

Chucking left to countries concerned

LONDON, Aug 26 (Reuters): The International Cricket Council (ICC) has left it to individual countries to ensure that players with suspect actions correct them before they are picked for representative matches.

The ICC Advisory Panel on Illegal Deliveries concluded a two-day meeting on Wednesday during which they thoroughly examined Law 24 and made recommendations aimed at making it easier for umpires to recognise throwing.

ICC chief executive Dave Richardson said the meeting recommended changes focussing mainly on "defining what is a fair delivery rather than what is an unfair delivery."

"There was agreement that all countries had responsibility to ensure that a player with a doubtful action was identified in domestic cricket and corrective action taken before that player was selected to represent his country," Richardson said.

The panel was chaired by Sir Clyde Walcott and included Bob Simpson of Australia, Doug Insole and Nigel Plewis of England, Kapil Dev of India, John Reid of New Zealand, Javed Burki of Pakistan, Brian Basson of South Africa, Ranjan Madugalle of Sri Lanka, Michael Holding of West Indies and Andy Pycroft of Zimbabwe.

Umpires Srinivas Venkataraghavan and Steve Bucknor also attended.

Sohail, Latif

From page 13

frontation with former chief executive Majid Khan during the semi-final of the National One-day Championship in Lahore.

TEAM PROBABLES

Moin Khan, Saad Anwar, Wahajathullah Wasti, Shahid Afridi, Abdur Razzak, Yousuf Youhana, Inzamamul Haq, Waqar Younis, Azhar Mahmood, Shoaib Akhtar, Mushtaq Ahmad, Saqlain Mushtaq (all 1999 World Cup team members), Aamir Sohail, Rashid Latif, Hamid Niaz, Arshad Khan, Hasan Raza, Imran Nazir, Akhtar Sarfaraz, Mohammad Wasim, Mohammad Akram, Naved Qureshi, Yasir Arafat and Shahbaz Ahmad.

Lemerre goes for experience

PARIS, Aug 26: French coach Roger Lemerre on Thursday recalled his big guns for crucial Euro 2000 qualifying matches against Ukraine and Armenia next month.

Lemerre named a squad of 21 players - including the recalled Zinedine Zidane, Youri Djorkaeff, Nicolas Anelka, Christian Karembeu and goalkeeper Stephane Porato - for the matches against Ukraine on September 4 in Kiev and Armenia on September 8 in Yerevan.

Juventus midfielder Zidane, the key playmaker for the world champions, was called up for the first time since February after undergoing knee surgery.

Djorkaeff and Karembeu also missed the friendly against Northern Ireland in Belfast earlier this month.

Real Madrid striker Anelka and Marseille goalkeeper Porato were called up ahead of midfielders Johan Micoud and Frederic Dehu.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Fabien Barthez (Monaco), Ulrich Rame (Bordeaux), Stephane Porato (Marseille)

Defenders: Laurent Blanc (Inter Milan/Ita), Lilian Thuram (Parma/Ita), Marcel Desailly (Chelsea/Eng), Frank Leboeuf (Chelsea/Eng), Vincent Candela (AS Roma/Ita), Bixente Lizarazu (Bayern Munich/Ger)

Midfielders: Alain Boghossian (Parma/Ita), Didier Deschamps (Chelsea/Eng), Christian Karembeu (Real Madrid/Spa), Patrick Vieira (Arsenal/Eng), Youri Djorkaeff (Kaiserslautern/Ger), Zinedine Zidane (Juventus Turin/Ita)

Forwards: Lilian Laslandes (Bordeaux), Sylvain Wittord (Bordeaux), Robert Pires (Marseille), Laurent Robert (Paris St Germain), Tony Vairelles (Lyon), Nicolas Anelka (Real Madrid/Spa)

Mind your language!

MILAN, Aug 26 (AFP) - Italy's Football League is having to arrange Italian lessons to cope with the tidal wave of foreign players arriving in the Serie A and B with no knowledge of the language of Dante.

League chief Franco Carraro has written to all the clubs in Italy, asking them to contact Perugia University, where courses for tongue-tied footballers have been arranged at its renowned language school.

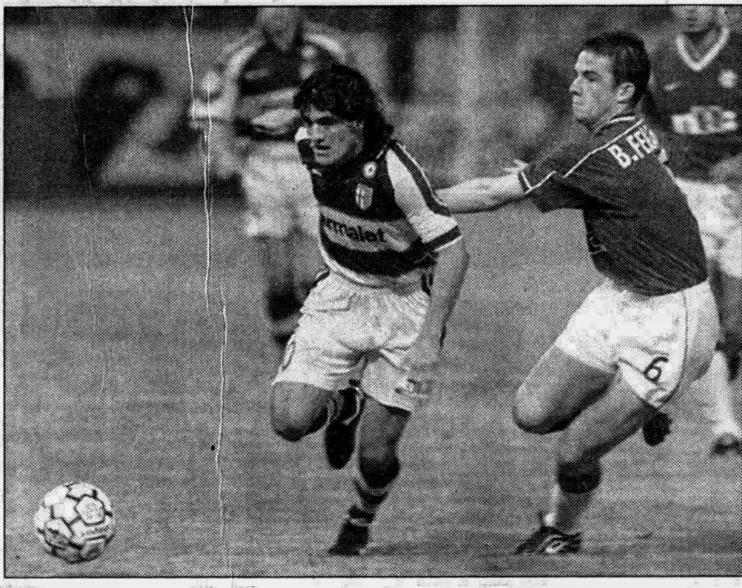
All teams are expected to sign up for the initiative, however.

Wealthier clubs like AC Milan have provided a personal language teacher and interpreter for their new Ukrainian signing Andriy Shevchenko, who has joined them without having a word of Italian.

Clubs without such deep pockets are being urged by the League to help themselves and their players settle into footballing life in Italy.

The language barrier has soared in recent years, particularly since the Bosman ruling in 1995 brought down the European barriers to foreign players.

Five years ago, there were only 63 foreigners in Italy, the Gazzetta dello Sport reported. By last season, the figure had shot up to 223 and the number of the threshold of 250 is expected to be breached when the transfer market closes on September 30.



Parma's Argentine playmaker Ariel Ortega (L) is under pressure from Glasgow Rangers' Ferguson during their clash in Parma on August 25. —AFP photo

Rangers pass the Parma test

PARIS, Aug 26: Glasgow Rangers left years of underachievement in European football behind them Wednesday when they knocked Italy's Parma out of the Champions League in their third qualifying round return, reports AFP.

The Italians won their second leg 1-0 but crashed out 2-1 on aggregate having lost 2-0 in Glasgow two weeks ago to send the Gers through the lucrative group stages of the tournament.

Parma, last season's UEFA Cup winners - they knocked Rangers out on the way to that triumph - hammered away at the Scottish champions' defences throughout and Rangers survived a torrid onslaught.

But the hosts' only reward came in the 68th minute when the Scots' French international keeper Lionel Charbonnier blundered, allowing a freekick from Johan Walem to squeeze under his body and into the net.

Rangers' Australian forward Tony Vidmar had gone close at the other end on the hour when he hit the bar as the home fans at the Ennio Tardini Stadium held their collective breath, knowing an away goal would finish them off.

In the ever-tight time and luck rans out on Parma.

Rangers boss Dick Advocaat saluted his side.

"It is great news for us and for Scottish football," said Advocaat.

"We knew what we had to do to get a result and I am delighted we managed to achieve it."

Another upset saw Slovenian side Maribor take the scalp of French big-spenders Lyon as a 2-0 home win finished off a 3-0 aggregate triumph at their Ljudski vrt Stadium.

Ante Simundza put Maribor, who ousted Belgium's Genk in the previous round, ahead on 24 minutes, cutting through the inside left channel before checking back and propelling a right-foot drive into the net from outside the box.

Stipe Balajic then netted a superb second seconds before the break, his superb 25-metre chip sailing in off the underside of the bar.

Maribor coach Bojdan Prsnikar welcomed back attacking midfielder Amir Karic from suspension and defender Geri Cipli, recovered from injury.

Lyon spent some 30 million dollars in the close season on Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson, the former Barcelona man

taking his place despite a niggling thigh injury, and France international forward Tony Vairelles.

The idea was to make an investment to ensure a money-laden Champions League campaign - but the outlay was all to no avail as Lyon slumped out.

Big names going through were Italy's Fiorentina, who progressed with a 2-0 win at Poland's Widzew Lodz to wrap up a 5-1 aggregate victory.

Enrico Chiesa bagging the first on 40 minutes and Sandro Cois with 23 minutes left.

PSV Eindhoven, European champions in 1988, beat Zimbru Chisinau of Moldova with goals in the last ten minutes from Luc Nilis and Andre Oetjer to complete a 2-0 aggregate victory for the Dutch.

Borussia Dortmund, also former winners, booked their passage with a 1-0 home win against Czech outfit FK Teplice, prevailing 2-0 on aggregate.

Last season's Champions Cup semi-finalists Dynamo Kyiv struggled, going two goals down before advancing 4-3 on aggregate following a 2-2 home draw against Denmark's Aalborg.

Maksim Shatskiikh saved the Ukrainians' skins, levelling in injury time to add to Andrii Husin's 75th-minute goal.

Anders Oper and Allan Gaarde had scored in the first half for Aalborg to set up a stirring finale.

England's Chelsea successfully defended their 3-0 first-leg lead against Skonto Riga to oust the Latvian side and secure a place in the group phase.

The London club were rarely stretched in a goalless draw in Riga as they dismissed the Latvians' weak challenge to guarantee a lucrative European season.

Chelsea coach Gianluca Vialli spoke of his pride at Chelsea joining the elite of European football as he declared: "We have some exciting times to look forward to."

Although well aware that far tougher tests await his players in the group phase, Vialli insisted that Chelsea should fear no one as they prepare to taste the Champions League formula for the first time.

Vialli declared: "We are not one of the favourites but I think we have a good chance to do well. It's a goal for the club, the players and the fans."

"It's not like the old European Cup, when you had to win the title to qualify, but this is the first chance that Chelsea have ever had to play in the competition."

Ronaldo ready to rule

MILAN, Aug 26: Ronaldo warned his rivals on Thursday that - after two years of disappointments - Inter Milan are going to become Italian champions and he will win back the Golden Ball award, reports AFP.

Inter came agonisingly close to winning the title in the Brazilian's first year here in 1997-98, while knee problems ruled him out for much of last season's disastrous campaign.

But now Ronaldo is back, alongside new strike partner Christian Vieri, and determined to help dethrone neighbours AC Milan as Italian champions.

"I really hope that this is going to be our year," he said. "You just have to look into people's faces here to realise there is this desire to win the championship."

"Inter have been trying for years and I have for the last two. This time, though, we have to do it. Without European cup

football, we'll have a lot of time to work at things, just like Milan had last season."

"We're also the team with the best reinforcements; and that's not only Vieri, but also (Christian) Panucci, (Angelo) Peruzzi and that 34-year-old youngster I used to play with at Barcelona, (Laurent) Blanc."

After four different coaches came and went last season, to no good effect, Ronaldo now has real faith in ex-Juventus boss Marcello Lippi.

"We're starting after a year full of problems, but you can already see Lippi's hand at work," he said. "There's a new mentality and a new discipline."

"We finally have a system of play, a sense of tactics, a true footballing philosophy. It hasn't shown in our results so far, but that's only because it takes time to learn and to get used to things."

"But we'll manage it. And on that basis, we can only do well. I'm sure about that."

Looking back to the torments of last year, Ronaldo claimed there was also a positive side to his battle against injury.

"Even though it was really bad, it was an experience which taught me a lot," he revealed. "I've learned, for example, to appreciate victories more and to value the times when I'm fit and well."

Although not fully match-ready yet - due to his late return from a post-Copa America holiday - Ronaldo is expected to play in Inter's season-opener this weekend at home to Verona.

"I feel good and I'm ready for Sunday," he told the Gazzetta dello Sport. "I'm paid to play, but I'm not the one who picks the team."

Vialli praised his men's professionalism in clearing the Riga hurdle.

"They played good football for 60 minutes and no one got booked."

"Skonto Riga didn't create too many chances and we had a few opportunities to score ourselves so I'm very pleased."

Spanish outfit Real Mallorca, last season's Cup Winners Cup finalists, slid out to Norway's Molde on the away goals rule after drawing their home leg 1-1 following a scoreless first encounter.

Jovan Stankovic put Mallorca ahead in the 21st minute but the roof caved in for the Spaniards when Andreas Lund levelled with six minutes remaining.

Valencia gave Spanish fans some good news by beating Hapoel Tel Aviv 2-0, as they had done in Israel. Sanchez Moreno grabbed both goals.

Croatia Zagreb thanked hot-shot Josip Simic for both goals as they secured a 2-0 win at Hungary's MTK FC Budapest for a 2-0 overall triumph while Turkey's Galatasaray beat Austria's Rapid Vienna by the only goal in Istanbul to advance 4-0 overall.

Spartak Moscow finished off a 5-1 aggregate win over Partizan Belgrade with a 3-1 away success while Germany's Hertha Berlin also booked their place with a goalless draw in Lamaca against Anorthosis Famagusta of Cyprus handing the Germans a 2-0 win on aggregate.

Sweden's AIK Solna saw off AEK Athens of Greece 1-0 for an aggregate win by the same margin, Nebosja Novakovic scoring the only goal of the tie on 58 minutes.

In other matches, Austria's Sturm Graz put out Servette Geneva from neighbouring Switzerland, a 2-2 draw handing Graz the tie 4-3.

Boavista of Portugal, well used to playing in the shadow of city rivals, had to go to extra time before finally ousting Denmark's Brondby 4-2 on the night and 5-3 on aggregate.

Ahifuh Augustine scored twice in the extra half hour and Rui Bento added another after the Danes at one stage looked like ending a dreadful run by their country's teams against Portuguese opposition - just one win now in 12 ties.

Boavista thus wrote a new page in Portuguese footballing history by breaking the Porto-Benfica-Sporting Lisbon monopoly on Champions League entry.

And the forecast is for worse ahead, with Newcastle scheduled to play European champions and league leaders Manchester United on Monday.

But it is his feud with Magpies and England skipper Shearer that is causing the most consternation among the Toon Army, Newcastle's loyal band of supporters.

The Dutch former Chelsea manager, who took over from Kenny Dalglish at St James' Park last August, is refusing to quit and has cornered Newcastle officials into choosing between himself and Shearer.

Shearer's pundits predicted terminating Gullit's contract would cost the Tyneside club millions of pounds, while selling Shearer - who recently signed a loyalty contract extension - could net the cash-strapped club millions.

But the British press was firmly behind the England international on Thursday.

The tabloid Sun newspaper preempted Gullit's termination notice with its front-page headline: "Gullit's For The Bitter." Ruud on brink after Shearer axe."

"It was another disaster the Dutchman could not afford in one of the Geordies' biggest games for years and the Toon Army roared 'Ruud out, Ruud out,'" the Sun reported.

A backstage photo in Thursday's Daily Express depicted a rain-soaked Gullit on the sideline with his arm extended and his outstretched index finger pointing. The accompanying headline read: "It's All His Fault: Gullit points the finger at axed Shearer."

A Daily Star headline said Gullit was in "Ruddy Hell", while other reports said a defiant Gullit had vowed to fight on.

Evidence of the feud became obvious when Gullit left Shearer and gave the captain's armband to midfielder Gary Speed.

Shearer was reportedly not informed until the team sheet was posted in the dressing room before the game.

Shearer, who had scored only one goal in four games and that was from the penalty spot, finally made an appearance as a substitute 18 minutes after he entered the game. Sunderland's Kevin Phillips scored a winner for a 2-1 victory.

Asked to explain his reason for dropping Shearer, Gullit said: "It's not about Alan Shearer. It's about Newcastle."

Advocaat satisfied

MILAN, Aug 26: Rangers coach Dick Advocaat believes his men have passed an important test by reaching the European Champions League at the expense of UEFA Cup holders Parma, reports AFP.

The Scottish club lost 1-0 on Wednesday night but their earlier 2-0 victory at Ibrox secured an aggregate win which guided them into Thursday's money-spinning draw for the group phase at Monte Carlo.

Advocaat admitted: "I'm very pleased to have knocked out the fourth-best team in Italy and I'm pleased with the team's performance."

"This was a very important test for us and gives us hope for the rest of the Champions League, particularly if we can make the most of our home games."

Rangers' Italian skipper Lorenzo Amoroso was delighted but also relieved.

"All those chances we missed in the first leg made me worried about this match," he said. "Against teams like Parma, you usually end up paying for your mistakes. But this time it was different."

"Even though Parma played well," he told the Gazzetta dello Sport. "Rangers did what they had to do, and deserved to go through."

Parma coach Alberto Malesani paid tribute to the winners but cursed the draw which had pitted his club against such strong opponents.

"We tried as hard as we could but the second goal just wouldn't come," he lamented. "But there's no point in getting demoralised about this match, we did win it after all, and not lose it."

"We started this season by winning the Italian Cup and I'm sure there will be a lot more things to be satisfied about by the time it ends."

But he added: "These two matches came too early for us, we're still not on top form and what's more we haven't had much luck ever since the draw ... we'll just have to try again next season."

World Cup winner Lilian Thuram, who will now be helping to defend the team's UEFA Cup trophy next season, was bitterly disappointed.

"We haven't qualified for the Champions League and that's a real shame," he said. "The team have missed an important opportunity and so have the club, who have invested so heavily for the coming season. This has been a major blunder."

Gullit in a tight squeeze

NEWCASTLE, England, Aug 26: Ruud Gullit's tenure as Newcastle coach came under renewed pressure Thursday following his decision to bench Alan Shearer for Wednesday's 2-1 loss to Sunderland at St James' Park, reports AFP.

Newcastle have not won a game since the FA Cup semi-final in April and Gullit's team has just one point - the result of a 3-3 tie with Wimbledon - and has slumped to second-from-last after five league games.

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Lankans taste success

COLOMBO, Aug 26: Sri Lanka recorded success in the tri-nation Airtel Cup tournament Wednesday with a morale-boosting seven-wicket win over India, thanks to openers Sanath Jayasuriya and Marvan Atapattu, reports AFP.

Sri Lanka had to revert back to the duo to provide the start they needed to secure victory in the one-day series.

The pair put on 83 runs off 115 balls to enable Sri Lanka to the points in a match played under lights at the R Premadasa Stadium.

Jayasuriya, who got out to a poor shot in the opening match against Australia at Galle on Sunday, played a more responsible role to score an aggressive 61 off 62 balls.

His partner Atapattu, the man-of-the-match, played the anchor role batting solidly to see the side through. He finished on 71 not out scored off 126 balls with six fours.

"It was a treat to watch Sanath from the non-striker's end," Atapattu said. "All I had to do was hold onto my side and enjoy Sanath's batting."

Indika de Saram in his second one-day game, remained unbeaten on 54 helping Atapattu add 58 in an unfinished fourth wicket stand. Sri Lanka replied with 206 for 3 off 46.4 overs. The final shot was thought to be a four but since the umpire did not signal the runs, Sri Lanka's final tally remained the same.

Earlier after Sachin Tendulkar won the toss the hosts restricted the Indians to 205 for eight with some brilliant fielding.

"They accounted for four run outs which brought their total of such dismissals to seven in two matches in the tournament - a rarity after the departure of coach Dav Whatmore two years ago."

Indian skipper Sachin Tendulkar said he expected to put on a score of 260 or 270 to win but was disappointed with his

team's batting. "I thought we needed at least 260," Tendulkar said. "I think we could have done better."

Sri Lanka found playing the Indians far more comfortable than the rugged Australians and they proved it on the field. Jayasuriya lost the toss when he had ideas of batting first if he had won it.

India were given a rollicking start by Sourav Ganguly and Sachin Tendulkar who raced away to 49 off 55 balls. Left-hander Ganguly's share in the partnership was a mere nine runs and he became the first run out victim of the day when he failed to beat Chaminda Vaas' direct throw from cover.

After Vaas claimed Rahul Dravid's wicket for 22 in his second spell, Tendulkar backing up too far was run out by Muthiah Muralitharan's direct hit from mid-off.

The Indian captain struggling to find his best form was 37 after being dropped at 24 by

hander Khuraisiya lost his concentration and pulled a ball from Uplu Chandana to De Saram at deep midwicket.

His departure for 29 saw India go into a slide as Sri Lanka piled on the pressure. India lost their next four wickets for the addition of only 13 runs.

Robin Singh started the slide when he pulled Muralitharan to Vaas at mid wicket to be out for four. Mannava Prasad and Anil Kumble were both run out, the latter through a mix up with Nikhil Chopra which saw both batsmen at the non-striker's end.

Jadeja's fine innings came to an end when the total was 173 and as he top edged a sweep from Chanda to backward square leg. He scored his runs off 85 balls and hit two fours and a six.

Chopra and Srinath took India past the 200-run mark but the target looked easily within reach for the former world champions.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Airtel Cup one-day match between India and Sri Lanka on Wednesday:

INDIA: 205 for eight wickets in 50 overs.

SRI LANKA: Jayasuriya c M Prasad b Chopra 61, Atapattu not out 71, Gunawardene c M Prasad b Chopra 7, Jayawardene b Singh 27, De Saram not out 24, Extras: (lb-7, w-5, nb-4) 16, Total: (for three wickets in 46.4 overs) 206

Fall of wickets: 1-83; 2-100; 3-148

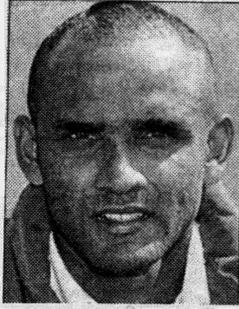
Did not bat: R Kaluwitharana, U Chandana, S Perera, C Vas, N Zoysa, M Muralitharan.

Bowler O M R W

Srinath 10 0 28 0, Prasad 10 0 35 0, Kumble 8 0 50 0, Chopra 9 2 37 2, Ganguly 6.4 0 31 0, Singh 3 0 18 1

Result: Sri Lanka beat India by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Marvan Atapattu.



ATAPATTU ... m-o-m

Jayasuriya who juggled with the edge with his injured right hand before putting it down.

Ajay Jadeja and Amay Khuraisiya steadied the innings after Tendulkar and Dravid had gone within 10 runs of each other. The pair put on 62 off 98 balls for the fourth wicket.

India were going well at 155 for 3 in the 37th over, when left-

Maddy stars with the ball

LONDON, Aug 26 (AFP): England opener Darren Maddy swapped bat for ball to great effect on Wednesday as Leicestershire fought back against Gloucestershire in the County Championship at Grace Road.

Maddy recorded a career-best three for five in just 2.4 overs as the visitors crashed to 166 all out.

Gloucester lost their last seven wickets for 34 runs in 10 overs to toss away the initiative they had gained on Tuesday.

They had bowled the home side out for 214 and looked in good shape at 92 for two, seemingly set for a handy lead for their own.

But Leicestershire hit back and had a lead of 48 when Maddy had Ben Gannon caught at slip by Darren Stevens before torrential rain brought play to an early end.

Canterbury saw 17 dismissed for 122 runs in Northamptonshire and Kent failed to come to terms with conditions.

Following a first day washout and before the rains returned again to force