With the South African government formally asking for a copy of the tapes, the ministry of external affairs is now in the ticklish position of having to solicit the metropolitan magistrate for them since they have already been declared registered evidence and are in court. For this to proceed, the South African government would have to submit a letter rogatory to India.

Therefore, even as the Enforcement Directorate conducted raids on the residence of Sanjeev Chawla in Delhi and the

police confirmed that they had sought the help of Interpol in the investigations, India was busy trying to fathom the legal implications of the case, in the absence of an extradition treaty between India and South Africa. For the South African accused to present themselves in India, the court would have to issue summons through the South African judiciary.

In Pretoria, deputy foreign minister Aziz Pahad went on record saying that the voices did not have a South African accent. The South African government too is in a fix having to contend with a huge public outcry against their national heroes. Senior officials maintain that the whole affair has to be managed sensitively.

Both governments are trying to manage the affair in a mature manner, with a formal reiteration of ties and detailed discussion of the matter.

India wants the law to take its course, S. Africa seeks tapes

Govt red-faced over misdirected shot

New Delhi
10 APRIL

INDIA, ON Monday, asserted that the "law will take its own course" in the case on match fixing filed against South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje and others, even as South Africa formally sought access to the tapes on which the case is based.

In its first reaction to headline hogging match fixing controversy, the ministry of external affairs said it had informed the South African government of the conspiracy, fraud and cheating charges levelled against Cronje and others "prior to the case being made public."

The ministry spokesperson said in a statement the Delhi Police believed that it will be able to sustain the case in a court of law on the basis of evidences collected.

The statement was issued shortly after the South African high commissioner to India Maite Nkoana Mashabane met joint secretary (Africa) Pawan K. Verma in South Block when she formally sought access to the tapes and a copy of the first information report filed in the case.

Maintaining that she had not come to lodge a complaint with the Indian government, she said her government would wait to hear from the (Indian) Foreign Minister.

An official spokesperson said after the 45-minute meeting that both sides had reiterated their close ties and agreed to "remain in touch on the issue in the coming days."

Though India and South Africa have no bilateral extradition treaty, official sources said local courts will have to issue summons if they found there was a criminal case on the basis of the FIR.

— PTI

Indrani Bagchi
NEW DELHI 10 APRIL

TRUST THE gang that can't shoot straight to aim at something and hit something else. Delhi Police was seeking to unearth an international betting racket in cricket but it has ended up kicking up a diplomatic row between South Africa and India.

It now transpires that while the cops had told the government about their investigation, they hadn't told the bosses exactly when they planned to go public with their charges. As a result, the government was caught unprepared even if it had kept Pretoria in the know about the investigation.

No one quite reckoned the passion cricket arouses. In South Africa, Delhi Police charges have become a huge emotive issue. And Pretoria has to show that it is protesting. Consequently, South African high commissioner Maite Mashabane met foreign office mandarins to protest against telephones of South African cricketers being tapped "surreptitiously" (is there any other way?).

But did she know about the investigations? The envoy claimed that Monday was the first time when there was any official intimation by the Indian government. The ministry of external affairs (MEA), however, said it had "informed the South African side prior to the case being made public". Perhaps Ms Mashabane's stress was on "official intimation".

A mess is a mess. So, now there is said to be an internal inquiry to ascertain why Delhi Police went public when it did. It's learnt during the weekend, Mr L.K. Advani gave a rare dressing down to commissioner of police Ajai Raj Sharma. Government insiders point out that the "premature" disclosures have not only created a diplomatic mess, they may have alerted those involved to cover their tracks.

In the circumstances, can Delhi Police hope to prove anything conclusively? Yes, say insiders, if the cops are able to establish the exact route of funds flow from bookies to cricketers. Therefore, the Enforcement Directorate conducted raids on the residence of Sanjeev Chawla here and Delhi Police confirmed that they had sought the help of Interpol in the investigations.

Meanwhile, a legal complication has cropped up. With the South African government formally asking for a copy of the tapes, the MEA is now in the ticklish position of having to solicit the metropolitan magistrate to get them as these are already declared registered evidence and are in court. For this to proceed, the South African government will have to submit a letter rogatory (remember Bofors?) to India.

The saving grace is that the diplomatic row is unlikely to affect business ties between the two countries which is considerable.

'Chawla met Cronje in SA last Dec'

South Africa formally asks for tapes • ED raids bookie's offices

Vinay Menon
New Delhi, April 10

THE CRIME Branch of the Delhi Police today said bookmaker Sanjay Chawla met cricket captain Hansie Cronje in South Africa last December. Till now the official line was that the two had met in India at the start of the series that ended last month.

In a related development, the Delhi Police announced today that the names of Chawla, bookmaker Rajesh Kalra (currently in custody) and Kishen Kumar (the actor implicated who is currently in hospital) surfaced when the Anti-Extortion Cell was pursuing extortion calls to prominent businessmen in the capital. Apparently, the telephone numbers of the trio showed up when calls were being traced. It was then discovered that Messrs Chawla, Kalra and Kishen were into the match-fixing business, the police said. Conversations monitored revealed no extortion angle and, instead, "the three talked about cricket and match-fixing and that got us onto this case," an officer said, adding that one such conversation revealed that Chawla had handed Cronje a mobile phone. It was then that the South African captain's calls were tapped.

About Chawla's purported meeting with Cronje, a senior official of the Crime Branch said: "Kalra told his interrogators that Chawla had met Cronje in South Africa last December and the two have since kept in touch through an as yet unidentified South African. We

have obtained this person's telephone number and are trying to establish his identity."

ED raid: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) today raided the business and residential premises of Sanjay Chawla in Jangpura in south Delhi and in Noida. The directorate is looking into allegations of transfer of funds through hawala channels.

"It is, however, too early to determine the nature of the documents," an officer said.

The ED has moved an application before a city court seeking the remand of Rajesh Kalra, who was arrested by the Delhi Police on Friday.

The CBI today said that a

request would be forwarded to Interpol soon to obtain voice samples of Cronje and Chawla to authenticate the taped conversations between the two.

South Africa formally sought access to the tapes of the purported conversation between Cronje and Chawla and a copy of the first information report filed by the Delhi police in the match-fixing case.

Both India and South Africa have agreed to co-operate in the cricket match-fixing scandal even as there are differences between the two sides on whether Pretoria had been informed before the Delhi Police went public with the case.

The External Affairs spokesper-



South African captain Hansie Cronje speaks to the Press in Durban on Sunday. Also seen in the picture is United Cricket Board Director Ali Bacher. Photo: AFP (Report on Page 18)

son said South African High Commissioner Maite Nkoana Mashabane had met Joint Secretary (Africa) Pavan Varma this afternoon and both sides stressed that the "law will take its own course."

Talking to reporters after a 45-minute meeting with Mr Varma, Ms Mashabane said: "We are cooperating with India on all matters including this one ... there are allegations against the South African players ... our players are innocent until proven guilty."

She said that a request had been made to the Indian Government for the first information report (filed by the Delhi Police) and the tapes of the alleged conversation between South African Captain Hansie Cronje

and an Indian bookie.

However, there are palpable differences between the two sides on whether India had informed South African before the match fixing case was made public.

The Indian spokesperson said: "In conformity with the close and cordial relations we have with South Africa, we had informed Pretoria prior to the case being made public."

Ms Mashabane, on the other hand, told reporters that the first official information about the case was given to her only today. "The first official information is now," the High Commissioner said after meeting Mr Varma.

She maintained that nobody from the Delhi Police had informed the South African High Commission but said that Pretoria intended to pursue the matter.

Cronje fired amid fresh controversy

Bacher admits pay-offs, Hansie denies

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE & REUTERS

DURBAN, April 11. — The South African cricket board suspended Hansie Cronje today ahead of a one-day series against Australia and said he had acknowledged receiving \$10,000 to \$15,000 for "providing information and forecasts but not match-fixing".

Minutes later, Cronje himself denied he had received any financial reward, in a statement issued through the Sports Minister, Ngconde Balfour, at Cape Town.

The United Cricket Board Managing Director, Dr Ali Bacher, said Cronje had not banked the money he received. He told a Press conference: "I was phoned (by Cronje) at 3:00 a.m. Hansie said he had not been honest to the (UCB) president (Percy Ssonn), myself and the country in regard to allegations of match-fixing. We immediately decided it would be in everybody's best interests if he stood down from the series against Australia ... We in South African cricket are shattered. The board and the government have been deceived."

He said Cronje had told him that Gibbs, Boje and Strydom were innocent. Gibbs and Boje

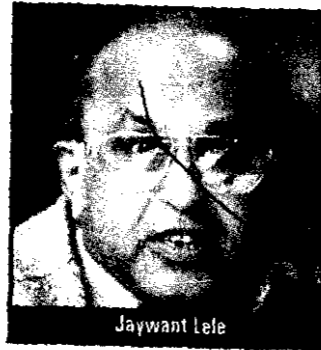
through Balfour, Cronje said he had mentioned the names of players to the contact, but had never spoken to a single player about throwing a match.

"I never received any financial reward," he said. "The wrong that I committed was having had these discussions in the first place and wrongfully mentioning other players' names in the matter when this was not the case at all."

Dr Bacher said Cronje's contract with the board had been suspended and that he would not receive a salary at the end of April. The board chief also declared that he had been replaced by Shaun Pollock for the upcoming series against Australia.

Though present at Balfour's Press conference, a downcast Cronje remained silent and did not answer any question. Balfour, speaking alongside Cronje at Cape Town's City Park Hospital, where the minister was undergoing tests, said the suspended skipper was feeling "very, very down — feeling remorse, feeling really hurt that this has happened."

Cronje's version, relayed through Balfour, is: "Earlier this year, I was contacted by a South African during the series with England and Zimbabwe,

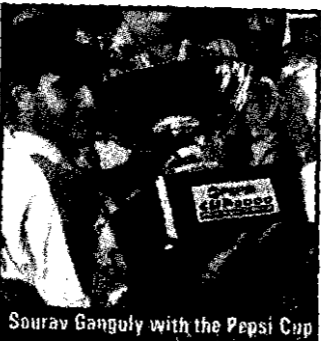


Jaywant Lela

APRIL 7
◆ Delhi Police starts case against Cronje, Gibbs, Boje, Strydom and Williams. Police release tapes of conversations between the SA skipper and bookie Sanjeev alias Sanjay Chawla. Chawla's partner Rajesh Kalra arrested.

◆ SA board is 'certain' none of its players 'has ever been involved in match fixing'. Its MD, Ali Bacher, says Cronje has told him the charges are 'absolute rubbish'. Bacher adds: 'Cronje is known for his unquestionable integrity and honesty.' SA coach Graham Ford can't 'for one moment' believe the charge.

◆ Former SA skipper Kepler



Sourav Ganguly with the Pepsi Cup

NO, MAYBE, LET'S SEE ... AND THEN

Wessels demands an independent probe, 'and by that I mean an investigation not involving anyone from' the SA board.

◆ BCCI secretary JY Lela dismisses charge, saying 'allegations are allegations only'. Says neither ICC nor BCCI needs concern itself with the matter.

◆ ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya says he can't comment 'on hearsay', but promises the world body's 'machinery would take its course'.

APRIL 8

◆ Diplomatic row: SA govt says it will ask India to explain its handling of the case, in particular (a) why the players' phones were tapped; and (b) why no SA govt or board official was contacted before the allegations were made public.

◆ Bacher repeats that 'we remain adamant that our players have never been party to match fixing'.

◆ Dalmiya says ICC will, if officially informed about charges, probe them.

◆ SA media and public dismiss charges, suggesting the tapes are fake. Gambling is described as the 'culture of the subcontinent'. A fan calls a radio talk show to say, 'I am more inclined to believe that the Pope is guilty

of multiple bigamy than to believe that Hansie is guilty of ... bribery and corruption.' Another wants SA to snap ties with India.

◆ A senior Delhi-based S African journalist says the voices on the tapes are of 'Asian origin'. SA Press complains that the Indian media report as if they believe the charges 'despite growing evidence that the allegations may be flawed'.

◆ Delhi Police finds an 'under-world connection' to the case, and question Kishan Kumar, small-time film actor and brother

of slain music magnate Gulshan Kumar, in hospital.

APRIL 9

◆ India denies keeping SA in the dark before the Press revelation. Pretoria asks for the tapes so it can carry out its own probe.

◆ Cronje denies allegations: 'I deny speaking to any of the players on tour and I deny accepting any money from anyone for match fixing.'

◆ Steve Waugh gives Cronje a glowing character certificate, saying he respects Cronje as a player and a captain who 'always gives 100 per cent.'

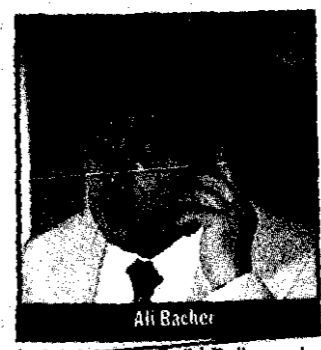
◆ Dalmiya says ICC still undecided about an independent inquiry.

◆ BCCI president AC Muthiah refuses to comment on the allegations but Lela says they are 'all rubbish ... baseless and can't be proved'.

◆ Police suggest SA may have thrown the World Cup match vs Zimbabwe — which went a long way in sealing India's fate.

APRIL 10

◆ South Africa denies being told about the charges before they were made public. India silent on denial. SA again asks for tapes.



Ali Bacher

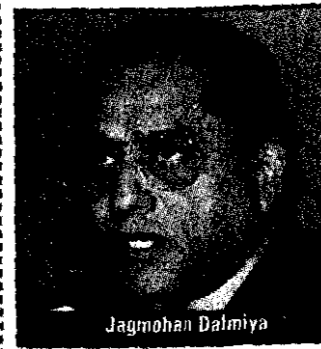
◆ Advani tells Delhi Police not to reveal much and hamper the probe. He is unhappy that the 'premature' revelations have created an embarrassing situation with 'friendly' SA.

◆ Delhi Police 'identifies' a S African as the 'key figure', begin probing 3 unnamed politicians.

◆ CBI says it'll ask Interpol for Cronje & Chawla's voice samples to tally them with the tapes.

APRIL 11

Bacher 'withdraws' Cronje from team, saying he's admitted taking money. Cronje later denies taking money or fixing matches. Shaun Pollock replaces him as captain.



Jagmohan Dalmiya

Statesman Infographic by PRADIP SIKDAR

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THE STATESMAN

12 APR 2000

DEAL:

(Continued from page 1)

number. After the money is deposited in the account, the bank deducts its charges which are higher than normal. "But the bank guarantees secrecy of the account-holder," a police officer said.

The ED said the picture will be clear after interrogation of Rajesh Kalra — co-accused in the case. The officials expect to interrogate Kalra after 13 April when his remand in police custody ends. His lawyer today said Kalra could not be charged of cheating or fraud, but at the most, gambling.

The ED's efforts to question Kishan Kumar had failed as doctors at Kailash Hospital, Noida, did not allow them to question him last night. They told the officials that he was not in the condition to give any statement. Besides Kishan Kumar, the ED has also summoned Sanjay Chawla's father, brother and sister for questioning.

The ED, however, is still waiting for Delhi Police to forward the documents connected to the case so that they can investigate independently.

On Kishan Kumar's action, Mr Sharma said, he cannot evade them for an indefinite period. "One day he will come out of the hospital and face us," he said. Delhi Police had only questioned him for about an hour last evening.

Delhi Police is yet to receive replies of its queries from Interpol. The Joint Commissioner of Police, Crime, Dr KK Paul, said the Interpol had not replied to the queries put up by Delhi Police on the banks in which the match-fixing money was deposited. The banks and the accounts have not been traced so far, Mr Paul told reporters.

Dr Paul said names of some people have cropped during investigations but none of them were Indian cricketers. "There are names of some contacts, bookies and others but none linked to the cricket team", he claimed.

He said the police teams have been sent to all centres where the five One-Day Internationals of the Pepsi series were played.

Earlier in the day, Mr Ajai Raj Sharma and Lt-Governor, Mr Vijai Kapoor, briefed Mr LK Advani about the investigations.

The Union home minister had yesterday expressed displeasure at the hasty manner in which the issue was prematurely made public.

Mr Advani, however, declined to discuss the meeting. "Investigations are on and I would not like to say anything at this stage," he told reporters after the meeting.

Hawala deal at Cayman Islands: Delhi Police

NEWS SERVICE

LHI, April 11. — Hansie Cronje and his associates are suspected to have received money from bookie, Sanjeev Chawla, in connection with match-fixing through hawala at Cayman Islands, a territory held by the UK in the Caribbean Sea, a Delhi Police officer said today. Interpol investigations revealed that the deal was struck at Bangalore, where South Africa played the second and the final Test against India. "It is for Sanjeev Chawla to whom the deal was present when the deal was struck," an officer said.

The ED has sent a team to trace the movements of Sanjeev Chawla, in order to find the persons he was in touch with. They have got hold of some clues about the deal but it will be premature to say more," an officer said.

The Police Commissioner, Mr Ajai Raj Sharma, said: "We have evidence other than tapes, but I will not like to spell it out at this moment as it will hamper our investigations." He also said the police had sought Interpol's help to verify certain details.

The Enforcement Directorate too claimed having documentary evidence suggesting transaction of money through hawala taking place at Cayman Islands via London. About 200 transactions were made in the match-fixing scandal, an official said.

He said Cayman Island is a tax free area, having a free banking system like St Kitts. "One need not reveal his identity to open an account there," an officer said.

The bank will issue an identification code number to the person which will also be his account number.

See DEAL: page 8

THE STATESMAN

12 APR 2000

Cronje extradition plea to be weighed

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, April, 13. — India's request for Cronje's extradition will be examined as part of a full-fledged inquiry into the match-fixing allegations by an independent judicial commission to be instituted by the South African government.

The South African High Commissioner, Mrs ME Nkomo-Mashabane, today said the commission would conduct a full-scale examination of all aspects of the allegations.

She said the issue of Cronje's extradition was a "very unpleasant matter" between South Africa and India, but it would be first examined whether extradition was required. "The process will be such that the commission will examine whether extradition is needed and then decide. Extradition will not be the beginning of the process. It will be a part of the process if needed."

She said the commission would also collaborate with the BCCI, India's foreign ministry

and the Delhi Police. On the police's reported request for assistance in establishing the voices in the incriminating tapes, she said the Delhi Police would have to approach the South African authorities through the foreign ministry, which hadn't yet been done.

'We want Cronje'

South Africans voted overwhelmingly in a newspaper poll to allow Cronje to play again, reports AFP from Johannesburg. In a poll published in *The Star*,

94 per cent of the 7,220 respondents voted to allow him to play for South Africa again, against 6 per cent who said "no".

Strange game

South African students have launched a game on their "get-a-life" website today, in which players bowl at wickets in front of a New Delhi jail, with Cronje's face behind bars. Good bowlers break down the wall and he escapes. Bad bowlers are confronted with a picture of the SA sports minister in tears.

THE STATESMAN

14 APR 2000

SA middleman agrees to help probe panel

■ Kishan Kumar yet to be arrested, shifted to Apollo hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DURBAN, APRIL 14

157A
THE 'mystery' third man in the match-fixing scandal. Hamid 'Banjo' Cassim, today offered his full cooperation to the judicial commission proposed to be set up by the South African Government to investigate the allegations against sacked captain Hansie Cronje.

A South African newspaper yesterday named him as the mystery third man in the match-fixing scandal and that he had links with Indian stars Mohammad Azharuddin and Sachin Tendulkar, both of whom had reacted angrily and rejected any report of 'linkage' with the Johannesburg businessman.

Indian cricket coach Kapil Dev, when contacted in the US, said he knew Cassim. "He used to bring food for Indian

team players when we went there in 1991-92," he told P.T.I.

Cassim informed the South African Cricket Board through his lawyers that he would offer his full cooperation to the commission of judicial inquiry being set up, but refused to answer any queries from the media.

South African Sports Minister Ngconde Balfour announced that the probe into the Cronje affair "would also investigate any other instances of dishonesty in South African cricket".

The inquiry panel, to be appointed by President Thabo Mbeki, was expected to submit its report by May end, he said.

Balfour said the inquiry would be instituted soon "to restore the dignity of South African sport and go into the issues that have emerged following the investigations launched by the Delhi police.

UCB managing director Ali Bacher

has said he firmly believed no other South African player had been involved in betting or match-fixing. Bacher said he had spoken to Cronje who had assured him that no other player was involved.

Meanwhile in New Delhi, Bollywood actor Kishan Kumar, who is in the thick of controversy over the match-fixing, was today shifted to a private hospital here.

Kumar was admitted to the ICU of Apollo Hospital at 1300 hrs after being discharged from Kailash Hospital in neighbouring Noida where he was admitted since April 7. Though Crime Branch sleuths accompanied Kumar while he was being shifted to Apollo, he has not been arrested, a Crime Branch official said at the hospital.

"We merely accompanied him: while he (Kishan Kumar) was being shifted to Apollo as advised by Kailash Hospital authorities," he said.

INDIAN EXPRESS

15 APR 2000

No plan to legalise betting: PM

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, April 16

PRIME MINISTER A. B. Vajpayee today made it clear that the government had no plans to legalise betting in the wake of match-fixing controversy.

Upset by reports quoting Sports Minister Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa as saying that the government might consider legalising betting to check manipulators, Mr Vajpayee said, "I have read some report on cricket betting. The government has no proposal to legalise betting." He was addressing a conclave of BJP leaders.

Mr Vajpayee said, "We are all for eliminating this menace." He asked Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pramod Mahajan to speak to Mr Dhindsa, who belongs to the Akali Dal, to find out about the statement attributed to him.

Mr Dhindsa apparently clarified

to Mr Mahajan that he had not made any statement.

Mr Vajpayee's response to the betting controversy was in the

Scotland Yard in touch with Delhi Police

THE SCOTLAND Yard was in touch with the Delhi Police over investigations in the raging cricket match-fixing allegations, *The Sunday Times* said today. The newspaper quoting a Scotland Yard spokesman said the officers of its organised crime group were liaising with Indian detectives over the match-fixing issue.

PTI, London

course of his address on the concluding day, which incidentally focused on the need for BJP ministers and functionaries to exercise restraint in their speeches to avoid

giving any handle to the Opposition to raise controversies.

Home Minister L K Advani also told the BJP National Executive that there was no plan to legalise betting. Mr Dhindsa was quoted by a number of newspapers in dispatches from Chandigarh that the government might consider making betting in cricket legal to minimise the role of mischief.

The Sports Minister's remark was in the context of suggestions from several quarters that match-fixing had become a major problem because betting had not been legalised.

The Prime Minister prefaced his remark on betting by saying that "we should not allow ourselves to be bogged down by these unnecessary controversies. We must be very careful about all our statements to the Press. We must resist the temptation of speaking out too frequently."

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

17 APR 2000

S. Africa tilts to wraps-off inquiry

FROM TREVOR
CHESTERFIELD

Johannesburg, April 16: South Africa is launching a judicial inquiry into allegations of match-fixing against former cricket captain Hansie Cronje tomorrow amid indications that the exercise may be made public.

Sources say the International Cricket Council has come out in support of the open-inquiry stand understood to have been taken by the United Cricket Board of South Africa.

Bronwyn Wilkinson, communications manager of the South African board, said a judge was expected to be named tomorrow, following which discussions would be held to fix the terms of reference of the inquiry.

Although it is up to the judge to decide what form the inquiry should take, there is the view that the findings as well as some of the submissions be made public.

If the judge holds the same opinion, it is the sort of good news South Africa needs now as a transparent approach is seen as the best way to clean up what has become a national issue.

[India still cannot decide whether to make the Justice Chandrachud report on allegations of match-fixing by Indian players public. The uncertainty is difficult to explain since, from all accounts, Justice Y.V. Chandrachud did not find any hard evidence.]

South Africans woke up today to another round of disillusionment with fallen national hero Cronje as reports suggested that the sacked captain may have been lying when he denied having fixed matches.

Another report appeared to indicate that Cronje had confessed to taking \$8,200 from an Indian bookmaker after a meeting with deputy minister for foreign affairs Aziz Pahad. He was told at the meeting that there was "irrefutable evidence" and that in his best interests it would be "advisable to come clean".

Pahad's meeting with Cronje followed his talks with the Indian high commissioner. Cronje, it seems, decided to make the 3 am confession to board chief Ali Bacher after meeting Pahad.

Publication of a transcript of purported conversations between Cronje and bookmaker Sanjeev Chawla has come as a fresh jolt to South Africans, AFP reports.

If the transcript is genuine, it flies in the face of Cronje's denial of match-fixing. In it, Cronje tells the bookmaker before the Nagpur match that South Africa would set a "target" of 270. Chawla had allegedly said: "OK, so if it touches 270, it's off."

The South Africans, however, were fired by a thunderous innings by Lance Klusener, apparently leading to the collapse of the so-called deal.

● The writer is international cricket correspondent with CricInfo

THE TELEGRAPH

17 APR 2000

96.1 19/4 Make Chandrachud report public, Centre tells BCCI

■ Nothing special in it, so what's all the fuss about, says Sports Minister Dhindsa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 18

THE Centre has directed the Cricket Board to make public the Chandrachud committee report on betting and match-fixing submitted about three years ago.

Sports Minister Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa said on Tuesday he has asked the board officials to bring out the report, and in case his direction was not complied with, he himself would do it.

The board's report on Indian cricket team's recent performances and the current match-fixing allegations was expected to be submitted to him "a day or two", the Minister said.

In an informal chat with reporters after a function in honour

of the Indian hockey team, Dhindsa said he went through the report and did not find "anything special" and did not see why it should not be made public.

Asked whether the Government planned to institute a Central Bureau of Investigation inquiry into betting and match-fixing allegations in Indian cricket, Dhindsa said: "We are open to everything."

A final decision in this regard would be taken on the basis of discussions in Parliament and outcome of the April 27 meeting between him and the BCCI officials here.

The one-man Chandrachud panel, set up in the wake of match-fixing allegations by former all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar, absolved players of any wrongdoing in the report submitted to the

CBI moves Interpol for Cronje's voice samples

■ THE CBI has forwarded Delhi Police's request to Interpol to obtain voice samples of Cronje and London-based NRI Sanjeev Chawla to authenticate the taped conversations between the two. CBI sources said here today that the letter of request seeking help of the International agency was forwarded last weekend. The Interpol has started working on the request and would be responding soon, the sources said. However, the sources clarified that no red alert or any warrant, as reported by some section of press, had been issued by the Interpol to arrest Chawla. "The stage is yet to come," the agency sources said. Delhi Police has requested Interpol to trace the bank account number of Sanjeev Chawla, and provide details of transactions made by him during the last two months, they said.

board in 1997.

A copy of the report was submitted to the Government but not made public despite demands from various quarters. Home Minister L K Advani also recently favoured making it public.

Former Indian cricket captain

Bishan Singh Bedi said the scandal had led to severe loss of face for the game and quipped: "Now people have more faith in hockey than cricket", while applauding the hockey team for winning the four-nation tournament in Perth two days ago.

INDIAN EXPRESS

1 APR 2000

CHANDRACHUD PANEL REPORT TABLED IN LS

Govt. promises to get to the 'bottom of the truth'

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, APRIL 20. The nearly three-year-old report of the Chandrachud Committee on match-fixing, termed as a "white-wash" job in cricket circles, was placed in the Lok Sabha today with the Government assuring the House that it would take "all legal measures" to get to the bottom of the truth and not "hesitate" to order a detailed investigation by any agency.

"We won't spare any effort to unearth the facts", the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mr. S. S. Dhindsa, told members but skirted their demand for a CBI inquiry saying it would not be proper to "interfere" with the Delhi Police investigations at this stage.

The 93-page report, much of which is a bland narration of the depositions before the committee, rules out match-fixing by "any Indian player, official or journalist" though it acknowledges that "there is undoubtedly a large-scale betting on cricket" and "some Indian players may be laying the flutter of a bet". It hastens to add, however, that it is "less than just to conclude" they lay bets for losing a match. "Such a charge lacks substance and is unjustified", it concludes.

Mr. Dhindsa in his statement said the Government was "seri-

ously alarmed" by fresh revelations about match-fixing particularly those relating to the recent India-South Africa series.

The problem, he pointed out, was that except the FIR registered with the Delhi police the Government did not at this stage have any other specific complaint against particular Indian cricketers or office-bearers of the Board for Control of Cricket in India

(BCCI). All that was being reported in the media were allegations of a general nature.

"Nevertheless, the Government will in all seriousness initiate necessary legal measures against practices of match-fixing on the basis of specific complaints that may be received after appropriate inquiry and necessary investigation", Mr Dhindsa said.

He assured adequate protec-

tion to anyone willing to disclose specific information, and said that he had called a meeting of BCCI office-bearers, "distinguished" cricketers and sports administrators on April 27 to discuss the current state of affairs.

Members, including some from the treasury benches, were not satisfied and insisted on a CBI inquiry saying there was no need for a specific complaint. The CBI could take suo motu cognisance of the allegations and investigate. The BJP's Mr. Kirti Azad, a former Test player, said there were enough leads for a CBI inquiry, while the Congress(I)'s Mr. Kamal Nath pointed out that the Delhi Police investigations themselves could form the basis for a CBI probe. Members also expressed concern over the "commercialisation" of cricket and suggested curbs on so much money going into the game even as other games were "dying" for want of resources.

A point repeatedly stressed during the hour-long debate that following the Minister's statement, was that while all those involved in the match-fixing scam should be punished, the temptation to generalise and paint all cricketers with the same brush should be resisted.

It is 'old hat': Page 13
Waugh for cleaning up
the mess: Page 23

'Match-fixing a common practice'

SYDNEY, APRIL 20. The chairman of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), Dr. Ali Bacher, has claimed that two matches during last year's World Cup were fixed, one international team was throwing and manipulating matches and an umpire was under suspicion.

Speaking to three Sydney newspapers today from his Johannesburg home, Dr. Bacher said his information came from current and former international players and administrators. "I am as confident as I can be without having all available evidence for you that it has been a common practice in world cricket."

All details would be supplied to the South African judicial in-

quiry into the Hansie Cronje scandal, he said. The UCBSA chief said the World Cup match between Bangladesh and Pakistan when the former were bowled out for 161 while chasing 223 raised the most concern.

The top five Pakistani batsmen failed to reach double figures. Pakistani umpire Javed Akhtar was also under suspicion for the way he handled the last Test during South Africa's 1998 tour of England.

Dr. Bacher said, "I don't have bank accounts or anything like that to prove it, but match-fixing has been the scourge of the game." His claims support the allegations made by the former Indian cricket board chief, Mr. L. S. Bhardwaj, in New Delhi on Wednesday. — AFP

THE HINDU

21 APR 2000

Australia raises boycott spectre

OUR BUREAU

When Jagmohan Dalmiya sits down with fellow members of the International Cricket Council on May 2-3 to tackle the worst crisis to hit the sport, lurking in the background will be the threat of a divide between the subcontinent and the rest of the tiny cricketing world.

On Friday, Australia gave official voice to hushed whispers in cricket's corridors of power and public airing of opinion in the western press that maybe there should be a pause in one-day matches in the subcontinent.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) did not name the subcontinent, but the aftermath of the Hansie Cronje scandal has left little doubt who occupies the defendant's stand since almost all betting trails lead to one destination. South Africa's cricket chief Ali Bacher had said that quite bluntly.

AFP quoted ACB chief executive Malcolm Speed as saying Australia would wait to hear the outcome of the ICC meeting in London before deciding whether to pull out of overseas one-day tournaments.

The announcement clearly indicates Australia will be looking at the ICC and its president, Dalmiya, to spell out what they intend to do to clean up the sport. It carries the implied threat that if it is not satisfied, a boycott could be on the cards.

That the prospect of a boycott, which amounts to a virtual split in the cricket world, is at least being talked about has been underlined indirectly by the United Cricket Board of South Africa. Any such move will range India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh against Australia, England, South Africa, New Zealand and, possibly, West Indies, which has tended to keep company with them.

The South African board on Friday ruled out a boycott or suspension of visits to India, but the question latent in the rejection is why such a possibility should arise at all.

"South Africa is not boycotting cricket in India by any means," the board's communications manager Bronwyn Wilkinson told PTI from Johannesburg.

After cancellation of a benefit tournament scheduled later this month in India where Cronje was to lead a South African team, the earliest the two countries will meet in a bilateral series is by the end of next year. India is due for a visit to South Africa. The benefit matches were scrapped by the Indian board after the scandal broke.

Immediately after Delhi police's revelations about Cronje, sections of the English media were advocating that England should not play against subcontinental teams until these countries clean up their act.

The Daily Telegraph wrote: "The EC should consider playing no more one-day games against either side (Pakistan and India) until those who seek to corrupt players, and the guilty players themselves, have been brought to book."

■ More reports on Pages 15, 16

THE TELEGRAPH

22 APR 2000

ICC meets in U.K., hopes to yank match-fixing

Amnesty, code of conduct are high on ICC agenda

By H.S. Rao

LONDON: The International Cricket Council's two-day meeting to discuss the raging betting and match-fixing scandal began here on Tuesday with a code of conduct for players and an amnesty to elicit information on corruption in the game expected to be put in place.

The ICC executive board's extraordinary meeting at Lord's is expected to propose the scheme to offer amnesty to players who come forward with evidence to expose match-fixing that has left the game reeling in the wake of the Hansie Cronje affair.

The meeting, presided over by ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya, is also expected to ratify a code of conduct evolved by ICC's code of conduct commission, to deal with allegations of match manipulation and defining terms of reference.

According to sources, the commission set up by the ICC last year has reviewed and apparently found satisfactory internal inquiries by India and Australia into match-fixing. Top cricket administrators expressed concern corruption could be widespread with England board chief Lord Maclaurin saying over BBC radio that "I have a nasty feeling that it might be."

United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCB) managing director Ali Bacher is expected to provide evidence following the Cronje episode, but Pakistan is unlikely to table its unpublished judicial inquiry report at the meet.

Meanwhile, former cricket board chief Inderjit Singh

Bindra's request for attending the meeting has been turned down. Asked whether Mr Bindra, who has arrived here claiming that he wanted to submit a dossier on match-fixing allegations at the meeting, will be permitted to attend, Mr Dalmiya shot back, "In what capacity can he attend the executive council?"

Questions have been raised about how much can be achieved at the meeting. The summit has been restricted to 18 ICC delegates, who are mostly figureheads, while the chief executive of the nine Test-playing nations are absent. Mr Dalmiya said Mr Bindra could provide all the evidence he had before CBI,

which is investigating match-fixing allegations in Indian cricket as well as corruption in allocation of sports telecast rights, or write to the ICC.

ICC chief executive Dave Richards has written to Mr Bindra saying India had only one representation on the management committee and since that was already taken by BCCI president A.C. Muthiah, there was no way Mr Bindra could attend.

In Mr Muthiah's absence following his mother's death, former BCCI president Rajsingh Dungarpur, is attending the meeting. Mr Bindra, who is the Punjab Association president, has said he did not want to attend as a delegate but wanted to address the meeting and pass on the information he had. (PTI)

Advani says Scotland Yard may help in CBI inquiry

The Times of India News Service

NEW DELHI: Home minister L.K. Advani on Tuesday indicated that Scotland Yard could help India in the Cronje match-fixing case when its team arrives here to pursue its own probe.



L.K. Advani

Mr Advani's remarks in the Lok Sabha came even as the CBI formally registered a case and launched preliminary investigations into the match-fixing and betting controversy.

Disclosing that the Scotland Yard team will probe the involvement of some English cricket players in the match-fixing scandal, Mr Advani said the Delhi police may utilise Britain's expertise if required. He also reaffirmed that the government had no intention to legalise betting in India.

Though agency sources said the CBI probe would cover every aspect of the case, they declined to confirm whether the help of Interpol would be sought or whether former all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar, who first sounded the alarm in India, would be examined.

Replying to a spate of questions in the Lok Sabha, Mr Advani said the CBI would enquire into the entire issue and would be able to untangle the case. He also said that, if necessary, those accused would be

brought into the country from abroad to face prosecution.

Mr Advani said the Delhi police have so far arrested two persons for their involvement in the case. It was not possible at present to determine the amount of money, if any, which changed hands in the alleged match fixing, he said.

In the Lok Sabha, Congress MP Shyama Singh asked Union sports minister S.S. Dhindsa why the government had brought in the CBI almost 20 days after the case came to light. She alleged that vital documents and evidence could have been destroyed.

Mr Dhindsa denied any de-



Jagmohan Dalmiya (centre), president of the executive board of the International Cricket Council with David Richards, chief executive (right), and Malcom Gray, president-elect, at a meeting at Lord's in London on Tuesday.

lay and said the government did not want to act in a haste.

Asked if the government proposed to take action against a cricketer who had entertained a bookie in Sharjah during a tournament there in 1995 after the bookie was thrown out of the press enclosure, Mr Dhindsa replied that even through it was an old matter, it could be taken into account if it was brought to the notice of the investigating authorities.

Mr Dhindsa told the house that the Board of Control for Cricket in India was proposing to renew the code of conduct for cricketers and that this was likely to be finalised within three months.

THE HINDU
3 MAY 2000

Cronje cut Rs 12-cr deal

ABHIGYAN HANS
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, May 4. — Hansie Cronje and bookie Sanjeev Chawla had struck a Rs 2-crore deal for each of the five one-dayers and one of the two Tests during the South Africa-India series, police revealed today.

A senior officer said the sum included the cuts of all "players" — that is, the large number of bookies involved.

For the Test, Cronje and Chawla had decided that if India scored over 200, South Africa would lose the match and 'earn' Rs 2 crore, the officer said. But India fell below that target, so the "conditional match-fixing deal" was called off.

New name: Officers revealed they had come across a "new name" in the scandal from doc-

DALMIYA DENIAL

CALCUTTA, May 4. — Mr Jagmohan Dalmiya has denied any connection or interest in any offshore company in either the British Virgin Islands or anywhere else abroad. Reacting to a report in *The Statesman* today, Mr Dalmiya said through his counsel that the allegation was "false, baseless and utterly incorrect". The report was based on an article by cricket writer Scyld Berry published in the *Sunday Telegraph* of London. — SNS

uments handed over by a Scotland Yard team now in Delhi.

Quoting the British sleuths, the officer said that Delhi-based sports promoter Aushim

Khetrupal was involved in fixing the matches along with some bookies.

"Khetrupal, who lives in Greater Kailash, runs the international group, Radiant Sports Management. His name hadn't cropped up when we questioned Kishan Kumar and Rajesh Kalra. We are looking into this new angle," he said.

Khetrupal was the man who allegedly told former England player Chris Lewis that three English stars had accepted bribes for throwing matches.

The Delhi police officer said that though a large number of bookies from all over the country were involved in the scandal, four "key players (bookies) managed the entire show". They are: Sanjeev Chawla, Kishan Kumar and two

DEAL:

(Continued from page 1)

Delhi-based bookies, Mohan Kattar and Bittu.

"They held several meetings in Delhi and Mumbai to discuss and chalk out the match-fixing game plan," the officer said.

Police are trying to identify the hawala operator who channelled the money from India to London.

"Once he is identified, we can establish the chain of money flow."

Police are yet to trace the bookies who went underground soon after the scandal broke out.

Kishan Kumar has reportedly confessed he made several trips to Dubai and met Dawood Ibrahim's brother Anees there.

"We are yet to lay our hands on his passport," the officer said.

He at first said he had left it at Kailash Hospital (where he had been admitted); and later that he had left it in Mumbai."

■ See DEAL: page 8

THE STATESMAN

4/5/01

'Manoj had mentioned the name'

Advani bouncer in Kapil row

Nagpur, May 6 (PTI): Union home minister L.K. Advani tonight made an oblique reference to the Kapil Dev episode in the match-fixing allegations, saying Manoj Prabhakar had referred to his name.

"Manoj Prabhakar had mentioned about the name which the newspapers have reported yesterday... I had told him that time itself to give this information to the investigators," Advani told a press conference here.

"It is for the investigating agencies to look into it. I have nothing to say," he added.

The home minister said it was desirable for those having information relating to the case to inform the authorities concerned.

"A committee has been set up for the probe but the government does not issue any directive asking it not to make names figuring in the case public... But it is desirable for them to act in a discreet manner," he said.

Lokendra Pratap Sahi adds from Calcutta: Kapil may opt out of the May 28-June 8 Asia Cup in Dhaka, India's first engagement after cricket's biggest crisis erupted last month.

Kapil himself didn't specifically say so when contacted by

The Telegraph this afternoon, but did indicate making himself unavailable was a possibility.

In fact, those close to Kapil confirmed he is "seriously" considering opting out.

Not because of former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Inderjit Singh Bindra's allegation that he offered the Rs 25-lakh inducement to Prabhakar (September 1994), but because he (Kapil) "should occupy the moral high ground". Kapil has already moved on the legal front: his lawyers have served notice on Bindra.

[According to PTI, Kapil broke down during the recording of BBC's *Hardtalk India* interview, to be telecast on Wednesday. "I will commit suicide rather than take a bribe. Take all my money. I come from a family where pride is more important than anything else... I feel ashamed that I played cricket," Kapil said emotionally. **Details on Page 14**]

As a source put it: "When the scandal broke and Indian names began circulating, Kapil suggested that India take a six-month break (from international commitments) till the air cleared. Now that his own name has been dragged in, Kapil has to be seen as setting a personal example."

These still are early days but, if it comes to that, the BCCI may request Kapil's predecessor Aunshuman Gaekwad to stand in.

Speaking from New Delhi, Kapil said: "As of now, I'm looking to the Cup probables' camp (in Pune from May 15-24)... I would like to talk to all the boys first, before saying anything else. For me, the boys have always come first. That won't ever change."

Twenty-three of the 25 probables will be present in Pune — Anil Kumble and Rahul Dravid, currently in England, have been exempted. Sourav Ganguly, also in England, will not miss the camp.

Kapil, who took over from Gaekwad last October (the two-year appointment was made a month earlier), hasn't been on the best of terms with everybody in the BCCI. So, it is to be seen whether the powers-that-be will persuade him to reconsider should he actually be unavailable.

Informally, a couple of senior BCCI mandarins have begun "talking" about the possibility of Kapil opting out.

However, frenetic behind-the-scenes activity should really begin tomorrow when Jagmohan Dalmiya returns after chairing the ICC executive board's meeting in London.

THE TELEGRAPH

7 MAY 2000

Cricket chief shut out of TV deals

AMIT ROY IN LONDON AND
A STAFF REPORTER
IN CALCUTTA

May 7: Starting with Jagmohan Dalmiya, International Cricket Council presidents have been barred from taking part in negotiations for selling telecast rights.

The Sunday Telegraph of London reported today that Dalmiya, ICC president, had been voted off the council's powerful marketing and finance committee. Dalmiya, who has only five weeks to go before stepping down as president, is a member of the committee that met in Paris to negotiate the sale of television and Internet rights for the World Cups in South Africa in 2003 and the West Indies in 2007. Three bids have been shortlisted, the price offered reportedly topping \$500 million.

On his return to Calcutta, Dalmiya admitted that ICC presidents would no longer be on the committee, but denied he had been "voted off" at a meeting of the council's executive board in London on May 2-3 to discuss action over match-fixing allegations.

"There can't be a bigger lie or a bigger (false) allegation, since I am now coming from Paris, where the finance committee meeting was held, and I attended that meeting as ICC president," he said.

On the flight back from Paris, Dalmiya met I.S. Bindra, former Indian cricket chief, and his sworn enemy. "There is generally not much exchanged socially...but Mr Bindra seemed very shocked (to learn Dalmiya was coming from Paris)."

The newspaper said Dalmiya was on hand in Paris in a consultative capacity as a concession granted to him by the ICC, but did not attend the negotiations.



Jagmohan Dalmiya

Dalmiya dismissed the suggestion, alleging that the paper had "deliberately twisted the facts to defame me". The ICC chief said he had already served a legal notice. "I am applying to the government of India for sanction of foreign exchange to enable me to sue the concerned newspaper and the writer abroad," he said.

Dalmiya conceded that the ICC meeting in London had decided that financial negotiations should be conducted by the chairman of the finance committee and the ICC chief executive. But he said: "This decision will affect all, the president-elect Malcolm Gray and all to follow. Whatever happened at the executive board meeting will be clear from the minutes."

The newspaper quoted Lord MacLaurin, chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, as saying: "Sir John Anderson (the chairman of New Zealand Cricket) and I proposed that the president should not -- now or in the future -- take part in any financial negotiations on behalf of the board, and it was

unanimously agreed."

Dalmiya, who chaired that meeting, said the decision was taken "since baseless allegations were aired against the ICC president". He was referring to charges levelled against him by Anil Agarwal, former financial adviser to Doordarshan, who accused him of defrauding the state-run television of \$4 million in the telecast deal for the ICC knockout tournament in Dhaka in 1998.

"The (ICC) executive board quite rightly thought that the position of the president and the president-elect must be protected from such allegations," Dalmiya said.

After ICC's London meeting, its chief executive, David Richards, had given Dalmiya a clean chit, saying that he was not involved in negotiations for the Dhaka telecast rights with any of the bidders -- Doordarshan (which employed a company called Stracon to quote on its behalf), TWI, WorldTel and CSI.

The Daily Telegraph has challenged Richards' statement. It quoted a report written on March 10, 1998, by Rakesh Bahadur, who was then deputy director-general (commercial and sports) of DD.

In the letter, Bahadur said: "It had become very clear in Calcutta that TWI were also going to increase their bid amount and Mr Bill Sindrich of TWI, London, was constantly in touch with Mr Dalmia (sic). The revenue-sharing formula was arrived at after consultations with Mr Dalmia. This revised bid offer was acceptable to the ICC and communication to this effect was given by Mr Dalmia on 5 March, 1998."

"I...then proceeded to Calcutta where I and Mr Siddarth Ray of M/s Stracon had detailed discussions with Mr Dalmia on 3/4/5th March 1998."

7 8 MAY 2000

Government to announce modalities of probe

Cry for CBI at cricket soulsearch

FROM LOKENDRA
PRATAPSAHI

New Delhi, April 27: The Union government is set to order a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry into allegations of match-fixing against Indian cricketers.

It will, of course, be a significant first.

The option of constituting an inquiry commission (with a sitting Supreme Court judge in the chair) is certainly there, but the government is expected to respect the "wishes" of a majority of the parliamentarians, who are inclined towards the CBI.

That most of the cricket-fraternity invitees to sports minister Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa's meeting today also favoured a CBI inquiry should help the government reach a quick decision.

It's another matter that the CBI is already overburdened, with resources stretched to the limit.

"The government will, within the next few days, announce how the allegations will be investigated. People have spoken about the CBI, while some simply feel an appropriate authority should step in. As Parliament is in session, the announcement will be made there," explained Dhindsa.

It is understood Dhindsa himself favours a CBI probe. Amending the Indian Penal Code (IPC), as well.

Speaking to the media after chairing a star-spangled meeting, which lasted close to three hours at the National Stadium, Dhindsa added: "The Board of Control for

Cricket in India (BCCI) has already promised to support whatever action the government may initiate." The BCCI, which thus far wasn't terribly keen on the CBI's involvement, has had a dramatic re-think. "Horses for courses," somebody quipped.

It's a development which will delight former BCCI president Inderjit Singh Bindra, who has been rooting for the CBI from Day-1.

International Cricket Council (ICC) president Jagmohan Dalmiya, who attended the meeting as a former BCCI secretary, sought to put things in perspective: "Last week's announcement that the BCCI will cooperate with Delhi police appears to have been misunderstood. Today, if people feel the need for a more transparent inquiry, specifically by the CBI, that's fine."

Dalmiya added: "In fact, I've suggested it myself. Now the ball is in the government's court. If, for some reason, it wishes to exercise some other option, the government should say so. Further, the inquiry must have a time-frame (ideally, to be completed within 60 days) and nobody must be harassed."

A.C. Muthiah, the BCCI president, said much the same thing.

Another former BCCI president Madhavrao Scindia, stumped by the jumbo contingent of lensmen on his arrival ("Is it a Cabinet swearing-in?"), later insisted "an agency with credibility" should be entrusted with the probe. An enigmatic observation that.

According to **The Telegraph's** sources, only one of the 30 invitees, former opener and twice MP Chetan Chauhan, argued that Delhi police be allowed to expand their on-going investigation in the Hansie Cronje affair.

However, it's not that all invitees could speak. "My turn didn't come," remarked a smiling Madanlal, current selector and former coach. Even Aunshuman Gaekwad didn't say anything.

Significantly, three of the four most high-profile invitees — Sunil Gavaskar, Mohammed Azharuddin and Sachin Tendulkar — steered clear of the latest crisis. Only coach Kapil Dev didn't duck. He was, typically, emotional.

Those expecting fireworks, as both Dalmiya and Bindra were present, faced disappointment: they ignored each other, even as both were much sought-after by the media.

While it would, perhaps, be premature to read too much straightaway, that the BCCI "will discuss" a five-year "vision document" with Dhindsa's ministry (within three months) suggests the BCCI, which is an autonomous body, isn't on as strong a wicket as it was before the Cronje-triggered crisis.

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28 MAY 2000

'Qayyum recommended life ban on Malik and Mushtaq'

LONDON: Life ban on former Pakistan skipper Salim Malik and leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed have been recommended by justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum, the judge who probed match-fixing allegations in that country, revealed a British newspaper report here on Sunday.

The *Sunday Telegraph* quoted justice Qayyum as saying that he had recommended such stiff penalty to the two Pakistani stars and indicating that he had recommended action against former captain Wasim Akram also.

Asked specifically whether he recommended a life ban on Malik, justice Qayyum, whose inquiry report submitted in October last year is to be made public, said "that is correct", according to a report in the daily.

On a life ban for Mushtaq

Ahmed, who is involved in the series in the West Indies, justice Qayyum said. "I can't say, but the answer isn't no."

About Wasim Akram, who captained Pakistan in last year's World Cup, he said, "I can tell you



Salim Malik

Mushtaq Ahmed

that he has not got off scot-free," the *Sunday Telegraph* said.

Justice Qayyum's statements in the paper come after comments made by Pakistan cricket board chairman Tauqir Zia last week

that the judicial report found "no planned match-fixing" and that "Pakistan's image will not be stained over this; we are giving a lesson to others".

Asked to comment on Mr Zia's statement, the paper quoted justice Qayyum as saying: "It depends on how you look at it. He is looking from a certain angle and there can be another way of looking at it. The one thing he is right in saying is that there was no planned match-fixing by the team as a whole."

Asked whether Mr Zia's comment that there was no match-fixing and that Pakistan's image will not be stained was correct, justice Qayyum told the paper "that is not the case because there were one or two players who were involved and there are others also to be fined for certain things". (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

15 MAY 2000

Guilty SA players to be taken off records

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
& UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

JOHANNESBURG, May 13. — The South African cricket board will take match results and individual averages off the record books if its commission of inquiry finds concrete evidence of wrongdoing by players, a top board official has said.

"If it is proved conclusively that an individual has been involved in wrongdoing in local or national matches, then that match would be scratched from the record books," Mr Brian Basson, the United Cricket Board's head of playing affairs has said.

Mr Basson hoped the ICC would follow suit by deleting performances in international games if players were found guilty of corrupt practices.

The South African commission of inquiry has already begun preliminary investiga-

BCCI meeting on 20 May

MUMBAI, May 13. — The former BCCI chief, Mr PM Rungta, today said the board will hold an extraordinary general body meeting in Delhi on 20 May to discuss the match-fixing allegations. The working committee will meet a day before. — PTI

■ Another report on page 14

tions and is collecting information ahead of starting its paper work. Mr John Bacon of the justice department, secretary to the commission headed by Mr Edwin King, a retired judge, said, "We will start our public hearings as soon as the logistics are put into place". The panel would hold its hearings at its offices in Cape Town, he added.

In India, a Delhi court today extended the judicial custody of Kishan Kumar, accused

in a Fera case, till 22 May. The actor is among those accused in the match-fixing case. The Additional Metropolitan Magistrate issued warrants against Rajesh Kalra, a co-accused.

Kalra was taken to the Patiala House police lock-up this morning from where he was shifted to RM Lohia Hospital after he complained of chest pain. His bail application will come up for hearing on 15 May.

ED special counsel said the agency had identified more people who conspired with Kishan and sent money abroad through hawala. He opposed Kishan's bail plea.

The CBI today appealed to the people, media and sports bodies for any information they might have on involvement of Indian cricketers or anybody else in match-fixing, betting and other malpractices, adds SNS. The information should be given either to its website or the superintendents of police in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai.

THE STATESMAN

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