

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 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 Duhdia and media committee chairman Reazuddin Al Mamun.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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