

PHOTO: AP  
Valencia players celebrate with the trophy after beating Getafe 3-1 in the final to win the Copa del Rey at the Vicente Calderon Stadium in Madrid on Wednesday.

## Media boycott still on cards

CRICINFO, undated

The News Media Coalition (NMC), the body that has under its wings global news and photograph agencies Reuters, Associated Press, Agence France-Presse and Getty Images, has not ruled out a boycott of the Indian Premier League (IPL), which starts on April 18.

Although the IPL's relaxation of its terms and conditions has satisfied newspapers and broadcasters, it still bars agencies from supplying photographs to cricket websites. The NMC is unhappy over the discrimination, which prevents it from serving a section of its clientele.

"The News Media Coalition calls upon the Indian Premier League to remove remaining obstacles in the way of full editorial coverage of the tournament, starting tomorrow (on April 18)," it said in a release. "As terms of journalistic access to games still prevent photographs from games being used on cricket websites, the international news agencies are each reviewing their options for coverage including not seeking to attend at all."

The Press Trust of India, India's leading news agency, had said it would cover the event "under protest", but the NMC said the present accreditation terms are still unacceptable.

The interests of the Indian Premier League are protected by the fact that its accreditation terms limit news content generated by the news agencies to be used for editorial purposes only. It is discriminatory for the accreditation terms to prohibit international news agencies from being able to serve a specific group of users, such as cricket websites. Major international news agencies and news picture agencies including Reuters, AP, AFP and Getty have stated that they object to such discrimination and would not be able to accept the accreditation terms as long as concerns with this prohibition remain unaddressed."

## Vision Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 17  
"There was a lack of transparency and accountability on previous occasions that led to the discontinuation of the project. For long this post was run by amateurs but now we need someone who can take this project forward," said Sultan.

According to Imtiaz, the project this time will work with BFF holding events like the B.League as well as the districts to start organising tournaments, coaching and refereeing programmes.

"It is a new departure for the project here in Bangladesh. We will make sure that teams do not play only in knockout competitions but also play on a home and away basis in the district events," hoped Imtiaz.

The initial projects of the Vision Bangladesh will focus on Narayanganj and Chandpur, the latter district being Sultan's home. Asked why Chandpur was picked, the BFF chief said that other District Sports Associations were not willing to take the responsibility.

Menton, the grey-haired AFC Vision Asia director, informed: "The first phase of the project in these two districts will take a year to set in and we are taking it as a proper model which will be suitable for other districts to follow."

But Mony warned that if the districts do not perform up to standard they will be dropped.

The delegation promised of sustained development of football and have also pledged to bring money from AFC and FIFA if the project goes in the right direction.

## Valencia win Copa del Rey

### Football

AFP, Madrid

Two goals inside the first 11 minutes helped give Valencia coach Ronald Koeman a night to savour, after a miserable season in La Liga, as his men beat Getafe 3-1 in the Spanish Cup final here Wednesday.

Failure to win the Cup would almost certainly have seen Koeman depart company from the Spanish side, who have only won one of their last nine league games, perhaps even being sacked before the end of the season.

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### corner.

To add insult to injury, Alexis had moved to Valencia from Getafe last summer.

Ustari could only parry away a rasping free kick by Ruben Baraja from 25 metres out and Morientes nipped forward to head home the bouncing ball.

It was a sweet moment for Morientes who finally filled the one missing space in his trophy cabinet.

The former Spanish international striker had won every other club honour during his eight seasons with Real Madrid but his only Cup winners' medal was in England with Liverpool two seasons ago.

Getafe's miserable night was completed when midfielder Fabio Celestini was sent off in the dying seconds of regulation time, adding to the nine bookings that referee Alberto Undiano had made earlier.

It has been a cruel six days for Getafe and their coach Michael Laudrup.

Getafe are still searching for their first piece of silverware in club history after also being the beaten Cup finalists last season, when they went down 1-0 to Sevilla.

They looked to be well on their way to the UEFA Cup semifinals last Thursday only for Bayern Munich to equalise with just a minute to go to make the score 1-1 and force the game into extra-time.

The Spaniards then scored twice, despite only having 10 men, only for Luca Toni to get two goals in the last five minutes to clinch the tie for the Germans on the away goals rule.

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## An all-star cast

FROM PAGE 17

Brett Geeves -- aren't part of the national squad and there's enough Indian firepower to lead a consistent campaign. Delhi look likely to be the best fielding unit in the tournament, a fact that makes them big favourites to lift the trophy on June 1.

A fielding unit that comprises Tillakaratne Dilshan, de Villiers, Manoj Tiwary, Dinesh Karthik, Gautam Gambhir and Malick -- some of the most athletic cricketers prowling the field.

**DECCAN CHARGERS**

The team with possibly the highest power quotient, Hyderabad start as strong favourites for the competition. Andrew Symonds won't be available for the second half of the series -- Herschelle Gibbs and Shahid Afridi initial games -- but a roster of formidable overseas stars make them a big force. RP Singh, Chaminda Vaas and Nuwan Zoysa comprise a left-arm trio that can keep things tight.

Capable of big hits and intelligent nudges, Scott Styris brings an additional dimension to the side. Take into account his useful medium-pace, and you have a potential MVP for the IPL. His retirement from Tests means it will be part of the side for the entire tournament.

**RAJASTHAN ROYALS**

A tricky start for Jaipur early on, with Pakistanis, South Africans and Dimitri Mascarenhas unavailable. But Shane Warne has some good Indian talent backing him up -- Mohammad Kaif, Yusuf Pathan, Ravinda Jadeja and Munat Patel providing the fizz. With each side expected to play at least seven Indians, Jaipur looks to be in the best position to have a settled squad through the tournament.

**MUMBAI INDIANS**

The big question around the Mumbai side is who will captain in case Sachin Tendulkar misses out because of a groin strain. Shaun Pollock, Sanath Jayasuriya and Ashwell Prince have captained their sides before but Pollock preferred it if only one led for one or two

games as Mumbai look ahead to a big season. Expect fireworks from the top order: Ajinkya Rahane and Robin Uthappa following the two masters, Tendulkar and Jayasuriya.

Luke Ronchi has quickly confirmed his place as Australia's future wicketkeeper. An accomplished gloveman, Ronchi has also demanded attention with the type of clean hitting that made Gilchrist such a fearsome force. In 2006 he hammered the fastest hundred in Australian domestic one-day history. Mumbai picked him late but, as the only foreign wicketkeeper in the side, he will be expected to play every game.

**KINGS XI PUNJAB**

Battling first after winning the toss, Chandpur posted 239 for 9 in 50 overs with Elias contributing 60 runs and Rubel scoring 39.

Suman captured three wickets for 57 runs while Rubel took two for 31.

In reply, Wari Club were all out for 206 in 47.1 overs with Rajib top scoring 72 runs and Faisal making 31.

Fazlul and Jahan took two wickets each.

In the day's other match, Prime Doleswar (253-9) managed a hard-fought one-wicket win over Dhanmandi Pragati (251-10) at the City Club ground.

**DIVISION CRICKET**

Gulshan Youth Club and Bangladesh Police won their respective matches of the Third Division Cricket League yesterday. At the Dhanmandi Club ground, Police (89.3 in 10.5 overs) rattled to a seven-wicket victory over Kamrangir Sporting Club (88 all out in 23.5 overs) with Chanchal hitting 45 for the Police.

In the other match, Gulshan Youth (165-4 in 29.5 overs) beat Lalbagh Anwar Sporting Club (161-8 in 50 overs) by six wickets at the Uttara Friends Club ground.

**LOCAL SNIPS**

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## Ricky wary of Indian threat

REUTERS, Mumbai

India pose a serious threat to Australia's Test cricket supremacy, Australian captain Ricky Ponting said on Wednesday.

Australia have dominated the Test championship race, finishing top of the 12-month cycle ending on March 31 for the fourth year in succession, but Ponting said the way the new cycle pans out will depend on the younger members of his team.

"India certainly have a great team together at the moment and South Africa have played excellent cricket for a number of years in both forms of the game," he told a news conference.

"So we just have to wait and see," he said after collecting the ICC Mace, the Test championship trophy, at a function in Mumbai.

India, who lost an acrimonious recent Test series 2-1 in Australia, finished second in the Test rankings after squaring a home series with South Africa at the weekend.

"Hopefully over the next 12 months the younger guys that we bring into the (Australian) national team will stand up and perform," Ponting said.

"If they can do that and the older guys like me, Matty (Matthew) Hayden and the other guys keep pulling our weight we can hopefully remain number one."

Australia have lost top players Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath and Justin Langer, who all retired early last year, and wicket-keepers Adam Gilchrist, who quit after the series against India.

"There were a lot of question marks around the team at the start of the last Australian summer, losing the... great players that we lost," Ponting said.

"But I thought some of the younger guys who came into the side like Phil Jacques and Mitchell Johnson handled themselves really well at the international level."

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## Kapil's English desire

### Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Cricket legend Kapil Dev says he wants to add a London or Birmingham team to the rebel Indian Cricket League (ICL).

Dev heads the ICL, the breakaway rival of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

"I would love to have a London team playing in the ICL or Birmingham or another city team."

Dev, who was named India's cricketer of the century by Wisden in 2002, said he could not understand the hostility to the ICL.

The ECB had originally announced it would ban from county cricket for a season any players who competed in the ICL but has since abandoned such action.

Dev stated: "We always say anybody picked for ICL must first represent their country and come to play for us when they are free."

"We don't want to spoil any country's cricket. The aim of ICL is to give exposure to the young boys and people who have played enough cricket, like Brian Lara or Inzamamul Haq."

"If they share their time with the young upcoming guys, they can teach these young cricketers."

"That's what our aim is and if we give the spectators thrilling cricket, everyone benefits from that."

Dev says the aims of the ICL are analogous to those of county benefit matches.

caster Zee TV in 2007.

It is not recognised by the International Cricket Council, the Board of Control for Cricket in India, or any of the other Test-playing nations.

The BCCI has set