

Twenty20 WC

FROM PAGE 17

"Due to this tournament Pakistan, India and Australia are all facing problems with their bilateral tours this winter." Pakistan is due to tour India from first week of November to the middle of December while India has to tour Australia after the series.

"The problem is that we have to play three Tests and five one-day internationals in India and that is finalized between both boards and the venues and dates are being discussed now," the PCB official said.

Marat spitting

FROM PAGE 20

tensis in entire life.

"He comes with the shoes that aren't even tennis shoes, and he's telling me and I'm professional and I know when it's wet and when it's not wet, and he's telling me it's not wet."

He claimed it would only have taken two or three minutes to dry out but he was forced to play on because the match was live on television.

"I'm sorry, but just two minutes doesn't make anything. So they can put on another commercial. What's the big deal?"

Roddick, who was unfazed by the commotion, said Safin was an emotional person and it was part of his game.

"I think with Marat, you know he's going to kind of go on the emotional roller coaster a little bit, but I don't know if that hurts him often," he said.

"I was just feeling like I should be even keel out there tonight. There was enough emotion in the air that I don't know if I needed to create any extra."

He said he sympathised with Safin to some extent over his concerns about the safety of the court.

"I mean, that's his right. If he doesn't feel like it's safe to play, I feel comfortable, he didn't. He's well within his rights to express that."

Sheva seeks

FROM PAGE 20

Flamini will be drafted into the midfield holding role while Gunners boss Arsene Wenger has right-back Emmanuel Eboué available again and is hopeful Dutch forward Robin van Persie will have recovered from a training ground ankle injury.

William Gallas and Freddie Ljungberg remain sidelined however while United should be at full strength for their first visit to the Emirates Stadium, where Arsenal remain unbeaten since taking up residence at their new home at the start of the season.

Viola hold

FROM PAGE 20

But Arrigoni was quickly reinstated after a plea by the squad, led by captain Cristiano Lucarelli, to give him another chance.

AC Milan, whose title challenge has been hampered by an eight-point deduction for their involvement in last year's match-fixing scandal, visit Lazio.

Milan can go level with Lazio on 26 points and improve their chances of claiming the fourth and final Champions League place if they leave the capital with three points.

Del Piero

FROM PAGE 20

Appearances for Juventus, let alone score 203 goals.

"When anyone thinks of Juve, they think of Del Piero. He is one of the few real symbols of Italian football: he is a leader and has an immensely tough character, he demonstrated that at the World Cup."

"He stayed with Juventus after they were relegated and is a shining example to the rest of the squad."

Collingwood had earlier been

Benaud to hear Gibbs plea

Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Richie Benaud will hear Herschelle Gibbs's appeal against a two Test match-ban imposed upon the South Africa batsman for "racially offensive" comments during the first Test against Pakistan, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Thursday.

The date for the appeal, which will take place via teleconference, is still to be confirmed but it is expected to be held between the second and third Tests of the ongoing series.

Gibbs is free to play in any match scheduled to start before the announcement of former Australia captain Benaud's decision and the ICC said this meant he was available for Friday's start of the second Test in Port Elizabeth.

The third Test in Cape Town is due to start on January 26.

Since his retirement as a player in the 1960s, Benaud has become known to cricket fans around the

world as one of cricket's leading broadcasters. He is also one of the longest-serving members of the Code of Conduct commission.

Benaud, as an Appeals Commissioner, has seven days to hear and determine Gibbs's case and his decision is final and binding.

Gibbs was found guilty of a Level 3 offence under the clause of the code clause which prohibits using "any language or gestures that offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin."

The charge, laid by ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed, relates to an incident that took place shortly before the lunch interval on Sunday, the fourth day of the match, when Gibbs's comments regarding Pakistan supporters were overheard through a stump microphone on the ground.

At a hearing conducted by match referee Chris Broad after the

Test, which South Africa won by seven wickets, Gibbs apologised for his remarks but pleaded not guilty to the ICC charge.

The Gibbs affair has been front-page news in South Africa where a poll in The Star newspaper found that 78 per cent of people felt Gibbs's ban was unjustified and only 22 per cent thought it was fair.

The SA Cricketers' Association has leant its full support to Gibbs.

Chief executive Tony Irish said: "It is not appropriate for us to deal publicly at this stage with the merits of the appeal before the ICC."

Conflicting reports of the incidents which led to Gibbs's remarks have been published in South African newspapers.

The three spectators who were moved from seats near the boundary after allegedly swearing at bowler Paul Harris, claim Harris swore at them.

But other spectators say the Pakistani supporters were abusive and made watching the game unpleasant for people sitting near them.

'I don't walk'

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Australia's Mike Hussey wore a sheepish smile after seeing his side to a one-day win over England in Brisbane.

England were convinced Hussey should have been given out caught behind on 19 but he survived and finished with 46 not out in a four-wicket victory.

"I don't walk, there's no question about it. I've been given out a few times when I haven't been out."

"If I do happen to get out and umpire doesn't give me, that's just the way the game goes," Hussey commented.

Australia would have been 103-6, chasing a target of 156, had Hussey been given after an undistinguished effort by the top order.

And acting captain Adam Gilchrist admitted they had been taught a valuable lesson.

"We were made to work for it which is probably going to hold us in good stead in keeping us sharp. It's not that we were getting complacent, but at the

halfway mark I don't think too many people expected it to go that way."

"It's a credit to England for not lying down, they certainly put in a great effort – but it's good for our guys, particularly in that middle order, to get put under pressure and come out with the points," he said.

"Tonight was valuable experience for all of us. At the top of the order, we made a few bad decisions in our shot selection, so we'll learn from that and hopefully take it forward into the rest of this competition and then to the World Cup."

Gilchrist said Hussey had taken up the "legacy" of Michael Bevan, who was Australia's middle-order finisher until the 2003 World Cup.

"He bases his game around Michael Bevan. He's perfected that sort of deft touch role, but he's also got the power game, so he can go in there and absorb pressure but he can also go in there with 10 overs left and start to clear the boundary," he added.

Despite the low scoring, Hussey said it had been a "pretty good wicket" which had a little bit in it for everyone.

"It always does a little bit more at

night here and there was still a good sheen on the ball even after 38 overs there at the end, so it's hard to get any consistency and fluency with your batting and it keeps the bowlers interested all the time."

"Maybe in one-day cricket you're trying to get on with it a little bit too much and both teams didn't assess the situation or the conditions as well as we should have," he added.

Gilchrist, meanwhile, offered words of encouragement to England debutant Mal Loye, who took on the Australian attack and made 36 at the start of their innings.

"Great intent, that's what you need at the top of the order in one-day cricket. He came out there and had a game plan that he knew, albeit a bit unorthodox but very aggressive," he said.

"I guess the more he gets exposed at this level, there's a challenge whether he'll show the conviction to keep going with that approach but he certainly put us on the back foot and we were glad to see the back of him."

Hussey fends off England

FROM PAGE 17

McGrath, took 10 wickets for 103 runs to bowl England out after just 42 overs.

The tourists had started promisingly with 34-year-old debutant Loye, called up from provincial cricket in New Zealand to replace injured skipper Michael Vaughan, looking at home immediately.

Loye played some audacious strokes, including a sweep for six off pace bowler Brett Lee and consecutive boundaries from the first two stumps he faced from McGrath.

But soon after he was in two minds over whether to play or leave and was caught at first slip by Hayden off the bowling of Bracken.

England skipper Andrew Flintoff said Loye had slotted into the squad with no problems.

"It was a great effort from him today (Friday) – he's come from New Zealand playing first class cricket, and not a lot of it, and he comes in against Lee, McGrath and Bracken and he plays like he's always been here," Flintoff said.

"I thought his 36 tonight was outstanding."

Following Loye's departure, England succumbed at regular intervals, with Strauss falling to a brilliant diving catch from Hodge, Joyce edging McGrath, and Collingwood falling first ball in McGrath's next over.

Collingwood had earlier been

involved in the farcical run out of Bell.

Bell chopped a ball to the gully which Cameron White parried behind him. Collingwood called Bell through but both players hesitated mid-pitch.

Bell stuttered back and forth, then both players began running towards the bowler's end before Bell stopped and turned to see White's under-arm throw trickling into the stumps.

Australia move to Sydney where they will play New Zealand on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the one-day international between Australia and England at the Gabba here on Friday:

ENGLAND

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	10	0	53	2
Bracken	9	0	24	3
McGrath	8	1	24	3
Johnson	8	1	32	0
Symonds	5	1	14	0
White	2	0	5	1

145

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156

156