

# Sport



**Amazing Grace's Holy Grail**  
Branden Grace hits a Major low of 62 in round three of The Open Championship.  
A25

# ICC FEVER HITS TOWN

**Chelsea's new signing Morata is first to arrive ahead of team-mates, Bayern and Inter**

Nicholas De Silva

There was a brief but frenzied commotion at Changi Airport Terminal One yesterday, when Chelsea's newest signing arrived ahead of this week's International Champions Cup (ICC) Singapore tournament.

Signed from Real Madrid on Friday in London for £58 million (\$\$102.7 million), Spanish striker Alvaro Morata flew straight into Singapore to join up with his new team-mates, who arrived early this morning after beating Arsenal 3-0 in a friendly in Beijing.

A patchwork of Chelsea, Real Madrid and Spain jerseys greeted the 24-year-old when he arrived,

with about 40 fans surrounded him for autographs and wifies, as he duly but quietly obliged.

Boyhood Chelsea fan Fairuz Jeffrey was one of the lucky few who managed to get an autograph from Morata on his shirt, and the 24-year-old personal trainer said: "I can't believe my luck. We were the last to arrive but I was one of the first to get an autograph."

Morata did not speak to the media before being whisked away by his entourage after about 10 minutes, but it was evident that football fever is descending upon Singapore, at least for the next week of ICC Singapore festivities.

Organisers of the pre-season tournament must have been counting their lucky stars when two of the

three participating clubs became champions of their domestic leagues last season, which in turn stoked up interest in the event.

While Bayern Munich were heavy favourites to land the German Bundesliga title, Chelsea's English Premier League triumph was more surprising, given their poor form in the previous season.

Inter Milan complete the ICC line-up, and while they finished only seventh in the Serie A last season, the traditional Italian giants already have an established fan base in this region.

All this means is that fans of the three clubs have reasons to be in a celebratory mood as they eagerly await the matches, to be played on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

While it remains to be seen if Morata will make his debut at the ICC Singapore, but fans are still looking forward to the prospect of catching other star players.

Said Chelsea Singapore Supporters Club president Carter Lee: "I think I speak on behalf of all Chelsea fans that we are very excited that our favourite team are finally here. It's really a huge honour for us to see them live, especially for those who can't travel to Stamford Bridge."

For Bayern fan club president Mohd Erfan Ahmid, the opportunity to watch the team in action in Singaporean is a dream come true.

The 42-year-old said: "I started this club 15 years ago and it was very hard because there was little interest in the Bundesliga or Bayern back then."

"It's been a long wait for this to happen. I never expected this."

Milan native Michele Zanell, who grew up watching Inter at the San Siro, is thankful for the chance to see his boyhood club in action once again after spending several years abroad.

"I usually watch on TV since I moved overseas but now I will get to watch them again live."

"I can't wait to see the players in action against other top teams in the world," said the 37-year-old general manager at La Barca Ristorante and Wine Bar.

Zanell is counting on Inter to lift the trophy: "I hope Inter will win, but I also hope that the whole event will be exciting."

"It is a one-of-a-kind event and is very good for Singapore as the top clubs are coming here."

This is the first time that the ICC is held in South-east Asia, and it will kick off on Tuesday with Chelsea facing Bayern.

Tickets are available from [sportshubtix.com.sg](http://sportshubtix.com.sg)

[ndesilva@sph.com.sg](mailto:ndesilva@sph.com.sg)

Additional reporting from John Pravin

FIRST TO GET AUTOGRAPH

**I can't believe my luck. We were the last to arrive but I was one of the first to get an autograph.**



FAIRUZ JEFFREY, one of the lucky few Chelsea fans who managed to get an autograph from Alvaro Morata on his shirt.



Chelsea's newest signing, £58 million (\$\$103 million) striker Alvaro Morata, signing autographs for fans after arriving at Changi Airport yesterday. ST PHOTO: LAU FOOK KONG

## Contrasting fortunes ahead of S'pore



Turkish international Hakan Calhanoglu celebrating his 85th-minute goal against Bayern as AC Milan romped to a 4-0 thrashing. Resurgent Milan have spent heavily this summer. PHOTO: XINHUA

BEIJING • Chelsea crushed Arsenal 3-0 in a pre-season game in Beijing yesterday, but the friendly turned ugly as Blues forward Pedro Rodriguez left the field with a bloodied face after a big collision with Gunners goalkeeper David Ospina.

The injury scare was followed by a two-goal performance by Chelsea's Belgian international forward Michy Batshuayi.

In the absence of new signing Spanish striker Alvaro Morata – who arrived in Singapore yesterday evening ahead of the Blues' International Champions Cup (ICC) clash with Bayern Munich on Tuesday – Batshuayi was the star before a crowd of 55,619 at the Bird's Nest Stadium.

However, Pedro was left stricken

just half an hour into the match with blood on his face, after colliding with Colombian international Ospina, who slammed into him as he leapt to clear a long ball with both fists.

After a few minutes of medical attention on the ground, the Spanish international walked off the pitch and did not return to the game.

Willian opened the scoring from just inside the area in the 40th minute, taking a low shot to beat a diving Ospina before Batshuayi scored his brace.

The victory gave the Blues some measure of revenge after Arsenal stunned Chelsea 2-1 in the FA Cup final in May to deny the Premier League champions a double trophy season.

Chelsea manager Antonio Conte confirmed after the game that Pedro was taken to the hospital for routine checks.

"He should be okay. He stays here and if the situation is okay, he will come tomorrow to Singapore," said the Italian.

"It is good to have this start, but we have to work a lot to improve on the physical and tactical. Pre-season is very important."

"These games are important because you understand your level. We must be happy for the commitment of (our) players and with our football."

In an earlier ICC match in Shenzhen, German Bundesliga champions Bayern were thrashed 4-0 by Italian Serie A side AC Milan.

Midfielders Franck Kessie and Hakan Calhanoglu scored their first goals for the club, while 19-year-old forward Patrick Cutrone netted a brace.

Milan fans were also treated to debuts for their big summer signings, Italian centre-back Leonardo Bonucci, who moved from Juventus for €42 million (\$\$66 million), and Portuguese forward Andre Silva.

"The result has somewhat surprised me. The balance was missing in our game, but we are still in pre-season and need time," said Bayern coach Carlo Ancelotti.

"Sometimes this can happen. We need to move on and continue working to be ready for the start of the season." AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

<b>four-digit draw</b>		
Jul 22 2017		
<b>First</b>	▶	<b>9674</b>
<b>Second</b>	▶	<b>6466</b>
<b>Third</b>	▶	<b>8310</b>
<b>STARTERS</b>		
1099	1906	2215
2660	3173	3334
5159	5431	8096
9252		
<b>CONSOLATIONS</b>		
0366	3706	5250
5472	6719	7389
7696	7886	8176
9075		