

Inter Milan star Zlatan Ibrahimovic (C) scores the second goal from a freekick during their Serie A encounter against Palermo at San Siro

'Lee won't be rushed'

PTI, Melbourne

on Saturday.

Brett Lee might have been included in the Australian cricket squad for the ODI series against Pakistan but the injuryprone speedster would not be rushed back into the playing XI, says coach Tim Nielsen.

Lee, who has had four surgeries on his right ankle -- the latest in January -- has been included in the Australian side for the five-match series against Pakistan starting April 22 in Dubai.

"We'll take the opportunity to sit down and have a chat with him and see how he's going and make sure we understand where he's at with his bowling and how he's going with his body," Nielsen was quoted as saying by the Australian Associated Press (AAP), a news agency.

"But we can't afford to rush him back, either. We need the best plan of attack on his rehab and making sure his body is right before he starts trying to bowl flat out for Australia again," he added.

Lee is currently in Johannesburg training with his Indian Premier League side Kings XI Punjab but after getting the national call-up, he is expected to leave for Dubai.

"We need to be patient and give him the time to work through what he has got to do, bowling properly and going flat out again versus the impatience of wanting him back around the group and looking forward to having a quality bowler back," he said.

Moyes rules

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"He has come, done terrifically well, and he has got his goals,' said Moyes.

"If somebody had said to me I would take a striker on loan and he would score five goals, I'dhave said 'That will do me'.

"It's not easy to score in the Premier League, so you have to give him a lot of credit for all those goals.

"Away from home we still have to see him do more. That has been a bit of a concern, but his goals at home have been invaluable.

"He has a really good record, and let's hope he keeps it up. If he does then he will have proven a really good signing, which isn't easy to get in January."

Moyes, though, can understand why Jo failed to make the impact expected of him upon

signing for City. "It happens," assessed

Moyes.

"Look at players like (Carlos) Tevez and (Javier) Mascherano when they first came to the country. It was difficult for them.

"It is hard for foreign players. Maybe given time he will go on to show what he can do when he was at CSKA."

Theo ready

FROMPAGE 20 for the European Champion-

ships in Sweden. For me, playing for England at any age is an honour," the former Southampton youngster continued. "And while it's ultimately up to the managers to decide, I think I

probably will play. "In my opinion it would be good experience to play in a tournament because I haven't really had that. It's good experience for young players if they can win something as well."

Palermo stop Inter

started getting that winning

feeling outside the subconti-

nent after their Test success

against Zimbabwe in 2001, a

victory that ended one of the

most dismal streaks in all of

"That gave us a lot of confi-

dence that yes we can win Test

matches abroad. Once you

know how to win a Test match

and when you do it often, it's a

fantastic feeling," said

Tendulkar. "Five days of com-

petitive cricket and healthy

competition make things

exciting. Mind you, all this

started in a different manner

with nobody scoring a hun-

dred or no bowler getting a

five-wicket haul in 2001. It was

a clear-cut indication of a

team effort in that Bulawayo

game. After that, there have

been some good perfor-

mances and we grew in confi-

extend its all out cooperation to

the PCLT20 and it was decided

that the itinerary will be

chalked out by the league

organisers and related com-

mittees of the board. Proposed

start date for the PCL is April 29.

tournament will be held from

2009 either on June 29 or

activities of the special com-

mittee for infrastructural

development for the 2011 ICC

August 7 this year.

CricketWorldCup.

The Women's Club Cup

The board also decided to

The board reviewed the

AFP, Rome



Palermo potentially breathed life into the Serie A title race with a gritty comeback in a 2-2 draw with Inter Milan at the San Siro on Saturday as Italian football mourned the victims of the

Abruzzo earthquake. Aminute's silence was observed at all top flight matches while players wore black armbands for

the disaster which has claimed 291 lives. First half goals from Mario Balotelli and Zlatan Ibrahimovic saw the champions and leaders seemingly cruising to a 12-point lead at the top of the table.

But a stirring fightback from their Sicilian visitors means that second-placed Juventus can cut Inter's lead to seven points, ahead of their championship decider next week in Turin, if they win their tough trip to Genoa later on Sunday

Palermo's ineffectual offside trap contributed greatly to Inter's early dominance but after surviving when Ibrahimovic chipped wide when clean through, they were not so lucky on 15 minutes when Balotelli ran past a static Morris Carrozzieri to head home Sulley Muntari's cross from the left.

Balotelli could have added a second when he ran clear of the Sicilians' woeful backline once again but he couldn't beat Marco Amelia in the visitors' goal. However, Inter doubled the advantage six

minutes before the break as Ibrahimovic converted the generous penalty he had won when going down in the box following contact with the unlucky Simon Kjaer.

Inter seemed to be cruising but two goals in two minutes turned the game on its head.

FRO PAGE 17

said Tendulkar.

pressure," he said.

FROM PAGE 17

informedYunus.

their goal. This came after they

beat Australia and England at

home in Test series. Crucial to

these wins has been the bal-

ance and belief of the side,

talented players. The secret to

this success is the players are

playing their natural game.

That can only happen if the

atmosphere is good and the

mind is free of any kind of

earlier teams did not try hard

enough and they didn't mean

business," he said. "Everyone

goes out there to win. I just feel

this is a nicely balanced side

with a lot of talent. Without

these aspects it wouldn't have

happened. The guys are scor-

ing big and the bowlers are

striking as often as they possi-

probability to see the semifi-

nals and the final match

directly. We have to arrange

this tournament as it is on the

calendar and we don't want to

break the tradition, but the

budget will be minimal,"

discussion on a proposed big-

spending Twenty20 tourna-

because everybody felt that

issues that had to sorted out

before it could be placed in the

The Club Cup consisting of

the league champions of all 64

districts will be held in late

April or start of May and 40

districts have already regis-

tered for the competition

while the CCDM Cup three-

day tournament schedule will

The BCB has decided to

meeting," he added.

be worked out later.

there were more pressing

"There was however no

Tendulkar said India dence."

17 on BCB payroll

April 20.

ment -- BPL by name -- hold the BCB Awards Night

"It would be wrong to say

"We've got some seriously

Brazilian forward Edison Cavani beat veteran goalkeeper Francesco Toldo at his near post on 73

minutes and then substitute Davide Succi lost marker Cristian Chivu to tap home Fabrizio Miccoli's cross from close range.

Lazio claimed the honours 4-2 in a thrilling, action-packed Rome derby as AS Roma lost further ground in the chase for fourth place and Champions League football next season.

The nominal hosts -- the clubs share Rome's Stadio Olimpico -- were off to a flyer as Macedonia striker Goran Pandev rifled home a volley on two minutes and Argentina forward Mauro Zarate hit a spectacular long range dipping, swerving effort two minutes after that.

Roma muscled back into the match on 10 minutes as French defender Philippe Mexes lashed home a loose ball at a corner but he and centre-back partner Christian Panucci were left grounded as Switzerland defender Stephan Lichtsteiner rose to head home a cross from Pasquale Foggia.

Any hopes Roma had of salvaging something seemed to end when Panucci was sent off for a second booking, after which the game descended into farce when Mexes and Lazio's Francesco Matuzalem both received their marching orders for arguing, as well as Roma coach Luciano Spalletti and a member of Lazio's backroom staff.

Ten minutes from time Daniele De Rossi set up a tense finale as he reduced the arrears with a loopingheader.

But Aleksandar Kolarov settled the match five minutes later when he somehow ran unopposed from the edge of his own box to that of Roma's before beating goalkeeper Doni with a low right Fiorentina moved six points clear of Roma in

the race for fourth place as they defeated Cagliari 2-1 at home while AC Milan tightened their grip on third place with a fortunate 1-0 success at

Sachin hails Gary's

FROM PAGE 17

The code has several changes from the ICC's previous antidoping regulations, including the adoption of the International Registered Testing Pool (IRTP), made up of the leading players from each of the top eight ranked ODI teams.

Those players selected in the IRTP are required to provide additional information about their whereabouts throughout the year in order that the ICC can implement an effective outof-competition testing programme in line with the requirements of the WADA Code 2009.

The ICC became a signatory of WADA in July 2006 and the ICC Anti-Doping Code (2009), unanimously incorporated by the ICC Executive Board, indicates an overwhelming level of support for a zero-tolerance approach to drugs within the game of cricket.

Gerrard

FROM PAGE 20 forget. So you can always rely on our supporters to be there for you when you need them."

Gerrard will play a prominent role in the memorial service to be held at Anfield on Wednesday, the day after Liverpool try to overturn a 3-1 Champions League quarterfinal deficit at Chelsea.

"The memory of Hillsborough is very central and very important to this club and the 96 will never be forgotten, as well as the people that got hurt,' he added.

"It is important these people get remembered individually and not just as a number of 96. This club has fought for justice ever since and will continue to do so.

"We have stuck together since that day like we always do at this club and that shows what kind of football club we are, sticking by each other when times are tough. "We are not just about what

performing well with both bat and ball, but this summer the former Hoërskool Waterkloof pupil took his game up a level and was one of the stars of the not many cricket fans would MTN Championship. The change in mindset worked wonders and he finished the competition as

have been familiar with the name Roelof van der Merwe. The reason you may not the leading wicket-taker with have heard of the 24-year-old back then was simple. van der 30 dismissals. Merwe had been doing what

years and just didn't take things too seriously," says van der Merwe. "I played club cricket for a while and wasn't really on top of my game. I went overseas for a short stint, social level."

best: partying.

He may have represented

South Africa at the Under-19

World Cup in 2004, but prior to

the 2007-08 domestic season,

cricket, an intervention by his parents put the youngster, nicknamed "The Bulldog", for his obdurate, never-say-die attitude, back on the right path. "I owe a lot to my folks.

They sat me down and told me I can't be out late partying all the time. They put pressure on me to find some direction in my life, whether it was working, studying or playing cricket."

Fortunately for Titans supporters, he chose to focus

Party boy comes home on cricket, and two summers later a great deal has changed. van der Merwe had a solid domestic season in 2007-08, Domestic

van der Merwe was particall good 20-somethings do ularly impressive in the Titans' semi-final against the Cape "After the U-19 World Cup I Cobras, where he almost basically went to sleep for two single-handedly secured his side a place in the final with career-best figures of 5 for 31 and a quickfire 64 off 42 balls. His first wicket of the semi was a crucial one. He bowled the dangerous Richard Levi, who but it was all very much on a on 45 looked set for a big score. The wicket proved to be the Luckily, both for van der catalyst for the Cobras col-Merwe and South African lapse as they slumped from 148 for 3 to 183 for 9 off their

> not one to bask in his achievements and attributes his recent success to hard work and time spent with Grant Morgan and Ray Jennings at the national academy during the winter. Richard Pybus, his coach at the Titans, puts his improvement down to more than just hard graft.

allotted overs, with van der

Merwe picking up the last four

wickets in quick succession.

"He has exceptionally high skill levels and very good control", says Pybus. "He has a great feel, almost like a sixth sense of a batsman's intent. His judgment of length is spoton and he has a superb temperament. He relishes a challenge and enjoys bowling at the back-end of an innings and the challenges that it

While he has become a standout performer with ball in hand, van der Merwe was not always a fan of spin in his school days, and had it not been for a club game back in 2004, he might have been making headlines for completely different reasons.

"I actually used to be a wicketkeeper before I started bowling, and at the U-19 World Cup, I was selected as one. Heino Kuhn and I both played club cricket for the Pretoria Boys' High Old Boys and we needed someone to bowl at the end of the innings and most of the bowlers had finished their overs. So Heino and I actually changed. He took the gloves and I bowled. However, van der Merwe is Heino had a good time behind the stumps and I bowled a decent spell, and that's how I became a spinner."

The Titans have developed their own culture of spin, with the likes of Paul Harris, the much-talked about Imran Tahir, Faf du Plessis and now van der Merwe. While van der Merwe has been used mainly

in the shorter forms of the game, his coach believes he has the credentials to make the step up to the longer version. "At the moment he is predominantly a one-day and Twenty20 specialist", says Pybus. "Obviously Paul and Imran are our two first-choice four-day spinners, but Roelof will come through. He gets beautiful shape and flight on the ball, so it's only a matter of

time." While stats indicate that van der Merwe should be regarded as a bowling allrounder, he has the potential, as he showcased against the Cobras, to be an explosive batsman capable of destroying an attack on any given day.

However, he is the first to admit his performances with the willow this summer were not up to the high standard he sets for himself. "I need to keep my batting up to scratch and get my average up, because that's going to get me into sides in the future. I felt a bit of pressure to perform with the bat, but I think when I got that halfcentury in the semifinal it took alotoffmyshoulders."

Having only celebrated his 24th birthday on New Year's Eve, van der Merwe has come a long way in a very short space of time. Expect the bulldog to be out doing what he does best, fighting, with his sights set on making an impact with the Proteas and Bangalore Royal Challengers.

Afghan shock for Ireland

AFP, Johannesburg

Cricket minnows Afghanistan kept alive their dream of a place at the 2011 World Cup with a shock 22-run victory over Ireland Saturday.

The team that has risen from the fifth division to the final qualifying tournament for a place beside giants like title holders Australia, South Africa and India, made 218-7 in their allotted 50 overs.

And Ireland, who started the game as hot favourites after five consecutive firstround wins, were restricted to 196 in 47.3 overs with medium bowler Hameed Hasan the five-wickethero.

Victory earned Afghanistan their first World Cup Qualifier Super 8 points and if they carry on winning against Canada Namibia and Scotland next week, would finish with eight.

MU see off

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Downing's corner to give Boro a half-time lead and Marlon King sealed the points late on after a terrible mistake by former Boro midfielder George Boateng.

Portsmouth blew a chance to pull further clear of the drop zone after a 2-2 draw at home to bottom sideWest Brom.

Younes Kaboul gave Pompey a first-half lead but that was cancelled out by Jonathan Greening and the Baggies then took the lead through Chris Brunt before Niko Kranjcar's free-kick salvaged a point for Pompey

In the afternoon's other game, Tottenham overcame London rivals West Ham with substitute Roman Payluchenko scoring the only goal of the match at White Hart Lane.

Agencies

FROM PAGE 17

covering the five-week event after the IPL authorities withdrew their previous decision not to allow the agencies to distribute news and photographs to cricket websites. "We are pleased to have

reached this agreement with the global news media industry," IPL Commissioner Lalit Modi said in a statement. "This will now allow the IPL

fans across the world to gain access to the festival of sport and entertainment that is set to unfold here in South Africa over the next few weeks. "It was always our inten-

tion to give an event like IPL its proper due by having it covered by the world media," Modi added.

Veeru's eyes

ROM PAGE 17

phase of his career as his performances had translated into wins for the team. "There are several factors surrounding these statistics -- the dressingroom atmosphere, the teammates, coach, captain -- it's everything you could dream of." Sehwag has scored a triplehundred, a double-hundred and five half-centuries in the 15 Tests since Gary Kirsten took over as coach in March 2008 India did not lose any of the matches in which he scored fifty or more.

Bhajji reveals secret

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Harbhajan Singh has said the main reason why India have been able to build on the winning momentum in the recent past is that the players are no more insecure about their place in the side. According to Harbhajan this separates the previous teams he was part of from the one led by MS Dhoni. Harbhajan, who finished the recent New Zealand series as the leading wicket-taker with 16 at 21.37, felt the team management's belief in the players has helped them counter all sorts of conditions.

"Why we are winning is because we are playing good cricket," Harbhajan told Cricinfo in Mumbai. "Everyone is performing, everyone is willing to be a champion. A lot of credit must go to the support staff and team management for giving the surety to all the players that they would be getting at least 10-15 games. That gives a player a lot of confidence."

Still to visit hometown Jalandhar after his return from New Zealand Harbhajan, who is busy doing promotional ads for his IPL team Mumbai Indians, said he was looking forward to making a comeback to the tournament after being shunted out last year for slapping Sreesanth. "I missed the whole IPL last year because of reasons well-known. But I'm looking forward to come back and it should be nice against Andrew Symonds, Matthew Hayden and all these big guys."

Harbhajan said while Twenty20 was a "batsman's game", he had learnt how to evade the batsman's assault and his performance in New Zealand would help him lead the Mumbai bowling attack. The New Zealand trip was his first overseas series after Anil Kumble's exit and Harbhajan said he just "wanted" to do well being the lead spinner. This was also his third tour to New Zealand and he wanted to make amends for the below-par performance on the previous occasions.

"It is always challenging bowling abroad -you don't get much spin, bounce. You do get bounce but you don't get sideways spin. It is always drifting kind of spin you get. Also with Anil bhai not being there it was challenging and there was a lot of responsibility on me as the senior spinner to do well. This was my third tour there and I'm glad that my wickets came at the right time -- we won the game in Hamilton and we almost won it in Wellington, too."

Harbhajan's six-wicket haul in the second innings in Hamilton inspired India to a tenwicket win, their first in 33 years in New Zealand. Then in the final Test in Wellington, bowling marathon spells against the wind he almost sealed victory with a seven-wicket match haul, but bad weather robbed India of a 2-0 victory. Harbhajan believes he wouldn't have managed to excel without the team's support. "As a team we did really well, forget my wickets. We deserved to win. This team can beat any side."

Call-up shocks Clark!

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

CROSSWORD

35 Insult (SI.)

Cugat

45 Eastern

47 Bill

49 Part of

A.D.

50 Lummox

51 Swelled

head

angling

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ACROSS

12 Jamaican

ous viper

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17 Exile

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31 Partner in

crime

32 More, to

33 Father

(Fr.)

Manuel

park

26 Winter

29 Type

30 Bagel

18 Threaten- 52 "-

1 Give

So unprepared was Stuart Clark for selection on Australia's limited overs tour of South Africa, he did not have a passport when the call came. "I've just spent the day organising another one," he said. "My original passport is still at the British consulate.

Clark had been preparing to fly to England this week for a county stint with Kent, for whom he was to debut on April 21 in a County Championship match against Northamptonshire. But those plans were scuppered with a surprise phone call from Michael Brown, Cricket Australia's operations manager, on Friday night, instructing him to pack his bags for South Africa and, afterwards, the UAE.

"I almost fell of my chair when I got the call," Clark told Cricinfo. "I hadn't planned on it hap-

DOWN

1 Wrestling

2 Culture

4 Party

6 N.A.

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roomy

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of a lineup

expanse

10 Picks out

11 Gram.

19 Wet

Solution time: 25 mins.

case

and

7 People

By Eugene Sheffer

5 Ship of 27 Hodge-

things are 32 Faux pas

one's own bug spray

named for 33 Triumph

8 Take as 35 Banned

9 They're 36 "CSI"

the desert

21 Foolish

23 Minimum

24 Standard

25 Former

26 Overly

podge

28 Robert

Graves

subject

evidence

38 Bridge

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39 U-shaped

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43 Grandson

of Eve

44 "Portnoy's

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48 Palin-

title

Complaint

holder

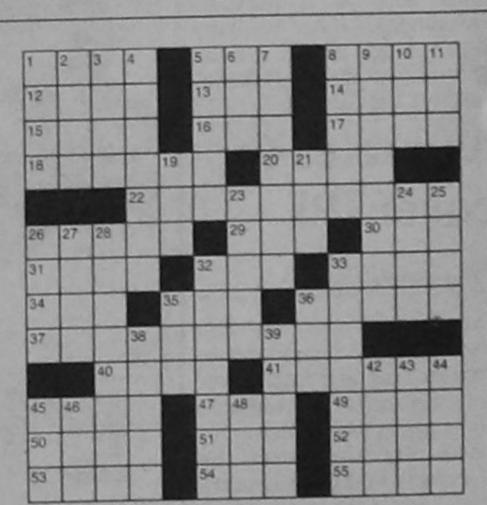
Franken-

pening at all. I had just assumed my one-day international career was in the past, and while I was disappointed by that, I was just concentrating on the other forms of the game. This really came out of the blue, and I'm very excited about it. It's a real chance for me to get back into the

one-day team on a more regular basis."

Clark's call-up came after Brett Geeves fractured his left foot during Australia's 25-run defeat to South Africa in Cape Town on Thursday. He will arrive in South Africa on Sunday, and is likely to make his return to one-day international cricket in the fifth and final match at the Wanderers next Friday.

Clark has not represented Australia at limited-overs level since September last year, and appeared to have slipped well back in the pecking order. But injuries to key fast bowling personnel has presented him with an opportunity to add to his 36-game resume, and gain valuable exposure to international cricket in his comebackfrom elbow surgery.



CRYPTOQUIP

C NSNFJCZ PFTM CQSFP MIMTDTLX XNMTP ST C XCTAH QMCEO ESFJA QM ECJJMA "D JSIM C LZCDTH TDLOP."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU GAVE PESKY CRITTERS OUTFITS TO PUT ON, I RECKON YOU MIGHT CALL THEM VARMINTS' GARMENTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals P

In the meeting, some budgets of the grounds and facilities committee were approved subject to signing of MoU with local authorities regarding use happens on the pitch, we are all of the grounds exclusively for one off the pitch as well. cricket.