

Rummans puts

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vered to a first innings score of 279 at Adelaide Oval.

Queensland slipped to 209 for eight before the last two wickets produced 70 runs, thanks to the aggression of Ashley Noffke (44 not out), Nathan Hauritz (13) and Joe Dawes (15).

South Australia were 35 without loss at stumps, with Tom Plant on 18 and Greg Blewett 14.

Andrew Symonds and James Hopes led Queensland's run chase, with Symonds smacking 44 off 54 balls and Hopes compiling a neat 57.

Paul Rofe was a lively spearhead of SA's attack with 5-93 off 24.2 overs, including 3-8 in the space of 18 balls to remove Hopes, Andy Bichel (1) and Wade Seccombe (24).

MCG's Boxing Day

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track to be built in 2006.
They had expected to finish the first stage well before the start of the test but were delayed by a week of heavy rain in Melbourne.

All four impress

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When asked if any of the venues could host an international match by next year, Lloyd, a match referee in 38 Tests and 100 one-day internationals, however declined to speculate.

"I don't know. It all depends if the venues are first passed by the ICC then they will have to look at their calendar. They just can't give you a one-day game or a Test. It all depends on whether a venue can support it as well."

On the subject of pitches, he said it was important that the ICC saw matches at the selected stadia.

"Although I did not see any matches played at those venues, some of them I heard have a lot of pitches. One of them has eleven while the others have five. But it is difficult to actually say which wickets were good or bad since as I said before I did not get the chance to see any matches played there."

Lloyd tried to explain that the procedure for a venue to get Test status was actually quite simple.

"Well, I'll just make my report in the next couple of days then a week or so later the ICC will make its decision. But they might also want to see certain things built or games played at the venue(s). Because that is important a venue cannot be passed without an acceptable pitch to play on."

He also touched on the current state of Bangladesh and in particular the domestic structure in place. He pointed to India and Pakistan as a model.

"I think somebody wrote in a paper this morning something about improving domestic cricket. I would probably like to go a little further. You are very close to Pakistan and India so trying to get involved in their domestic cricket is another way of cranking up Bangladesh's cricket. If you have two great nations playing cricket of the highest quality you would want to get involved with them. Then it would help to enhance the standard of play here. But at the same time you must have a better system of domestic cricket because that's where players will be coming from."

The father figure of West Indies cricket however did not wish to get involved in a proposed two-tier system for countries like Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

"I don't know about any two-tier system. The point is that there are 10 Test playing nations and they should be playing each other. It's up to the Boards and the ICC to work together and make sure cricket is up to speed here and in Zimbabwe."

The briefing was attended by BCB chief executive Macky Dudhia and media committee chairman Reazuddin Al Mamun.



Galib Ahmed Ansari (C), head of marketing of sponsors GrameenPhone, takes questions from reporters during a media briefing organised in connection with Pacer Hunt programme at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Inzy wants to keep it up

Pakistan cross border today for platinum match

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Captain Inzamamul Haq said Tuesday he hopes to maintain Pakistan's winning momentum against archrivals India as his team prepares for its first game across the border for five years.

The 15-member Pakistan squad will fly to India Wednesday afternoon for a one-off match in Kolkata at the weekend to mark the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

"We have won all three previous matches against India and (coach Bob) Woolmer has made a difference in our overall showing," Inzamam told AFP. He also praised the players for executing the coach's plans.

Pakistan's last tour to India was in 1999 before political tensions halted fixtures between the two nations.

Earlier this year India toured Pakistan for the first tour since 1989,

winning a one-day series 3-2 and the Tests 2-1.

But since Englishman Woolmer took over in June, Pakistan have beaten India by 59 runs in an Asia Cup match in Sri Lanka in July.

This was followed by a 66-run win at Amstelveen in Holland in August and a three-wicket victory in the ICC Trophy in England in September.

"Since losing to India on home grounds we have shown improvement but we still haven't achieved the desired results," said Inzamam, one of only four players in the line-up to have toured India in 1999.

"Wins in the last three matches have raised our confidence but a one-day match between India and Pakistan is always a new challenge for both the teams."

Inzamam said he has fully recovered from a back pain which forced him to sit out the last two days during his team's six-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second Test in Karachi last week.

Also back to full fitness are fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Sami, who both missed

the Karachi Test.

"When you play before a crowd of over 100,000 at Eden Gardens it's real tough for the touring team," the Pakistani skipper said.

"But we will do our best to give an Eid gift to the nation by winning the match," he said, referring to the annual Muslim Eid festival which falls either on Sunday or Monday.

Pakistan has only one uncapped player in 32-year-old Aamir Bashheer. He scored five hundreds at domestic level last season and four in the current season.

Woolmer will join the team in Kolkata after spending a week with his family in England.

India also have invited Pakistan for a Test series in February and March next year.

SQUAD

Inzamamul Haq (captain), Younis Khan, Imran Farhat, Salman Butt, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Malik, Yousuf Umer, Imran Farhat, Salman Butt, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Malik, Yousuf Umer, Imran Farhat, Salman Butt, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Malik, Yousuf Umer.

Winning in Australia is scaling Mount Everest

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Taking on Australia in their own backyard is like tackling Mount Everest, New Zealand cricket coach John Bracewell believes.

Bracewell said his players realised they faced a huge challenge against an Australian side fresh from its first series win against India on the subcontinent since 1969.

The Kiwi coach said he regarded his team's Test and one-day clean sweep against cricketing minnows Bangladesh as "practice time in the middle" ahead of the Australia series.

"It's a little like climbing a big hill and your next mission is to climb Everest, that's the gap," he told reporters. "But at least we've spent some time climbing."

Bracewell bristled as sugges-

tions an inexperienced Kiwi attack missing paceman Shane Bond and seamer Daryl Tuffey would struggle to bowl out the Australians.

"We've come here to play cricket, you've got to turn out with the team you've got," he said.

Bracewell defended the controversial selection of batsman Hamish Marshall over Craig McMillan, despite what the coach admitted was a poor first class record.

"We threw him into the position of three in one day cricket and he mastered that, he batted with good rhythm," Bracewell said. "We really just want to see if he can make that step up."

The Kiwis won the one-dayers and drew the Test series on their last Australian trip three years ago and Bracewell said there was always an edge to the trans-Tasman rivalry.

"It's a bit of big brother-little brother thing," he said.

New Zealand open the tour against New South Wales this week before Tests in Brisbane and Adelaide later this month, followed by three one-day matches in early December.

Meanwhile, a viral infection has ruled New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming out of the Black Caps' opening tour match beginning here Thursday, the team announced.

Fleming had been "suffering from virus symptoms over the last few days" and will not be fit for the warm-up match against New South Wales, it said in a statement.

He was due to remain in New Zealand until Friday before rejoining the team in preparation for the first Test against Australia on November 18 in Brisbane.

A replacement for Fleming as captain for this week's warm-up match will be announced Wednesday along with the squad to play New South Wales.

GP, Biman set

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highest total in the competition, against Ispahani at the Dhamondhi Cricket Stadium.

Ispahani were then bundled out for 133.

Defending Plate champions Gazi Tank earned a hard fought two-wicket victory over Acme Laboratories in the first semifinal at the same venue when they overcame Acme's 115-9 with two balls in hand.

The plate final will also take place at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ARAF: 106-7 in 20 overs (Naeem 13, Ehsanul 17, Mashud 37, Russel 2-10, Anisur 2-18, Mosharaf 3-22)

BIMAN: 107-5 in 18.3 overs (Rashedul 28, Sajjad Kadir 45)

Result: Biman won by 5 wickets.

CITYCELL: 122-8 in 20 overs (Imran 25, Tapash 24, Hasanuzzaman 36, Mahmud 3-10, Raj 2-45)

GRAMREENPHONE: 125-6 in 19.1 overs (Mehrab 14, Shahriar 50, Kapali 13, Mahmud 13 not out, Riyad 17 not out).

Result: GrameenPhone won by 4 wickets.

BEXIMCO: 171-4 in 20 overs (Al Shahriar 83, Sajjad 42)

ISPANHANI: 133 all out in 20 overs (Imroz 36, Nadif 4-23)

Result: BEXIMCO won by 38 runs.

ACME: 115-9 in 20 overs (Hannan 45, Hasan 27)

GAZI TANK: 117-8 in 19.4 overs (Salahuddin Pappu 30, Wasel 29)

Result: Gazi Tank won by 2 wickets.

Cry for proper

FROM PAGE 13
leaving three months of excessive rainy period. This can easily be done if we prepare a couple of grounds with all the facilities available to run tournaments in rainy season.

In 1955, Eaglet's Cricket Club of Dhaka introduced and successfully staged a summer tournament, namely Kardar Summer Cricket Tournament during July-September and they continued with it for a number of years.

During the same time another Summer Cricket Tournament in the name of Sher-e-Bangla Summer Cricket Tournament was also organised by Azad Boys Club. In both these tournaments teams from Pakistan also participated. Such tournaments can also be easily introduced now.

I think too much politicisation in the sports bodies is the root cause of present deterioration of sport, particularly cricket in this country.

Such practice has driven out many efficient and dedicated organisers from the scene.

By nature I am not a pessimist, but when in a country where all institutions are falling apart, cricket cannot remain stay away from that vicious circle. It requires a huge shake-up and all out and sincere effort to put it back on the right track. --End

The writer is a former chief selector of Bangladesh Cricket Board

Abahani's cup

FROM PAGE 13
Hedayetullah Islam Rana.

"Like our previous matches, we relaxed after taking early lead and Abahani utilised our defensive lapses," said a dejected Kamal, top scorer of the meet with 11 goals including two hat-tricks.

"I think conceding a goal in the very first minute of the second half was vital," he added.

Abahani's Indian defender Ronald Kiran, who was as bright in the final as the previous matches, was adjudged player of the tournament.

Chief of Air Staff and Bangladesh Hockey Federation president Air Vice Marshal Fakhrul Azam distributed the prizes after the final.

Kaluwitharana

FROM PAGE 13
average of 26.12 from 49 matches represented underachievement for a batsman of such natural talent.

Kaluwitharana lost his place in the one-day side after the emergence of Kumar Sangakkara, finishing with 3,711 runs in 189 matches at an average of 22.22.

FACTBOX

Full Name: Ramesh Shantha Kaluwitharana.
Born: 24 November 1969, Colombo.
Major teams: Colts Cricket Club, Galle Cricket Club, Sebastianites Cricket and Athletic Club, Sri Lanka.
Pronounced: Ramesh Kaluwitharana.
Batting style: Right Hand Bat.
Other: Wicketkeeper.
Test Debut: Sri Lanka v Australia at Colombo (SSG), First Test, 1992-93.
Latest Test: Sri Lanka v Pakistan at Karachi, Second Test, 2004-05.
ODI Debut: Sri Lanka v India at Margao, Third ODI, 1990-91.
Latest ODI: Sri Lanka v Australia at Dambulla, 2nd ODI, 2003-04.

TESTS										
Batting and Fielding										
M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
49	78	4	1933	132*	26.12	60.34	3	9	93	26
Bowling										
O	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	5	10	SR	Econ	
ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS										
Batting and Fielding										
M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct	St
189	181	14	3711	102*	22.22	77.70	2	23	132	75
Bowling										
O	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	4w	5w	SR	Econ	



Undated picture of Brazilian striker Robinho with his mother Marina Lima de Souza, at their home in Brazil. Robinho's mother is at the centre of a kidnap drama after being abducted at gunpoint on the night of November 6.

Robinho a victim of fame
Real deal as good as done

Football

AGENCIES

The agent for Santos star Robinho has halted transfer discussions with Real Madrid after the young forward's mother Dona Marina was kidnapped.

Reports place a nearly done deal at upwards of \$15 million, and the player has asked his representatives to carry on with talks.

"Now that I have received this information about what has happened with his mother I have stopped the meetings," said Wagner Ribiero. "Robinho phoned me and he cried a lot and was shocked about what was happening, but he told me to take care of the negotiations."

"He told me to stay in Spain, not to return to Brazil and to keep on having conversations with Real Madrid."

This should have been the happiest of weeks for Dona Marina. Her son - a star footballer tipped as the new Pele - was on the verge of a multimillion-pound transfer to Real Madrid, and she was set for a long period of celebration.

But police are now investigating her kidnapping, piecing together photographs of the two men who stormed a Saturday barbecue on the Sao Paulo coast and abducted the 43-year-old whose full name is Marina Lima de Souza.

According to witnesses the men - one of whom was armed with a pistol - jumped into the back garden of the house in Praia Grande. "Who's Dona Marina, Robinho's mum?" demanded one, before locking the guests in an upstairs bedroom and bundling their target into a silver Mercedes. By Monday morning, when police found the abandoned car near by, there was still no word

from the assailants.

Kidnaps are nothing new in Sao Paulo. According to the Department of Public Security, there were 83 such cases between January and September of this year. But this time the story has hit the headlines. After all, it involves Brazil's new rei (king) of football: a superstar set to become one of the country's richest players.

Brazil's top players routinely hire private security guards, wary of the attention their pay packets can draw. Robinho, who plays for Santos, had one himself and was known to be worried about his family being robbed.

Angelo Herrera, a sports journalist, said: "In Rio, just as much as Sao Paulo, kidnap is a really worrying thing for players."

"It isn't the first time something like this has happened with a football player," he explained, pointing to the kidnappings involving two other prominent Brazilian players.

"You'd think that because he was from a poorer background the kidnappers might not have done something like this, but they obviously knew exactly what they were doing and that he was going to be sold for all this money," he added.

Robinho's Bernabeu debut would have marked the highpoint in a remarkable career for the 20-year-old prodigy. Born into a poor community in Sao Paulo, Robinho's rise to fame has been as mesmerising as the step-overs for which he was known. A descendant of slaves from Brazil's north-east, his salary is thought to be around 180,000 reais (\$30,000) an astronomical amount in a country where 30 per cent live on the minimum wage.

In recent months European giants such as PSV Eindhoven, Benfica and Chelsea had all been linked with the baby-faced Brazilian. Sources say he would have

commanded a fee of at least \$14m.

"Robinho was a nice guy from a humble family," said Mr Herrera. "His mum was a maid."

The kidnapping closed a traumatic week for Brazilian football. On Friday a player for the Minas Gerais team America was shot dead at a nightclub in Belo Horizonte. He had been enjoying the samba with friends when drug traffickers stormed the venue, one of whom was carrying a machine gun. Claudinei Dutra Resende, 25, was shot in the back of the head, and five others were injured. A week earlier, another player, Serginho, had a heart attack and died on the pitch whilst playing for Sao Caetano.

For all its beauty, Brazilian football has never been a simple business. As in many walks of Brazilian life, corruption is widespread. After the 1998 World Cup a parliamentary inquiry was launched to probe the darker side of the game. "There are many truths," said the striker Ronaldo at the inquiry.

There is also a great deal of calamity. Last year, the World Cup star Romario lost his temper after an irate fan threw six chickens at him during a training session in Rio de Janeiro. "You're going to give me a bollocking in my own home!" he shouted before attacking the fan. Both Romario and his assailant were charged after one of the chickens died, incurring the wrath of animal rights activists.

As Robinho's family wait to hear from the kidnappers, police are focusing their investigation on Baixada Santista, a middle-class area outside Sao Paulo. Alberto Corazza, Sao Paulo's police chief told reporters yesterday: "All I can say is that people who achieve success so quickly should be extremely careful ... to avoid this kind of incident."

Becks, Zizou and Raul to star in movie

AFP, Paris

David Beckham and Real Madrid team-mates Zinedine Zidane and Raul have signed to play themselves in a Los Angeles-produced movie called "Goal!"

Variety magazine reports that the 100 million dollar trilogy directed by Danny Cannon stars Diego Luna as a soccer player from a poor Los Angeles suburb who is signed up by English Premiership side Newcastle United.

"It's no secret that I want to be involved in youth coaching when I finally hang up my boots, and I believe that the 'Goal' trilogy will provide a positive message to kids around the world," Beckham told Variety.

Milksake Films principal Mike Jefferies said "Goal!" got a major boost when soccer's world governing body FIFA embraced the film as a chance to widen the visibility of the sport in places like the US.

"Goal!" will use the backdrops of Newcastle United and Real Madrid matches for the first two films. The finale will be staged during the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

Luna, already fairly good with a football, spent eight weeks training with Newcastle to sharpen his skills.

The first film gets global release next August, when the European leagues kick off. The second film is aiming at a release in June 2006, just before World Cup begins. The finale will be shot during the tournament.

"Our target has been places like Latin America and Europe, and at first we viewed the domestic deal as a bonus, but we've come to believe that the way kids have picked up the game in the United States, this film can have huge legs in America," Jefferies said.

Beckham has already appeared in movies - but only as the hero of an Asian girl in London who wants to be a soccer player in a Gurinder Chahla hit called Bend It Like Beckham.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS				DOWN			
1	Aiken of "American Idol"	35	See 13-	1	Medicinal meas.	20	Fat
5	Pos- sesses	36	Nephew of Donald	2	Realtor's offering	21	Pledges
8	Vanom dispenser	37	Incurison	3	Alias (Abbr.)	22	Last
12	Pepsi rival	38	Despotic one	4	Dr. Seuss's turtle	23	writes?
13	With 35-	41	Promptly	5	Sentry's call	24	Greek vowel
14	Across, thieves' thwarter	42	Time of prosperity	6	Pub mugful	25	Narrative
15	Frighten- ed mildly	43	Pesky	7	Passen- bird	26	Sugar apple
17	Wedding shower?	44	Malaria symptom	8	accom- modations	27	Get wind of
18	Youngster	49	Bran provider	9	"Liliom" provider	28	Exile isle
19	A natural in Vegas	50	Pennsylv- ania port	10	Molnar	29	Dispatch a dragon
21	Curtain material	51	Charlie Brown	11	Tel —	31	Bedazzle
24	Read cursorily	52	Expert	12	Pleasant valley	34	"Pulp Fiction" actor
25	Reed instrument	53	En- grossed	16	Pirouette pivot	35	Ving
26	Carbo- hydrates	Solution time: 21 mins.					
30	Orator's asset	P E G A S S E T S F R O					
31	Damoc- les' worry	A V E M C R A E S O U R					
32	Right angle	C A L A B O O S E O T T					
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