

ICC orders

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Speed said in a statement.
"ICC has revisited this policy recently and confirmed that it is one of the requirements for international cricket," he said.

India's largest listed media firm, Zee telefilms, was this month conditionally awarded the rights for four years worth a massive \$308 million. Its main rival, ESPN-Star Sports, is contesting the award, however, mainly on grounds of eligibility.

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday directed the board not to award the rights to any third party until the dispute is settled.

Experts said the Indian board could still produce TV pictures for the third umpire if the dispute remains unresolved and the series is not aired for the public.

Meanwhile, Cricket Australia said it is powerless to intervene in the wrangle over television rights.

Cricket Australia has taken its concerns to the International Cricket Council (ICC), which can penalise cricket boards for failing to uphold their tour commitments under the ICC's future tours programme.

But aside from Cricket Australia chairman Bob Merriman pressing BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya for updates, there is little Australia can do other than wait for the matter to be resolved in the courtroom.

"It's a complex situation in India and it's a matter for them to sort out," Cricket Australia spokesman Peter Young said here on Friday.

"All we can do at this stage is assume the tour will go ahead in its present format unless we hear something else, and all we can do is be a very, very interested onlooker."

Complete package

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captain's faith by taking the first three wickets.

"He is one of the all-time great fast bowlers to have ever played and coming into this game I knew he would not let us down," said Ponting.

"He went for a few runs in his first few overs but once he got the first wicket he was right back on top. It was a confidence thing for him and the first three wickets were a big part of our win."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the ICC Champions Trophy Pool A match between Australia and New Zealand at The Oval in London on Thursday:

NEW ZEALAND: 198 for 9 in 50 overs.

AUSTRALIA

Glyden c Cairns b Harris	47			
Chilchrist b Oram	4			
Ponting b Styris	14			
Martyn not out	60			
Symonds not out	71			
Extras: (lb-1, w-1, nb-1)	3			
Total: (For 3 wkts in 37.2 overs)199				
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-49, 3-99.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Oram	9	2	34	1
Mills	5.2	0	34	0
Vettori	10	0	52	0
Styris	2	0	9	1
Cairns	3	0	17	0
Harris	7	1	36	1
McMillan	1	0	16	0

Did not bat: Darren Lehmann, Michael Clarke, Shane Watson, Michael Kasprowicz, Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath

Result: Australia won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Andrew Symonds.

Toss: Australia

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (WIS), Rudi Koertzen (RSA)

TV Umpire: David Shepherd (ENG)

Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (SRI)

Taibu backs his mates



REUTERS, Karachi

Zimbabwe captain Tatenda Taibu gives his inexperienced team an even chance of winning the triangular one-day tournament against Sri Lanka and hosts Pakistan in two weeks' time.

"I am a positive guy and I give my young team a 50-50 chance of winning," he told a news conference in Lahore on Friday after Zimbabwe arrived for a month-long tour.

The 15-strong Zimbabwe squad, who have just lost to England and Sri Lanka in the Champions Trophy in England, will play a seven-match one-day series starting from September 30.

"This is a young side made up of under-18 and under-19 players and they know at this level they have to learn quickly," Taibu said.

"We took a lot of heart and positives from our performance against Sri Lanka in England and we are confident of improving and moving forward here."

The 21-year-old has been leading the depleted side after 14 leading white players led by Heath Streak rebelled against the Zimbabwe cricket union earlier this year.

The decision led to Zimbabwe losing 12 one-dayers and also forced the International Cricket Council (ICC) to suspend their test status for the year.

The ICC has scheduled a hearing later this month to hear out the charges of racism made by former captain Streak against the ZCU.

Zimbabwe coach former West Indian player Phil Simmons said the

players were aware that age was on their side.

"It has not been easy for them in the last few months," he said.

"And this is going to be a tough series for them against two very good one-day sides. We just have to guard against getting rolled over by the opposition."

SQUAD

Tatenda Taibu (captain), Brendon Taylor, Vusumuzi Sibanda, Dion

Ebrahim, Mark Vermeulen, Stuart Matsikenyeri, Alestar Maregwede, Mluleki Nkala, Elton Chigumbura, Edward Rainsford, Tawanda Mupariwa, Prosper Utseya, Douglas Hondo, Tinashwe Panyangara and Alexander Graeme Cremer who will join the team Friday.

Phil Simmons, who played 26 Tests and 143 one-day international, is team's coach.



PHOTO: AFP
Zimbabwe cricket captain Tatenda Taibu (R) and coach Phil Simmons address a press conference in Lahore yesterday.

Door open for Lee



AFP, London

Australian captain Ricky Ponting has left the door open for fast bowler Brett Lee to return to the side for next week's ICC Champions Trophy semifinal.

Lee was dropped in favour of Shane Watson as the Australians overwhelmed New Zealand by seven wickets here at The Oval on Thursday and although Watson did not take a wicket the other quick bowlers shone.

Michael Kasprowicz took 3-32, Glenn McGrath 3-39 and Jason Gillespie 1-46 to do the lions' share of the damage and Lee could be hard-pressed to regain his place against the winners of the England-Sri Lanka clash which is played on Friday.

The Australians had considered playing just three pace men against New Zealand and if they adopt that policy next week Lee will almost certainly be surplus to requirements.

"It is going to make it tough for Brett Lee but I am not ruling him out of the semifinal," said Ponting.

"We are going to pick a team suited to the conditions and the opposition and if we play Sri Lanka in the semi then Brett has a very

good record against them.

"They don't like his pace and bounce so I have not ruled him out.

"Michael Kasprowicz has improved as a bowler over the last two or three years and has learnt a lot about himself and his bowling. He averages about ten with the ball in one-day cricket this year and that's pretty impressive."

Ponting also sounded an ominous warning that his side have yet to reach their full potential in this tournament, the only major title to have eluded his world champion side.

"We are not really on a roll because we haven't played that many games. We have got a couple of days off to rest now and if we keep playing like we did against New Zealand we will be right in every game we play."

Balaji out

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anything else, Balaji has to focus on the rehab programme. As for the pain, Dr Bradshaw believes it's going to go away one morning. That Balaji will wake up without discomfort."

Balaji is scheduled to return home and will leave Birmingham for London on Friday morning. Balaji admitted that it was a setback and added, "But it's not the end of my career. I reckon things are going to be better once the pain goes. I'll be back, that's for sure."

Ranatunga

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the commitment of the young players of Bangladesh having followed them in the Asia Cup and ICC Champions Trophy.

"There are some good young players but they hardly take any responsibility and appreciate the fact that they are playing for their country. Sometimes you have to be prepared to give your life for your motherland," said Ranatunga.

Ranatunga was confident that with the right people in the right places, Bangladesh could make an impression.

"Bangladesh can show their real strength sooner rather than later but you need some people with real vision to guide them. You have natural talent and you should allow that talent to flourish."

Ranatunga, who knows more about Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore than most people because of the Australian's long association with Sri Lanka, said that a coach alone can never achieve anything.

"Ultimately, it is the players' responsibility to perform in the middle. You can achieve anything if you have a good team work between the cricket board, the manager, the coach and the captain."

Trophy Treats

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Bangladeshi friends who are just mad for this game, especially when their country or India and Pakistan are playing," said the African.

"Soccer is the real sport. You are a poor country like us. Don't waste your time watching cricket matches," was the suggestion of Mohammed.

TIME TO FORGET FRIENDSHIP

The South Asian community here is gripped with excitement with traditional India and Pakistan clashing on Sunday although many have been left disappointed as they could not manage a ticket to the game.

"This is very frustrating. All tickets have been sold out but we are still eagerly waiting to watch the match on television," said Lahore-born Asif, a salesman at a grocery shop.

His Indian friend Aravindha meanwhile was celebrating a lucky ticket.

"Usually Indians and Pakistanis enjoy good relationship in England except on August 14 and 15 and when they clash on the cricket field," said Aravindha.

Transfer date

FROM PAGE 13
tournament committee to finalise the date and venue of the eight-team final round as soon as possible.

Besides it was informed that Dhaka Premier League and National Football League champions Brothers Union will take part in India's prestigious Bardoli Trophy in Assam starting from October 1.

Also if Muktiyoddha Sangsad do not want to play in the ANFA Cup due to start on October 6, Abahani will avail the invitation from Nepal. There is another invitation from Bhutan but so far, no clubs have shown their interest to take part in the King's Cup from September 26.

Pekerman takes over Argentina

AFP, Buenos Aires

Jose Pekerman is to be the new coach of Argentina, the country's football association (AFA) president Julio Grondona announced on Thursday.

Pekerman, 55, takes over from Marcelo Bielsa who resigned on Tuesday.

"I am very flattered that they thought of me," said Pekerman who is a widely respected coach here having led Argentina to the world youth titles in 1997, 1999 and 2001.

"We are at the halfway stage of the World Cup qualifying campaign and there is a lot of work to do."

Argentina are second in the South American qualifying competition for the 2006 World Cup in Germany, a point behind Brazil.

Pekerman's first matches in charge will be the qualifiers on October 9 and 11 against Uruguay and Chile respectively.

Pekerman was offered the job of coach after Carlos Bianchi turned it down on Wednesday.

The vacancy arose when Bielsa surprisingly announced his resignation on Tuesday, just over two weeks after guiding the Argentines to their first ever Olympic title.

Bianchi, who resigned from his post as Boca Juniors handler in July citing family reasons, has never enjoyed close relations to the all-powerful Grondona.

PREVIEW: Primera Liga

Real's week to repair image



AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid look to bounce back from their midweek Champions League humiliation at the hands of Bayer Leverkusen with three vital La Liga points at Espanyol on Saturday.

The German side richly deserved their 3-0 win, but Real have now flattered to deceive for two seasons since lifting their ninth European Cup in 2002.

Despite the arrival of yet more top-drawer talent in the shape of Michael Owen, Walter Samuel and Jonathan Woodgate, the meringues melted in the heat of battle in Leverkusen but in truth they turned in their fourth straight below-par performance.

In the league to date they have a maximum six points but the single-goal wins against both Mallorca and Numancia were hardly achieved in entertaining fashion and in between came a prestige friendly loss at the Bernabeu to Mexico's Pumas.

Right on cue, the Spanish media have turned both barrels on Jose Antonio Camacho's low-flying galacticos.

"Camacho's team came away scarred and gravely ill from Leverkusen," blasted Marca sports daily on Thursday, while AS magazine said the players had "lost their credibility."

That Real are in the Champions League - their holy grail - at all is only down to the expanded tournament format of recent years which allowed them to scrape in despite a



PHOTO: AFP
NEW MAN IN CHARGE: The President of Argentina's football association (AFA), Julio Grondona (L) shakes hands with Jose Pekerman after introducing the 55-year-old as the new coach of Argentina in Buenos Aires on September 16.

pitiful fourth-place finish in La Liga.

Now the cracks are beginning to appear once more under Camacho, who replaced the sacked Carlos Quieroz in the summer.

"We lack the necessary humility," was Camacho's verdict after Wednesday's debacle - but Brazilian wingback Roberto Carlos, speaking to Onda Cero radio, was quick to retort: "Did he include himself?"

According to the Brazilian, who has won three Champions League titles with Real, "we need a little less humility and a bit more attitude. Then I am sure Real will win trophies and play much better."

Camacho said he would take "full responsibility for the defeat, adding that "clearly I did not manage to send my players out with the right attitude."

Marca damned the entire starting eleven, save for keeper Iker Casillas, awarding zero marks in its match report from Leverkusen.

England skipper David Beckham was not spared, while compatriot Michael Owen could count himself fortunate to have been left on the bench.

Meanwhile, Real's bitter rivals Barcelona are revelling in their enemy's discomfort.

"They've got some off-field problems. There's something in the air there that's not right," asserted Barca's Brazilian defender Edmilon. "In my view it's not that Raul, Ronaldo and company have forgotten how to play."

Real will at least head the table if they see off Espanyol, who have a win and a draw to their name to date.

Atletico Madrid, Real and Barca are the only clubs have won both their league games to date but

something will have to give Sunday at the Vicente Calderon Stadium when Atletico host the Catalan club.

Diego Pablo Simeone, Atletico's Argentine midfielder, on Thursday praised Barca, fresh from a Champions League win at Celtic.

"They are maybe the playing the best football in Spain right now and have got off to a fier. It'll be an important night for us."

While Real hog the headlines for all the wrong reason another white-shirted outfit will look to go about their usual quietly efficient business.

Claudio Ranieri's Valencia, reigning champions and UEFA Cup holders, have four points on the board and though they had to settle for a draw at Bilbao last weekend they swatted Anderlecht in their Champions League opener.

Valencia host a Real Sociedad team which has drawn both of its opening games on Saturday.

Among Sunday games, newly-promoted Levante will seek to preserve their unbeaten start at Seville, Deportivo La Coruna travel to Bilbao after firing Champions League blanks at Olympiakos and rock-bottom Santander take on Villarreal.

FIXTURES
(All times GMT)
Saturday: Osasuna v Real Betis (1600), Espanyol v Real Madrid (1800), Valencia v Real Sociedad (2000)
Sunday: Numancia v Getafe (1530), Real Mallorca v Malaga (1530), Real Zaragoza v Albacete (1530), Seville v Levante (1530), Racing Santander v Villarreal (1530), Atletico Madrid v Barcelona (1730), Athletic Bilbao v Deportivo La Coruna (1930)

Loos sees Becks!

INTERNET REPORT, London

Rebecca Loos, who allegedly had an affair with David Beckham, has revealed that she recently came face-to-face with the Beckhams in Madrid when their cars pulled up next to each other in the city centre traffic.

David was with Victoria and his mother while Rebecca was with her parents.

"I saw him and then I just looked away. When I looked at him it was like he was nobody," the Heat magazine quoted Rebecca as saying.

"He's a stranger to me now. He looks very different to how I knew him. And the way he dealt with the whole thing. He's just a very different man," she added.

Rebecca went on to say that she would like to have a chat with Victoria, though she had doubts that it would ever happen.



REBECCA LOOS

"I'd love to talk to her, but she wouldn't have it. I don't think she would like to hear what I have to say anyway," she said.

In the tell all interview, Loos also said that Beckham is not the best lover in a long list of men that she has bedded.

When asked by the Heat magazine, "Was it the best sex you've ever had?" Rebecca replied, "Erm, he's not the best, but he's one of the best."

Fingers crossed in Roma

AFP, Nyon

Italian side Roma will discover on Tuesday the punishment they face for the disgraceful scenes in Wednesday's Champions League clash against Dynamo Kiev which saw the match abandoned at half-time following an attack on the referee.

UEFA said their Control and Disciplinary Body will convene on Tuesday, September 21 to instigate disciplinary proceedings after Swedish referee Anders Frisk suffered a head wound after being hit by a missile thrown from the crowd.

Moments earlier, shortly after blowing for half-time, Frisk had sent off Roma defender Philippe Mexes for an illegal challenge on Boris Verpakovskis as he went to gather the ball.

"UEFA deplores the incident that occurred at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome during the match between AS Roma and FC Dynamo Kyiv, which resulted in the abandonment of the game, after a thrown missile struck and injured referee Anders Frisk," said a statement.

"The referee suspended the game as he was not in a condition to continue and the security of the other match officials could not be guaranteed."

"We await the full details from both the referee's and the delegate's reports but it is clear that disciplinary proceedings will be instigated against AS Roma."

"The date set for the meeting of the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body to look into this incident is Tuesday 21 September."

Dynamo were leading 1-0 at half-time.

PREVIEW: Serie A

'Play out of your skin'



AFP, Rome

Lazio coach Domenico Caso has told his players they will only win the backing of their demanding supporters if they fight for the right to wear the club's sky blue shirt.

"The fans will be won over by sweat," said the 50-year-old former youth team coach ahead of Sunday's league match at home to Reggina.

"When the supporters see you battling and giving your soul, they get right behind you."

"My players must do that to get the public on their side. They must fight with the hammer and not the sword."

Caso was promoted to first-team coach in July after Roberto Mancini left to join Inter Milan.

When Caso took the reins, the Lazio board were busy dismantling the squad in order to reduce the Rome club's heavy debts.

Several star players were sold in the summer, including Dutch defender Jaap Stam, Italy internationals Bernardo Corradi and Stefano Fiore, and Argentine forward Claudio Lopez.

And now Caso wants to instill a strong team spirit in the squad to make up for a lack of quality and depth.

"All I ask is that they give 100 per cent and play for each other rather than as individuals," he said.

His players certainly did that in their first Serie A game of the season, grinding out a 1-0 victory at Sampdoria where temperamental striker Paolo Di Canio grabbed the winner from the penalty spot.

And they followed their gutsy win in Genoa by beating Metalurg Donetsk on Thursday in the first round of the UEFA Cup.

A handsome first leg victory in the Ukraine thanks to three goals in the last 17 minutes put the Romans on the brink of a place in the second round.

Lazio's neighbours Roma will be forgiven if they are not fully focused on Sunday's match away to newly-promoted Sicilian side Messina.

Coached by former Germany coach Rudi Voller, Roma will find out on Tuesday the punishment they face from UEFA for the disgraceful scenes at Wednesday's Champions League clash at home to Dynamo Kiev.

The match at the Olympic stadium was abandoned at half-time after the referee was struck by a missile thrown from the crowd.

Roma, 1-0 winners against Fiorentina last week, are expected to receive a lengthy ban from European matches and a hefty fine.

Defending Italian champions AC

FIXTURES
(All 1300 GMT kick-off unless stated)
Saturday: Lecce v Brescia (1600 GMT), Inter Milan v Palermo (1830 GMT)
Sunday: Bologna v AC Milan, Fiorentina v Cagliari, Juventus v Atalanta, Lazio v Reggina, Livorno v Chievo, Messina v Roma, Siena v Sampdoria, Udinese v Parma (1830 GMT)