

Robinho's mom's kidnapper arrested

AP, Sao Paulo

Police said Saturday they have arrested one of Brazil's most-wanted criminals, who is believed to have masterminded last year's abduction of the mother of Santos and Brazilian national team forward Robinho.

Police arrested Celio Marcelo da Silva, nicknamed "bin Laden," on Friday night after a car chase and a brief gun battle in a southern section of Sao Paulo.

Da Silva opened fire as officers approached the car he was in with his girlfriend. She was wounded in the shooting and rushed to a hospital. Police have not revealed her name.

In 2003, da Silva tunneled his way out of a Sao Paulo prison where he was serving a 38-year sentence for murder and robbery. In late 2004, he allegedly led the gang that kidnapped Marina da Silva de Souza, the mother of Robinho.

Robinho's mother was released unharmed 40 days after being abducted. Her star son never confirmed media reports that he paid a ransom of 200,000 reais (US\$81,000; €65,023).

Robinho already has signed a five-year contract with Real Madrid and is due to transfer to the Spanish club on Aug. 25.

Maradona's life on the silver screen

AP, Rome

Italian director Marco Risi, the son of acclaimed director Dino Risi, says he has reached an agreement with Diego Maradona to direct a film on the player's life.

The film will be called "La Mano di Dio," named after Maradona's "Hand of God" goal in the 1986 World Cup, when he punched the ball in for a goal against England in the quarterfinals.

The younger Risi says he is looking for an Argentine to play Maradona.

"It doesn't have the classic style, it's a series of incursions in the various phases of his life, with extracts of his most glorious soccer moments," Risi said in an interview published Tuesday in La Repubblica.

"I think of him as a genius. Soccer exists before and after Maradona. It's like Van Gogh in painting or Charlie Parker in music."

Risi, who plans to start filming in October, added that the film will also include parts on Maradona's demise and his battle with drugs.

As well as winning the 1986 World Cup, Maradona led Napoli to the Italian league title in 1987 and 1990, the only two championships in the club's history. He also played for Barcelona and Boca Juniors.

Another film on Maradona's life is being directed by two-time Cannes Film Festival winner Emir Kusturica.

SPANISH SUPER CUP Super Barca



Football

REUTERS, Madrid

League champions Barcelona made a sparkling start to the new season with a classy 3-0 win away to King's Cup winners Real Betis in the first leg of the Spanish Super Cup on Saturday.

Superbly crafted second half strikes from French winger Ludovic Giuly and last season's leading scorer Samuel Eto'o as well as a stunning free kick from World Player of the Year Ronaldinho set the Catalans well on the way to their first trophy of the season.

"It was a very important victory for us," said Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard. "But it is only one game and we can't take too many conclusions from this and must keep working very hard."

The Dutchman's side signalled their attacking intentions from the first whistle, with midfielder Xavi firing a long-distance effort a metre wide of the post with less than a minute on the clock.

Barca laid siege to the Betis area for the next quarter of an hour with Ronaldinho and the lively Giuly involved in some intricate moves as they tried to pick the opposition defence.

Joquin responded for Betis after 20 minutes when he danced his way past four Barca players and send a delicate dink just past the post with keeper Victor Valdes beaten.

The league champions almost took the lead 10 minutes from the break after a stunning one-touch passing move, but Betis keeper Toni Doblaz tipped over a stinging shot from Xavi.

On the stroke of halftime Xavi had another chance to put his side ahead but this time he drilled a fierce shot against the base of the post after Ronaldinho had cut open the Betis defence.

The visitors finally broke the deadlock two minutes after the



PHOTO: REUTERS

Real Betis' Miguel Angel (R) desperately tries to check Barcelona superstar Ronaldinho during the first leg of their Spanish Super Cup match in Seville on Saturday.

break thanks to a magnificent disguised pass from Ronaldinho and an ice-cool finish from Giuly.

The Brazilian looked one way and then slipped the ball the other as Giuly scorched past the Betis back four, steadied himself and then slotted a low shot through Doblaz's legs.

Betis, who beat AS Monaco 1-0 in midweek in the first leg of a Champions League qualifier, were denied an equaliser when Valdes produced a superb reflex save low to his right to stop a powerful header from Betis striker Ricardo Oliveira.

But Barca extended their lead

soon after when Eto'o shimmied past Doblaz and slotted into the open net after the outstanding Xavi slid a pass with the outside of his foot.

Ronaldinho added the icing on the cake just after the hour when he curled a sharply dipping free kick over the wall and into the net past a bemused Doblaz.

Barcelona, who lost on the last two occasions they appeared in the Super Cup, will be hot favourites when they meet the Andalucians in the return leg at the Nou Camp next Saturday.

BUNDESLIGA Makaay on fire

REUTERS, Berlin

Dutch striker Roy Makaay scored a hat-trick to fire champions Bayern Munich to a 5-2 win at Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday.

Bayern's victory sent them top of the table with six points and eight goals in their first two matches.

Any hopes Bayer may have had of repeating their 4-1 humiliation of Bayern last season were soon extinguished.

Michael Ballack opened the scoring against his former side, powering home a perfectly-placed shot into the corner of the net in the third minute.

Makaay put Bayern 2-0 up eight minutes later but Bulgarian striker Dimitar Berbatov netted a penalty in the 32nd minute, briefly bringing Bayer into the game.

Four minutes later Ali Karimi extended Bayern's lead to 3-1 and Makaay turned the screw, scoring twice within seven minutes in the second half. Bayer's Marko Babic got a late consolation eight minutes from time.

Borussia Dortmund took the lead in the 17th minute against Schalke 04 through Ebi Smolarek, but Germany striker Kevin Kuranyi headed an equaliser and clinched a winner 13 minutes into the second half before a sell-out crowd of over 81,000.

Schalke have the same number of points as Bayern and Hamburg SV, 2-0 winners at Arminia Bielefeld.

Promoted MSV Duisburg troubled Kaiserslautern in an action-packed game before losing 5-3.

History beckons Kiwi captain

REUTERS, Bulawayo

Captain Stephen Fleming could become the first New Zealander to reach 6,000 Test runs during the second and final Test against Zimbabwe starting on Monday.

Fleming goes into the match with 5,985 runs from his 95 Tests and will fancy his chances of reaching the milestone against suffering Zimbabwe.

He said on Sunday: "It would be good to do it, but I'm more orientated towards team statistics than individual achievements."

In the first Test in Harare, New Zealand achieved their biggest victory, by an innings and 294 runs, and inflicted Zimbabwe's worst defeat.

ORIENT BREAD HANDBALL Rifles thrash Rajshahi

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Rifles recorded a comfortable 33-17 win over Rajshahi City Corporation in the opening match of the Orient Bread Cup handball tournament at the Outer Stadium handball court.

Saiduzzaman netted eight goals and Sajal seven for the winners who led the first half 20-9.

The visitors put on a better show in the second half with Jaman and Mizanur notching five goals each.

Earlier, Lt Gen (retd) Mahbub Rahman, chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence Ministry, declared the six-team meet open.

No surprises

FROM PAGE 12 They also took the necessary papers on behalf of joint secretary candidate Reazuddin Al Mamun.

The second day of the three-day distribution of nomination papers saw 54 papers going to 22 councillors for the elections.

On Saturday, 29 councillors bought 38 nominations papers.

The National Sports Council will bring the distribution to a close on Monday afternoon and the councillors will submit their papers to Election Commission on August 17.

Gunners leave

FROM PAGE 12 leading leg but his trailing leg followed through and scissored the midfielders standing leg.

The match seemed set for a one-sided contest as the home side looked to prise open the 10-man wall in front of them but five minutes later it was the team in black and white stripes that put the ball in the net.

Alan Shearer latched on to a Lee Bowyer flick and beat Jens Lehmann in the Arsenal goal but he had strayed a couple of yards off-side and the goal was chalked off.

Aussies getting

FROM PAGE 12 Ponting had batted first in the second Test," The Sunday Telegraph said.

"Almost certainly it cost Australia the match. Because the decision was so poor, it upset the mood and mind-set of some Australian players."

Roebuck opined that Vaughan has "outthought and outplayed his counterpart" in the series.

"Ponting has been unable to impose himself as a batsman or as a leader," he said.

'It's a bit strange'



Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Disturbed about his exclusion from the one-day side after playing two games in the just-concluded Indian Oil Cup in Sri Lanka, Anil Kumble has asked if different standards are used to measure different players.

Aggrieved enough to refer to himself in the third person, Kumble said to the Times of India, "It's a bit strange this happens only to a few players like Laxman, Anil. People expect me to take five wickets every time I bowl. That's not possible. As long as there is the same scale for everyone, it's fine, but..."

While Kumble's Test form has improved dramatically, his one-day record has not been as noteworthy. In his last 30 games, Kumble has claimed 28 wickets at 42.10. But the 30 have been scattered, with instances of hurried selections and hasty rests, followed by calls for his retirement from one-dayers.

"For the last one-and-a-half years people have been asking me this question," he said. "Do they mean to say that I should stop playing one-

dayers? Isn't it my prerogative to decide?"

The secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Karunakaran Nair, explained the dropping of Kumble and VVS Laxman: "The selectors felt they would be more



ANIL KUMBLE

useful in the Tests. Their recent record in one-day matches was also considered before selecting the side."

He attributed Zaheer Khan's exclusion to the same reason. As for

Lakshminipathy Balaji, who had done little wrong, Nair said that he had been rested to give others a chance on what he hinted was a ideal tour to experiment.

Sourav Ganguly, assigned the captaincy for only the tour of Zimbabwe after what was reported to be a narrow selection vote in his favour, said that the two separate teams chosen for the one-day and Test series were the board's decision.

He refused to speak about the high-profile exclusions, telling the Hindustan Times that it "doesn't matter who is (in) the team and who isn't. The team has to deliver."

Asked specifically about Kumble, he replied, "That's for the selectors to answer. I'm happy with the selection."

New Zealand

FROM PAGE 12

stages of each day, because play begins at 10 a.m. when there is still some dampness around.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND: Stephen Fleming, Lou Vincent, James Marshall, Hamish Marshall, Nathan Astle, Scott Styris, James Franklin, Daniel Vettori, Brendan McCullum, Shane Bond, Chris Martin. 12th man Kyle Mills.

ZIMBABWE (from): Tatenda Taibu, Heath Streak, Andy Blignaut, Stuart Carlisle, Graeme Cremer, Keith Dabengwa, Dion Ebrahim, Neil Ferreira, Anthony Ireland, Blessing Mahwire, Hamilton Masakadza, Chris Mpofu, Brendan Taylor, Craig Wishart.

Umpires: Darrell Hair (Australia) and Mark Benson (England).

Clarke could

FROM PAGE 12

the rest of his career.

Alcott added he was still searching for the factors which trigger Clarke's condition, but said the New South Wales batsman had complained of tightness in his back in the warm-up before the match began on Thursday.

"He suffers an acute condition which gives him this bad back. We've just got to find out what it is that's doing it."

"We have to go through his work diary and see if he's been doing three hours of fielding leading up to a Test match. Maybe we've got to reduce that down and not overuse that area."

Australia are set to resume Sunday on 264 for seven, 180 runs behind England's first innings 444 with Shane Warne 78 not out and Jason Gillespie unbeaten on seven.



PHOTO: STAR

Former director of Bangladesh Cricket Board Mahabub Anam (R), who will run for the post of BCB general secretary, shakes hands with a returning officer after collecting his nomination form at the National Sports Council on Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 From a distance 5 Highlander's hat 8 Haul laboriously 12 Bleacher-ites' choreography 13 "Eureka!" 14 "I could — horse!" 15 Not limit. 16 Parrot variety 18 Rogue played by Ian McShane 20 Hold-up man? 21 Tandoori bread 22 Equal (Pref.) 23 Insane 26 Car thieves' jaunt 30 Fuss and feathers 31 Thither 32 Tier 33 Rural excursion 36 Reinforce 38 Golfer Ernie

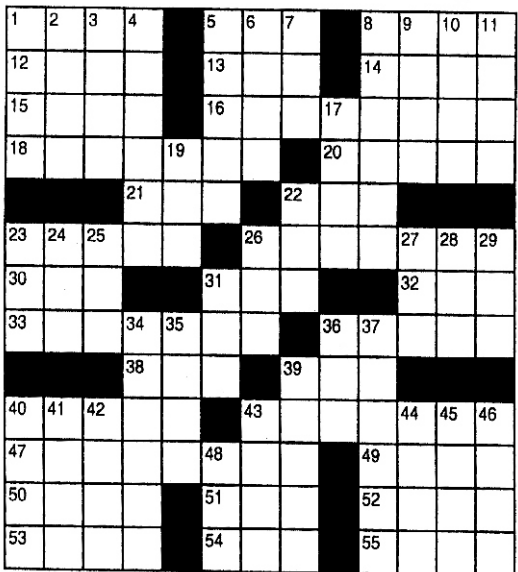
39 Larry's pal 40 Vertical, as oars 43 Rube 47 Tweety's meal 49 Beige 50 Author Rice 51 Historic period 52 Obsessed captain 53 "To — not to ..." 54 "Pink Panther" actor 55 Realtor's wares

3 Tel — 4 Governor 5 Claw 6 Swabbie's salutation 7 Dallas basket-baller, for short 8 Someone in the red 9 Bar 10 Razor brand 11 Wanders about 17 Simple 19 Comic Leno 22 Charged bit 23 "Humbug!" 24 Oklaho-ma city 25 Nursery item

26 Greasy-spoon beverage 27 Savings-plan acronym 28 Elmer, to Bugs 29 Ram's ma'am 31 Gridiron stats (Abbr.) 34 Library patron 35 Sorts 36 Tarzan's son 37 Close up again 39 Lady's address 40 Quatrain rhyme scheme 41 Linguish 42 Cube-maker 43 Medal earner 44 Reverberate 45 Part of Q.E.D. 46 Bestows knight-hood upon 48 Wet wiggler

Solution time: 21 mins.

HEAP TIL MANI
ALTO ADO IGES
RIOT BANGTAIL
DEPAUL GIRDLE
STEP GEE
POWHATAN SMOG
FIRE HORAE TIT
TALHE POSSIBLE
LEG FLOTS
ANDREW TASTED
BOOMMIKE URDU
ANNA GOO EINE
TEEN KIN SPAS



CRYPTOQUIP

Z J Q U Q H R I Z R P D O H R B P
R D D G H G R S Y D H C G J S P H,
D G H K R B M R K P O R I H U R E J Y

R Y C P E Q H R O J Z M G H R D.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: THE AGING DRY CLEANER WAS A WHITE-COLLAR CRIMINAL, INFAMOUS FOR MONEY LAUNDERING.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: S equals U

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.