

Kimi wins Belgian GP

AFP, Belgium

Finn Kimi Raikkonen rode his luck to claim Ferrari's first win this year when he held off a strong challenge from Force India's veteran Italian Giancarlo Fisichella in Sunday's dramatic Belgian Grand Prix.

It was the 2007 world champion's 18th career win but his first since the 2008 Spanish Grand Prix -- a welcome fillip for the Ferrari team after a torrid year. The race was overshadowed by a multiple accident on the opening lap which wrecked the hopes of drivers championship leader Jenson Button and defending champion and fellow Briton Lewis Hamilton, of McLaren Mercedes, both of them crashing out.

Fisichella, who had grabbed his Force India team's maiden pole position on Saturday, came home second, just nine-tenths of a second behind Raikkonen.

He scored the team's first points and first podium.

German Sebastian Vettel came home third for Red Bull to jump back up to third in the title race with 53 points behind Button on 72 and his Brawn GP teammate Brazilian Rubens Barrichello on 56 with five races remaining.

Pole Robert Kubica was fourth for BMW Sauber ahead of his team-mate German Nick Heidfeld with Finn Heikki Kovalainen sixth for McLaren Mercedes.

Flushing

FROM PAGE 17
Roddick facing Germany's Bjorn Phau.

US Open officials have said they plan to stage a women's match after a men's match at some point during the Flushing Meadows fortnight.

Men usually play the later matches in part because they are best-of-five compared to the best-of-three on the women's side.

Inter hammer

FROM PAGE 20
ice on his calf due to a slight muscle problem," he explained.

To add insult to injury, Maicon scored a third on the stroke of half-time after a one-two with Milito as Flamengo once again failed to track a forward run.

Stankovic's howitzer from 25 yards halfway through the second period was the final nail in Milan's coffin but tellingly, the nominal hosts at the San Siro -- a ground the two teams share -- had a hand in their own downfall as Andrea Pirlo failed to close down the Serbian, giving him time and space to pick his spot.

Arjen targets

FROM PAGE 20
The 25-year-old replaced the injured Hamit Altintop at half-time against Wolfsburg and immediately caused havoc down his right flank.

"It's always difficult when a transfer is a matter of just two days," said Bayern coach van Gaal.

"He's come to Munich where he doesn't know anyone -- maybe the coach, the players off the TV -- and he suddenly has to work with them."

"And he's gone out and done this. It confirms he's class, and I'm delighted we have him here at Bayern."

C'Ron

FROM PAGE 20
Lyon, could have had a debut goal had it not been for the woodwork.

"It was great to start with a win against a tough Depor team," said Benzema. "I had my chances but they went against the woodwork."

Benzema, who has taken over Arjen Robben's number 11 shirt, appears to have won a starting place ahead of Gonzalo Higuain, last season's top-scorer with 22 goals, and is reveling in his partnership with captain Raul.

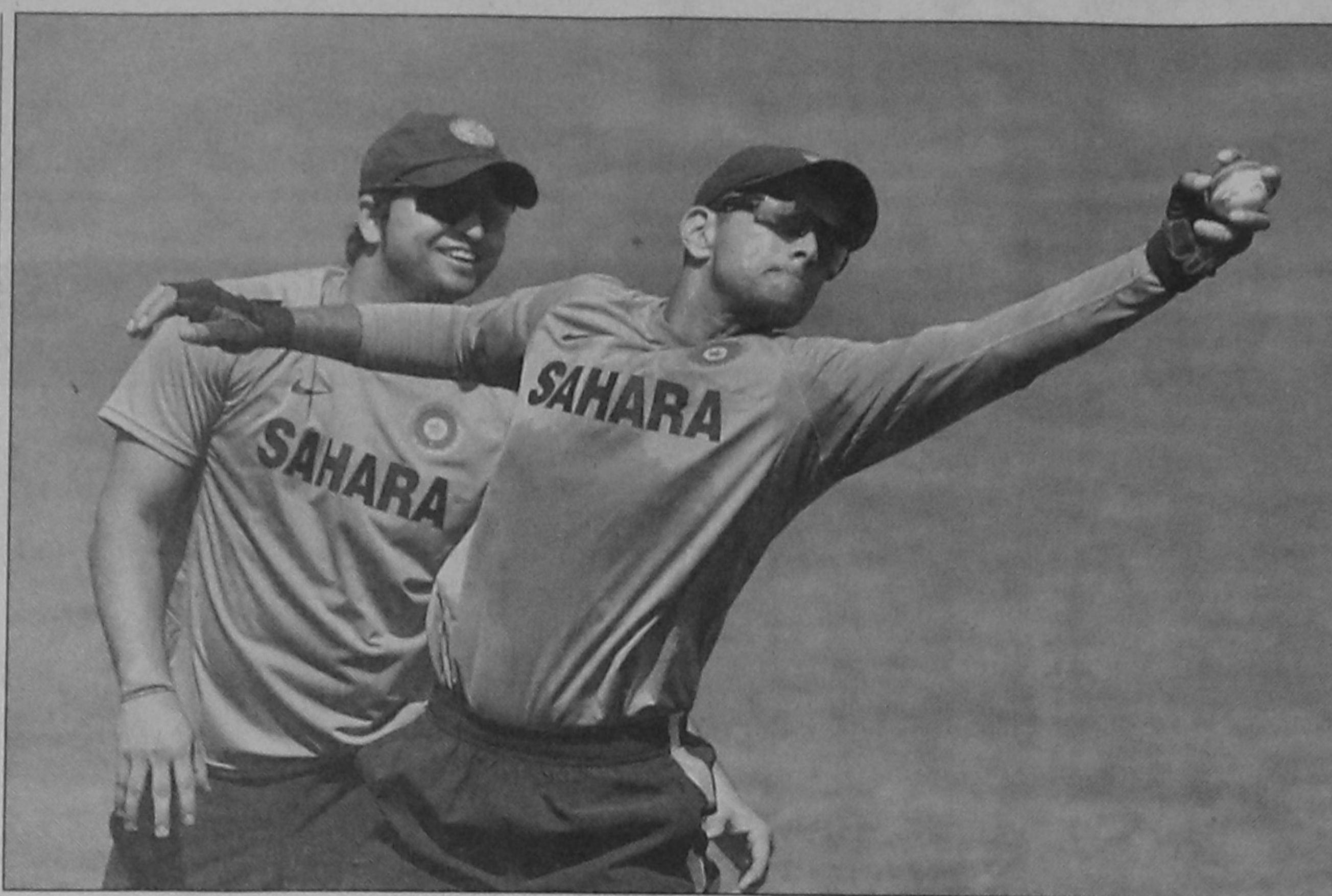
"We understand each other well and it will get better with more games."

Robben steals

FROM PAGE 20
Schalke 04 went down without a fight as they were shocked 1-0 at home to minnows Freiburg.

Having hit the bar midway through the first half, Freiburg took the lead when South Korean defender Du-Ri Cha scored in the 40th minute with a right-footed strike.

German magazine Kicker's website has reported Schalke's Brazilian defender Rafinha is being lined up by Bayern Munich for a last-minute switch to Bavaria before the transfer window closes on August 31 and the news seemed to have affected lifeless Schalke. Nuremberg held Stuttgart to a 0-0 draw while Dortmund drew 1-1 with Frankfurt.



Back to the Indian one-day fold Rahul Dravid (R) takes a one-handed catch as teammate Suresh Raina looks on during a training session at the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore yesterday.

BCCI snaps IMG ties

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The Indian cricket board will no longer use the services of IMG, the sports management firm, for conducting the IPL, following a disagreement over payments for the league's second season in South Africa.

N Srinivasan, the BCCI secretary, conveyed the decision to Andrew Wildblood, the IMG vice-president, on Friday through a letter in which he explained that the Indian board's working committee felt that IMG's fee was "disproportionate to the service rendered". Srinivasan did not disclose IMG's fee for conducting and managing the IPL's second season but claimed that the BCCI has paid Rs 42.92 crore to the firm for the first edition in 2008.

Srinivasan claimed in the letter that he and Shashank Manohar, the BCCI president, had met Wildblood in London in June for negotiations on the issue and had asked IMG to submit a fresh fee proposal before the BCCI's next working committee on August 13. IMG failed to do so, Srinivasan claimed in the letter and concluded: "Therefore, please note that BCCI has taken a

decision not to use IMG service anymore for the IPL tournament."

When contacted, Srinivasan and Wildblood neither confirmed nor denied the development. "I would refrain from making a comment," Srinivasan said. "I am not able to make any comment at this time," Wildblood said. Lalit Modi, the IPL chairman, declined to comment too.

The IPL franchises were informed about the decision only on Saturday morning through a separate email sent by league officials, a franchise official confirmed.

Sources in the IPL governing council said they expected IMG to drag the Indian board to court over the issue, but the latest development is on expected lines as the payment to the sports management firm was a matter of debate within the BCCI last year too. One section of officials claimed that the fee was exorbitant and argued that IMG's role was over once the tournament was launched. Others have pointed to the crucial role played by the firm in conceptualizing, implementing and managing the league that has been widely acknowledged as a huge success; this is a view that has been backed by many franchise officials, one of whom said his team would always prefer to have independent professionals managing the IPL.

Flintoff fears for worst

Cricket

AFP, London

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff admitted in an interview Sunday that he may never play cricket again after undergoing surgery on a long-standing knee injury.

Flintoff, who helped England regain the Ashes with victory in the final Test against Australia, underwent exploratory arthroscopic surgery on his right knee this week and expects to be laid up for several months.

"There is a possibility I may not play again," the 31-year-old told the News of the World weekly.

"It's something I'm going to have to be prepared for in case the operation is not as successful as I hope."

"There's a question mark in my mind about whether I have played my last game until I know how the operation has turned out."

"I'd be lying if I said it hadn't crossed my mind, but the success rate for an operation like

this is pretty good. The bottom line is that if it doesn't work, there's nothing I can do about it."

"But I don't want my career to end like this. My Test career ended with a high by England winning the Ashes and I'd like to finish my one-day career by winning the World Cup."

The Lancashire star had already said the final Ashes clash of the series would be his last Test appearance due to the constant strain on his knee problem.

"The day after the Ashes win I went for a scan, which confirmed my knee problem had got worse. I was really struggling towards the end of the final Test," Flintoff said.

He said the next few weeks would be crucial for his recovery, and he wasn't allowed to put any weight on his knee.

"I will see the specialist in a couple of weeks and then have another eight-week check-up. It's only then we'll know the extent of where I'm up to," he said.

Flintoff added: "I have set myself a target of returning for the tour to Bangladesh, which is from mid-February to the middle of March, but whether that's realistic or not, I'm not sure."

NZ go down

FROM PAGE 17

as they went to lunch on 302-7, the merest whiff of an unlikely upset in their nostrils.

Oram was dismissed just before the break when he drove part-time spinner Tillakaratne Dilshan upshilly to the cover region where Sangakkara took an overhead catch.

Vettori and Oram had survived a torrid spell from fast bowler Dammika Prasad, who was unlucky not to dismiss both batsmen in the space of four deliveries.

Vettori was on 32 when he edged Prasad between the first two slips, but neither fielder moved to take the catch.

Prasad hit Oram on the pads with the last ball of the over, but umpire Daryl Harper was unmoved even as television replays showed the batsman plumb in front of the wicket.

Sri Lanka suffered a minor setback before lunch when Muttiah Muralidaran limped off with a groin strain after bowling three balls of his 21st over. Thilan Thushara completed the over.

But Muralidaran, Test cricket's leading bowler, returned after lunch to have Jeetan Patel caught at short-leg for 12 and then had Vettori snapped up in the deep to signal Sri Lanka's victory.

Final scoreboard on the fifth day of the second Test between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club on Sunday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 416

(Sangakkara 50, M Jayawardene 92, Samaraweera 143; Patel 4-78, Vettori 3-104)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 234 (Taylor 81; Herath 3-70, Muralidaran 3-71)

SRI LANKA: Second innings 311-5 decl (Sangakkara 109, M Jayawardene 96; Vettori 2-62, Patel 2-122)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 182-6)

McIntosh b Prasad 7

Gupthill c P Jayawardene b Herath 28

Flynn lbw b Herath 50

Taylor c M Jayawardene b Herath 27

Ryder lbw b Herath 38

McCullum b Muralidaran 13

Oram c Sangakkara b Dilshan 56

Vettori c Herath b Muralidaran 140

Patel c Kapugedera b Muralidaran 12

O'Brien c P Jayawardene b Herath 12

Martin not out 0

Extras: (lb-13, nb-1) 14

Total: (All out in 123.5 overs) 397

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-41, 3-97, 4-131, 5-158, 6-176, 7-300, 8-318, 9-387, 10-397.

Bowler O M R W

Paranavitana 1 0 2 0

Thushara 23.3 1 78 0

Prasad 15 1 56 1

Herath 48 9 139 5

Muralidaran 28.2 2 85 3

Dilshan 6 0 15 1

Kapugedera 2 0 9 0

(Note: Muralidaran bowled three balls of his 21st over when he went off the field with a groin strain. Thushara completed the over).

Result: Sri Lanka won by 96 runs and clinched the 2-match Test series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: Mahela Jayawardene.

Man-of-the-series: Thilan Samaraweera.

Taekwondo stars given reception

SPORTS REPORTER

Gold medalists Mizanur Rahman and Rasiul Kabir were accorded a reception yesterday for their achievements in the 5th Korean Open International Taekwondo Championship in Korea.

Mizanur and Rasiul brought laurels to the nation in the under-87 kg and above-87 kg categories respectively in the championship, which is considered the fifth rated tournament after World Championship, Olympics, Asian and the USA meet.

Sports Minister Ahad Ali Sarker announced a cash reward of Tk 50,000 to each as incentive while Trust Bank, the sponsor of the Bangladesh Taekwondo Federation, also announced an incentive of Tk 1 lakh for each.

Both Mizanur and Rasiul said that they did not expect to clinch the gold, but this achievement would inspire them to do better in the 2010 South Asian Games at home as well as in the World Taekwondo Championship in Denmark in October.

Shuktara

FROM PAGE 17

Bangladesh Football Federation's initiative to award three new teams the chance to play in the top-flight would inspire the upcoming players.

Meanwhile, Rahmatganj MFS also signed eight players including two foreign recruits -- Idris Kasriye and Raphael Sango, who played for Chittagong Mohammedan last season.

SHUKTARA SQUAD

Rashed Chowdhury, Al Amin, Shahidul Islam Dulal, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Kawsar Ahmed Razib, Biplob Das, Robin Hasan, Monir Hossain, Abul Kashem, Rezaul Karim Liton, Zahidul Hasan Dalim, Shahriar Abdullah Rintu, Sujam Ahmed Rizvi, Hanif Prodhan, Mohammad Ullah Dalim, Mohammad Sohel, Mehdi Hasan Tapu and Saiful Islam Khokon.

GMs urge

FROM PAGE 17

coming to an end and an executive committee should be formed through a free and a fair election in the greater interest of chess so that the committee can play a great role in developing the country's chess.

We have come to know that a group of people, who were never in the top 100 ranking of the country, has been trying to convince the ministry to form an ad-hoc committee dissolving the existing committee, read the memo. We urge not to form an ad-hoc committee for the sake of chess and take initiative to hold a free and a fair election, finished the memo.

The memorandum also urged the sports minister to allot the space for the Bangladesh Chess Federation at the newly-built National Sports Council Tower in a bid to set up an international standard place for holding the chess, which need a quite and congenial environment.

Clamour

FROM PAGE 17

what he can offer as a captain. He's tough, he won't take a backward step, he plays aggressive cricket -- and that is synonymous with the Australian style," Rixon said.

Former Test all-rounder Greg Matthews also likes the way Katich leads from the front.

"Before the Ashes series, I felt the strongest man in Australian cricket was Simon Katich. His character, his intent, he bats like his life depends on every ball. It's just obvious for me, if I was in the trenches, he'd be the first guy I'd pick," Matthews said.

John calls for review

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

John Buchanan has called for a review of current Australian coach Tim Nielsen's position, in the aftermath of their 2-1 defeat in the Ashes. Nielsen had accepted responsibility for the outcome and had said there were things he could have done differently, but added that he had to concentrate on the job ahead. Buchanan, who coached Australia before Nielsen took over, stressed that it wasn't just the coaching position which had to be reviewed but the entire system.

"The coaching position needs to be looked at, whether we need a restructure of the position and the personnel," he told Australia's Herald Sun. "The first step is to deal with all the emotional criticism and then sit down and work out the best way forward."

"My view, having gone through it in 2005, was that there was a lot to be achieved, once you actually try to find solutions rather than looking for scapegoats. It's not just about the players. Some people have called for the selection panel to be looked at and I think we need to look at the whole system."

Nielsen began his tenure as coach successfully, with series wins over India and West Indies, in the early part of 2008. But, since then, Australia's record has been mixed. While they won against New Zealand at home and against South Africa away, they were defeated by India in the return series, experienced their first series loss at home in 16 years when they were beaten

2-1 by South Africa, and lost the Ashes. Buchanan said that Australia had not done well enough to monitor and study the opposition prior to taking them on.

He was speaking more with regards to their performance in England, having lost twice in two attempts there since 2005.

"We've lost two series in a row there now and even though we've got computer information on the opposition, we're probably not scouting as well as we could," he said. "It could be that we have a coach or somebody who follows the English team for a couple of months prior to an Ashes series."

"It could be that we talk to professional players or coaches who are already over there, about conditions and what the ball is doing. But we need to find long-term solutions."

Ricky Ponting, the Australia captain, has expressed his interest to come back to England in 2013 in the quest for an elusive victory under his leadership there, and Buchanan was fully supportive of his ambition. However, he added that the coach needed to shoulder a greater element of responsibility in easing the burden off the captain.

"Ponting has said he wants to be there when they go back in 2013 and I support that, but I think the point it raises is the issue of player management," Buchanan said. "The captain doesn't have to be the first person to answer questions, but it would be a radical change to the traditional cricket hierarchy."

"Everything revolves around the captain and that makes the position extremely, extremely difficult to handle over a long period of time."

Smooth start

FROM PAGE 17

Garay began in central defence alongside fellow debutant Raul Albil.

With just 48 seconds gone Kaka, a 68.5-million euro purchase from AC Milan, almost scored a debut goal but dragged his shot wide of the post.

Real's formation resembled a 4-2-2-2 but Ronaldo, sporting the number nine shirt, often roamed in from the right into a central striker's role.

Depor, who had beaten Real 2-1 on the opening day of last season, were under the cosh for the first 20 minutes and the breakthrough came on 26 minutes with Benzema racing onto Kaka's pass.

The Frenchman fired

against the post but Raul was on hand to roll in one of the easiest goals of his career.

Depor replied quickly with Riki heading in on the half hour mark after some poor defending.

Raul then won a penalty as goalkeeper Daniel Aranzubia clipped him and Ronaldo stepped up to smash his spot-kick low into the corner for his first Real goal.

A minute after the interval Depor caught Real off-guard with veteran Valeron thundering a volley past Casillas to make it 2-2.

Ronaldo screamed a shot past the post with his supposedly weaker left foot before Diarra, hardly prolific in front of goal, fired in the winner.

2nd PCL

FROM PAGE 17

Cricket League early this year much like with popular Indian Premier League (IPL) as stars players were put in auction with the participation of eight teams.

ATN Bangla telecasted the opening ceremony, semifinals and the final match of the inaugural PCL matches live from Chittagong.

BCB Media Committee chairman Muhammad Jalal Yunus, BCB director and PCL co-ordinator Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir, former national selectors Faruk Ahmed and Athar Ali Khan were among other presents.

Hypnotist

FROM PAGE 17

but I must confess that I am not a magician but certainly what I do appears to be like magic and transforms people to really excel in what they do and makes them happy and buoyant," Babri stated in his letter.

Interestingly, Babri had predicted that Pakistan, which was considered underdogs in the tournament, would win the T20 World Cup after spending six days with the team ahead of the event.

Australia post 145

AFP, Manchester

Cameron White led Australia to 145 for four against England in the first Twenty20 international at Old Trafford on Sunday.

White, dropped on 12 by debutant Joe Denly, made 55 and shared a fourth-wicket stand of 78 with Michael Clarke, Australia's captain in the absence of the resting Ricky Ponting.

The duo came together after England captain Paul Collingwood took two wickets in three balls to leave Australia struggling at 54 for three in the ninth over.

Victoria's White, who didn't feature in the Ashes series that England clinched 2-1 at the Oval last week, completed a maiden fifty at this level off 33 balls when he launched paceman Ryan Sidebottom for his third six.

He was eventually out when a lofted cover-drive off Ashes hero Stuart Broad was well caught by a leaping Collingwood in the penultimate over.

Clarke finished on 17 not out and Adam Voges was unbeaten on 11.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		38	Old	2	Commo-	23	"Arrive-
1	Sootier	Portu-					derci
5	Vacation-	guese		3	Zodiac cat	24	Barce-
ing		money		4	Nut		lona
8	Cavort	41	Crone	5	Couturier		bulls
12	Concept	42	Body		Cassini	26	Re
13	Island		powder	6	Not a lot		earth
	souvenir	43	"I hope	7	End of the		science
14	Ontario		you		line?"	27	Therefore
	neighbor		succeed"	8	Money	28	Throat
15	Welcome	48	Lotion		back		sound
	informa-		additive	9	Exam	29	Prospec-
17	Confront	50	Needle		format		tor's
18	Coffee		case	10	Sightless		find
	holder	51	Stamina		rhyme	31	Sleeping
19	Semi,		Letter-	11	Equal		cards
	e.g.	52	man's	16	Sister	35	User of
21	Pie nut		network	20	Helps		7-Down
22	Slender	53	Exemplar	21	Overly	37	Peregrina-
25	Destroy		of 24-		proper		nate
26	Bargain		Across	22	38-	38	List-
30	A						ending

DOWN		1	Ginor-	Across'
			mous	replace-
31	Houston			ment
	hockey			
	team			