

NZC may sue ICC

CRICINFO, Christchurch

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) is threatening to sue the International Cricket Council (ICC) over its decision to withhold 2.5 million dollars in World Cup payments because of the NZC's forfeiture of its game in Kenya.

Martin Snedden, NZC's CEO, has asked the ICC to make the payment, failing which he intends to take recourse to legal action.

Snedden said that India, Sri Lanka and England are also suffering because of the claims that the Global Cricket Corporation (GCC), which represents the World Cup sponsors, has put forth. According to Snedden, the legal process begun by this could take up to a year to get resolved.

Lankans face TV blackout!

REUTERS, Colombo

Cricket-mad Sri Lanka fans face a TV and radio blackout during the Test series against West Indies following a slump in advertiser interest.

The three main TV stations have all turned down the chance to broadcast the two-Test series which starts on Friday.

"The team's performance has dropped and advertisers are not interested any more," said Upali Arambewela, a director-general of Rupavahini, the main cricket broadcaster.

Samba time

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Schafer suffered a setback at the weekend when Marseille defender Salomon Olembe pulled a hamstring and was unable to play in Cameroon's 6-2 friendly win over Kuwait.

After that early flight home from Asia Schafer has shaken up the squad, bringing in plenty of new players including striker Mouhammadou Idrissou of German first division side Hannover 96.

Hafeez Pakistan

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Clarke b Malik	0			
Read c Nazir b Malik	5			
Giles run out	3			
Gough not out	14			
Anderson not out	6			
Extras (lb-6, w-6, nb-5)	17			
Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs)	204			
Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-64, 3-96, 4-106, 5-152, 6-152, 7-164, 8-169, 9-194				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Azhar	7	0	24	0
Sami	10	2	52	1
Hafeez	10	0	41	1
Gul	7	0	33	2
Razzaq	6	0	22	1
Malik	10	2	26	3

PAKISTAN	
Nazir c Solanki b Clarke	33
Hafeez c Clarke b Anderson	69
Hameed c McGrath b Giles	23
Youhana run out	8
Younis b Anderson	0
Malik c Clarke b Gough	24
Mahmood c Troughton b Gough	16
Latiflbw b Anderson	1
Razzaq not out	12
Sami not out	7
Extras: (lb-9, w-6)	15
Total: (For 6 wkts in 49.2 overs)	208
Fall of wickets: 1-60, 2-116, 3-	
139, 4-139, 5-158, 6-181, 7-188, 8-	
194	

Result: Pakistan won by 2 wickets

Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Hafeez (Pakistan)
Next match: The Oval (Friday)
Umpires: Darrell Hair (AUS), David Shepherd (ENG)
Third umpire: Peter Willey (ENG)
Match referee: Gundappa Viswanath (IND)

Pitch invaders irk ECB



AFP, Manchester

English cricket chiefs are to ask the British government for new legislation to help them deal with pitch invasions after hundreds of Pakistan fans ran on to the field at Old Trafford here on Tuesday night.

At the finish of the opening one-day international, a tense day-night match where Pakistan beat England by two wickets with four balls to spare, players and officials were engulfed by jubilant Pakistan fans who overwhelmed the stewards appointed to keep them behind the boundary.

The scene was reminiscent of Pakistan's last one-day series in England, in 2001, when their fans staged pitch invasions at Edgbaston

and Headingley, where a steward was assaulted, while Australia captain Steve Waugh led his team off the field at Trent Bridge when a match was interrupted.

Back then the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) asked the government for legislation to deal specifically with the problem of pitch invasions at cricket matches, saying loopholes in the existing law meant they could not tackle the problem effectively.

Following Tuesday's incident they plan to renew their calls for government action.

"We'll be looking at the legal situation with the Home Office in the very near future," said David Clarke, the ECB's corporate communications and events manager.

"Two years ago they told us to use the legislation which covered aggravated trespass, which they believed would do the job, but there

is clearly confusion with every police authority we work with.

"There is also confusion among the Crown Prosecution Service as to whether that legislation is appropriate - it's clear from the experience we've had so far that it's not appropriate."

However, he added: "We've not had any problems for two years, we've successfully changed the culture and people have stayed in their seats and stayed off the outfield until last night."

"This was a real test for cricket to see how far it had come in two years and it's a huge disappointment that we haven't been successful here in enabling the game to finish in an orderly way with the players and match officials leaving the field in a safe and secure manner."

Div II h'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Orient Sporting Club recorded a 30-23 win over Old Bandura Nabin Setu Sangha in the Leo Pump Second Division Handball League that began at a court adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 15-10.

Asadul scored highest eight goals for the winners while Rafique added seven.

On the other hand, Didar scored ten goals for the losers.

Earlier, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the eight team league as the chief guest of the opening ceremony.

Hooper staying at Lancashire

CRICINFO, London

Former West Indian captain Carl Hooper has agreed to play for Lancashire for the remainder of the 2003 season.

Hooper, 36, had originally been brought in as short-term cover for Harbhajan Singh, but when Singh failed to recover from a finger injury, Hooper was the obvious replacement.

"I'm delighted that Mike Watkinson asked me to stay," said Hooper.

"I've really enjoyed my time here with Lancashire and it's a bonus to be able to work with the team over what should be a very exciting season."

Hooper has yet to hit top form with the bat this season, with a Championship best score of 74, but in Harbhajan's absence, his off-spinners have proved effective. He took five for 52 in Lancashire's ten-wicket victory against Leicestershire at Liverpool.

Mike Watkinson, Lancashire's cricket manager welcomed Hooper's continued presence at Old Trafford: "Carl's been a valuable addition to the squad and even though we were looking forward to Harbhajan arriving, Carl has filled the position admirably and under the circumstances, I'm glad that he's decided to stay with us."

'Wish I had caught em'



CRICINFO, London

Malcolm Gray, the outgoing president of the International Cricket Council, has said that he wishes more culprits had been caught in the match-fixing controversy. In an interview to The Melbourne Age, he implied that some of the cricket boards were too keen to protect their national sporting heroes.

"One of the disappointments is that we didn't get more scalps," said Gray, "but it's probably understandable because we and the anti-corruption unit don't have any legislative power. We cannot march into somebody's house and carry out a search or we cannot arrest people so we can only do it by investigation and by persuasion."

"The other reason," he continued, "is that there is a tendency to want to protect the sporting hero, and that's [something] the fans, the public and I think some of the authorities tend to [do] as well."

Gray, who has just handed over charge of the ICC to Pakistan's representative, Ehsan Mani, said that it was time to "draw a line in the sand" and move on. He did not think any more culprits would be uncovered.

Gray has also admitted that the contracts controversy was laced with evils like "greed and parochialism", according to a report from India Abroad News Service.

Gray, who will hand over stewardship of the ICC to Pakistan's Ehsan Mani on Thursday, spoke at length about issues that have strained relationships between

players, national cricket boards and the ICC. The interview quotes Gray as saying: "The contracts issue was a problem that was entwined with greed, bad management, lack of communication, nationalism and parochialism."

Further, he admitted that the ICC could have handled the imbrogio more sensitively. "We at ICC should have realised that the communication between the players and the boards was lacking in many parts of the world. Maybe we could have done more to ensure the players were properly informed and their views taken into account."

Gray's statements come in the wake of a claim of 50 million dollars by the Global Cricket Corporation (GCC), who earlier entered into a 550 million dollars, seven-year sponsorship deal with the ICC. The deal assured the GCC of anti ambush-marketing measures, some of which could not be fulfilled in the course of the World Cup.

Shortly before the ICC Champions Trophy and the World Cup, uneasy compromises were reached and the tournaments got under way. It is these compromises that have given rise to circumstances in which the GCC can stake its claim for 50 million pounds from the ICC.

Gray appreciated the gravity of the situation, but remained optimistic that a solution would be reached. "It is a complex issue and the claims that have emanated will take time to find solutions. However, if they are approached with a sense of reasonability by all parties, an answer could be arrived at in a relatively short time."

Sisters under pressure



REUTERS, London

Serena and Venus Williams have ruled the roost at Wimbledon over the last three years and completely dominated the Grand Slam circuit in the 12 months preceding this year's French Open.

But Justine Henin-Hardenne's victory over Serena in the semifinals at Roland Garros two weeks ago brought an end to the world number one's string of four consecutive Grand Slam titles -- all of which involved beating Venus in the finals.

Henin-Hardenne's win over Kim Clijsters in the Paris final also forced Venus Williams, winner of four Grand Slam titles, out of the top three for the first time in 18 months as the Belgian moved up to third in the rankings.

What happens at next week's Wimbledon could determine whether the American sisters' reign really has begun its demise or whether what happened at Roland Garros was nothing but a brief aberration.

Serena will be fired up to retain her Wimbledon crown and reassert her authority over the pretenders and would undoubtedly relish a return grudge match with Henin-Hardenne whom she could meet in

the semi-finals.

The 21-year-old Serena was distraught after her 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 Roland Garros defeat, which was fought out in front of a tough partisan crowd who booed her throughout.

Serena had looked to have the match in her grasp at 4-2 and 30-0 in the third set when the umpire refused her the right to replay her first serve after the Belgian had raised her arm.

Serena was angry that Henin-Hardenne declined to intervene and the tearful American later added to the controversy by accusing her opponent of "lying and fabricating".

The highly-competitive Serena is not one to let the events in Paris affect her future performances, however.

"It was a fight, that's all," she said after the defeat. "I am going to have to learn how to win. Got to keep smiling...I think if you keep smiling things work out."

Speaking about the match on returning to the United States, she said: "In a way there are things that you never forget. But there are things that you should forget."

"But it is hard, of course it is. I just try to think positive and tell myself I have got to get over that," she was quoted as saying.

Real bag Becks

FROM PAGE 13

world-class players."

Beckham, who was also being chased by Barcelona, added: "I would like to thank other clubs who were interested in signing me including Barcelona and I wish them every success in the future."

"But I really want to play in the Champions League."

Beckham also made a point of thanking Sir Alex Ferguson, his manager at Manchester United.

"I would like to publicly thank Sir Alex Ferguson for making me the player I am today," he said.

"I will always hold precious memories of my time at Manchester United and Old Trafford as well as the players, who I regard as part of my family, and the brilliant fans who have given me so much support over the years and continue to do so."

Ferguson paid tribute to Beckham.

"I've known David since he was 11 years of age, and it's been a pleasure to see him grow and develop into the player he has become," he said.

"David has been an integral part of all the successes that Manchester United have achieved in the last decade."

"I would like to wish him and his

family every success in the future, and thank him for his service to the club."

Real Sports director Jorge Valdano said he was "extremely pleased with David's arrival".

He told the club's official website: "It is a strategic signing that will contribute to the club and the team becoming more competitive."

Real Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque added: "The acquisition of Beckham is in keeping with the philosophy of our president Florentino Perez since he arrived here."

"He's a football icon and a great player. He's a player that is not limited to one particular part of the field. He's a midfielder that can play in different positions."

In the last three years Real have held a virtual monopoly on buying the world's best players.

Zidane, Figo and Ronaldo, all winners of the World Player of the Year award, were bought a combined transfer total of more than 191 million euros.

Zidane is the most expensive player in the world. He cost Real 75 million euros when they signed him from Juventus of Italy in 2001. Figo cost them 62 million euros from Barcelona in 2000.



PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurates the Leo Pump Second Division Handball League yesterday.

Zim smile on Carlisle ton

AFP, Taunton

Stuart Carlisle's third century of the Zimbabweans tour inspired them to a thrilling three run victory over Somerset here on Tuesday.

He hit 119 off 121 balls in the tourists 285-9 off their 50 overs, though the English county benefited from more weak bowling to make a real fight of it.

Somerset's veteran batsman Peter Bowler and Keith Dutch both made 93 to keep Somerset in the game.

Carlisle followed up first-class centuries against Worcestershire and Middlesex as the tourists posted a healthy total.

Zimbabwe made a dreadful start to their innings as Simon Francis removed both openers in an excellent new ball spell but Grant Flower (29) helped Carlisle add 50 to steady the innings.

Carlisle's main help though came from Stuart Matsikenyeri, who hit a valiant 66 off 62 balls as they put on 134 for the fifth wicket.

Injured Krajicek skips Wimbledon

REUTERS, Den Bosch

Former champion Richard Krajicek pulled out of this year's Wimbledon because of his longstanding elbow injury, his coach Rohan Goetzke said on Tuesday.

After being beaten by Olivier Mutis in the first round of the Ordina Open, Dutchman Krajicek said he was looking forward to another attempt at the title, but then changed his mind and withdrew from the championships.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	40 Trinity member	DOWN	1 Not fully dry	11 Soprano Lily
1 Frisbee venue	42 Custardy fruits	2 Nastase of tennis	3 Undo a need	19 Mantra dry
8 Break unexpectedly	45 Pod members	3 Undo a need	4 "Cannon" star	21 Terhune dog
12 Palo Alto, CA	49 Saxophonist's need	5 Eubanks contestant	6 In the style of	24 "Cheers" setting
13 Inventor Whitney	50 Sea-goer's assent	7 Uncate-gorized (Abbr.)	8 Take a siesta	25 Self-regard
14 Nautilus captain	52 Rover's pal	9 Western Hemisphere bird	10 "I second that!"	26 "1984" language
15 Carriage	53 Exam format	47 Paradise rival		
16 Existed	54 Shad supply			
17 Actor Wilson	55 Summer-time desserts			
18 Bentley fuel	56 Sluggish			
20 Emmett Kelly's emulators	57 Diving bird			
22 "Little Women" woman	58 Lawless character			
23 Nitrogen (Pref.)				
24 Curve				
27 Nomad				
32 Census statistic				
33 Summer on the Seine				
34 Meadow				
35 Big ruckus				
38 Lazily				
39 Mediterranean or Baltic				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16			17		
18				19			20	21		
			22				23			
24	25	26			27	28	29		30	31
32					33				34	
35			36	37					38	
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42	43				44		45		46	47
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49									55	
53					54					
					57				58	

CRYPTOQUIP

PR ALK J L K I Z N V L U D N Z P C I

RO LU B Q C P I Z N, X L A L K

OD S Q L C N Z D O D ' X J D B

V P O S Z B O I D ?

Yesterday's Cryptquip: MY CLOTHES ARE FULL OF STATIC CLING. I GUESS THAT MEANS I AM VERY ATTRACTIVE.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: O equals R

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Solution time: 28 mins.

C	R	A	B	F	A	N	M	E	S	H
H	O	B	O	E	G	O	A	L	O	E
E	L	E	G	I	Z	E	D	O	E	L
M	E	T	A	L	S	H	A	V	E	R
P	I	E	T	S	A	L	C	H	E	E
O	W	L	T	A	B	L	E	O	A	R
W	E	E	O	P	U	S	T	R	U	E
P	H	Y	S	O	P	H				
A	G	H	A	S	T	I	R	I	S	H
L	O	A	D	I	S	E				
O	N	T	O	N	O	W	S	T	O	A
O	N	T	O	D	O	U	E	H	O	W