

2nd day washed out

AFP, Brisbane

The entire second day's play in the first cricket Test between Australia and South Africa was washed out in Brisbane on Saturday.

Match officials called the day's play off at 4:00 pm (0600 GMT) after the pitch remained under covers throughout the day.

The last full day's wash out at the Gabba ground was back on November 29, 1983 on the final day of Australia's second Test with Pakistan.

South Africa went to Friday's first day stumps at 255 for two with Hashim Amla not out on 90 and Jacques Kallis on 84 after winning the toss.

The Proteas suffered a significant blow overnight with confirmation that batsman JP Duminy was out of the three-Test series with an Achilles injury.

The lower-order batsman was warming down by kicking a rugby ball around with teammates on the Gabba playing field after stumps when he suffered the injury.

Div I football

SPORTS REPORTER

Badda Jagoroni Sangsad defeated T&T Club of Motijheel in the Popular Life Insurance Senior Division Football League at the Bir Shrestha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamapur yesterday. Sujun Ali scored the opening goal in the 6th minute while Rubel Mia ensured victory in the 81st minute. Mahakhali Ekadosh will take on Dhaka Wanderers Club in the lone match of the league today.

Friendly match at BFF turf

SPORTS REPORTER

BFF U-16 team thrashed American International School (AIS) of Baridhara 4-0 in a friendly match organised at the BFF artificial turf yesterday.

Sujun gave BFF youths the lead in the 29th minute and added a second in the 37th minute. Rohit Ahmed made it 3-0 in the 42nd minute before Mohammad Ilias capped off the victory scoring in the 58th minute.

A good number of spectators enjoyed the match from the sidelines. Former national player Nurul Haq Manik is the coach of the BFF U-16 side while AIS is coached by Tajwar M Awal, who played a key role in organising the friendly match.



The team to beat

Football

ANISUR RAHMAN

In their first appearance in top-flight football in 2003-04 season, Sheikh Russel stunned traditional powerhouses like Abahani, Mohammedan and Muktiyoddha Sangsad to finish second in the now defunct Premier Division Football League. But since then the Uttara-based outfit have been very inconsistent, so much so that they finished fifth in the 11-team Bangladesh Premier League last season. However, this time around they have turned the table by emerging champions in the season's curtain-raising tournament Federation Cup.

The first silverware was not a fluke for Sheikh Russel KC, who formed the best side on paper and demonstrated some dazzling performances on way to Cup victory, under coach Maruful Haque. Now they have set their sights on the coveted title of the Bangladesh Premier League, which begins on Tuesday.

Winning the premier domestic competition will not be an easy job as

they will have to vie with four-time champions and holders Ahahani, former champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and a spirited Mohammedan in the long run of 16 matches.

Nevertheless Sheikh Russel are getting enough inspiration from their recent triumph which saw them battle till the last moment to salvage victory. Sheikh Russel went one goal down before coming back to beat Mohammedan in the semifinal and repeated the same feat in the final against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi and these come-from-behind experiences give them the extra confidence ahead of the league.

Coach Maruful Haque is trying to inject a belief among the players that they are the best players in their position and with a collective effort they can beat anyone and win the league like they did in the Federation Cup.

Maruful has a strong cache of national players including playmaker Mamunul Islam, inspirational winger Zahid Hossain, on-song striker Zahid Hasan, promising defenders Linkon, Mamun Mia and Rezaul Karim apart from three quality recruits in Haitian Sony Norde, Moroccans

Aboukacem and Tarik El Janabi.

Sheikh Russel have an equally impressive reserve bench which includes the likes of national strikers Mithun Chowdhury, Anwar Hossain, midfielders Emon Babu, Rajon Mia, defender Uttam Kumar and goalkeeper Nehal while foreign recruits Moroccan midfielder Tarik Marzouk, defenders Abbas Inusah and Bojan Petric of Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Maruful's possession football in the Federation Cup saw Sheikh Russel ease through the three group phase matches where the forwards found the target 13 times. However, they struggled in the knock-out phase. They also conceded early goals against Mohammedan and Sheikh Jamal due to lapses in the backline before bouncing back and their main worry lies in the stopper position.

"Everything is all right except the stopper position which is still our concern," said assistant coach Humayun Kabir in the absence of head coach Maruful, who went to the United Kingdom to participate in a UEFA coaching course.

"We do have a stopper from Bosnia but

we are waiting for Moroccan Abbas Inusah. The problem will be solved as soon as he arrives," said Kabir adding that the head coach also worked on the striking zone to sharpen the forwards' finishing.

Sheikh Russel also have a worry in the right-back position as they will have to play second-choice Murad or third-choice Aminul while first-choice national back Nasirul Islam recovers from an injury which is expected to keep him out of play in the first phase.

The coach is also working on set-pieces with Zahid Hasan Emily, Mamunul Islam and Zahid Hossain. The latter will however miss the first two league matches, against Team BJMC and Mohammedan, due to suspension.

SQUAD:
Goalkeepers: Biplob, Nehal, Tuwan.
Defenders: Aminul, Uttam, Reza, Mamun Mia, Nasir, Linkon, Murad, Bappi, Tanvir, Inusah, Bojan, Rodrigues.
Midfielders: Zahid, Mamunul, Emon, Rajon, Sumon, Emu, El Janaby, Sony Norde.
Strikers: Emily, Mithun, Anwar, Sohel, Aboukacem, Tarik Marzouk.

Kiwis 131/8

AFP, Hambantota

Jeevan Mendis took three quick wickets as Sri Lanka restricted New Zealand to 131-8 in the fourth one-day international to boost their chances of clinching the series on Saturday.

The leg-spinner finished with 3-15 off four tight overs, including two wickets off successive balls, in the day-night match reduced to 32-overs-a-side due to rain in Hambantota.

Sri Lanka lead the five-match series 2-0 following victories in the second and third matches. The opening one-dayer was called off without a ball being bowled due to rain.

The hosts, who elected to field after winning the toss in overcast conditions, put in an impressive bowling performance and never allowed New Zealand to build a big partnership.

Brendon McCullum top-scored for New Zealand with 30.

New coach

FROM PAGE 16
"We contacted with Zoran along with some other coaches. Our team got success during Zoran's reign which is one reason for thinking about him but we are exploring other options as well," said Salahuddin.

Meanwhile, Salahuddin also said that he will travel with the national side to see their performance during their friendly matches against Thailand on November 17 and Malaysia on November 20.

"In the meeting after the team returned from Nepal, I clearly told them that I am tired of hearing excuses and this time I myself will go with them and see where the problem lies," said Salahuddin.

Can Tigers escape the rut?

FROM PAGE 16

just 234 at the second time of asking.

A similarly worn tale was told earlier in the season against their upcoming opponents, West Indies. Having dominated the first drawn Test on a Chittagong crumbler, the Tigers had a rare opportunity to seal a drawn series against a top side when they started the fifth day of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium with seven wickets in hand and two batsmen set and on top of the bowling. But Tamim Iqbal jumped out to hit over the top in the third over of the day and was caught at slip and Shakib, after constructing an 88-run partnership with Mushfiqur, tried a cute shot to be caught. The remaining five wickets fell for just 22 more runs.

On the bowling side of things, the Tigers have been known to allow stronger opponents to run up huge totals. A decent bowling attack is either miserly or incisive; a great one is both. A look back at last season's Tests reveals that Bangladesh's is neither. In all innings except the West

Indies' first innings on the Chittagong turner, the batting team scored at more than three an over, twice scoring over 4.5 an over. It is understandable that Bangladesh have not as yet unearthed many bowlers who can run through the opposition, but in such situations it is important to create pressure from both ends so that batsmen make mistakes in the absence of 'magic' deliveries. Last season Shakib and Rubel Hossain created some pressure with disciplined bowling, but it was all too often let off by bowlers at the other end. The bowling attack on Tuesday will be much the same as a year before, one can only hope that the lessons have been learnt.

The Tigers will play a Test after an 11-month gap, which two days before a Test is not worthwhile ruing. In the absence of regular Test cricket the team can learn from the last two series, and like Murray's character they will desperately be trying to break the monotony. Judging by the opponent's strength a repeat performance may be on the cards.

Calm before the 'Gayle-storm'

FROM PAGE 16

July. The team is yet to find the kind of willpower in the longer format of the game as they displayed in the recently concluded T20 world cup.

However, coach Ottis Gibson recently stated his intentions of trying to bring back the lost glories of the West Indian and begin the process by improving their rank in the Test table. The Bangladesh series, according to the team management, is an important part of their plan to achieve those ranks.

"It's always difficult to play Bangladesh in Bangladesh. Even though we won the series the last time we came here, it wasn't that easy. The guys (Bangladeshi players) are good...they have a captain who leads from the front. We are not going take

anything for granted," said Gayle.

Not many would argue against the West Indies team manager Richie Richardson's claim that Gayle's return has been a big boost for the West Indies. The dashing opener himself stated that he has been enjoying his run with the West Indies ever since his return. However, does that mean that the problems between Gayle and the West Indian Cricket board won't resurface?

"When you play international cricket, as a player, you know what's important for you, you got to be strong minded to get the job done. We will always have these things to deal with. Every particular board may have problems but it is something that we have to deal with," replied a calm-looking Gayle, before

heading towards his training session at the BCB's National Cricket Academy.

Gayle's relaxed demeanour in front of the media painted a different picture as compared to his on-field aggression with the bat. It even reminded some of the journalists of an age-old English proverb. However, one will have to wait for the beginning of the series to know if this is indeed the calm before the storm.

Siddikur fails

FROM PAGE 16

Bjorn took the second round lead on nine-under-133 while compatriot George Coetzee propelled to a share of second place alongside England's Chris Wood.

Razzak rewrites record

FROM PAGE 16

contributed in the middle but it was Razzak's day, the veteran making sure that Khulna took a 109-run first innings lead. Pacer Robiul Islam took the other wicket in the Chittagong innings.

Khulna made 13 runs in their second innings without any loss before stumps were drawn for the day to extend their lead to 22 runs.

SYLHETVS DHAKA
Rajin Saleh and Alok Kapali associated 240 runs for the fourth wicket to ensure a huge 306-run first innings lead for Sylhet. Rajin hit 132 off 277 balls with 17 boundaries and two sixes while Kapali made 133 off 235 balls with the help of 16 boundaries and two sixes.

Dhaka trailed by 268 runs at stumps as reached 38 runs in their second innings without any damage.

RAJSHAHIVS RANGPUR
Tailenders Tarik Ahmed (44) and Alauddin Babu (48) avoided the blushes for Rangpur who were bundled out for 171 runs in reply to Rajshahi's 232 runs.

Rajshahi however extended their lead to 138 runs as they scored 77 runs for two wickets before stumps were drawn for the day.

BARISALVSDHAKA METRO
Left-handed batsman Mehrab Hossain batted brilliantly during his unbeaten runs from 188 balls with ten boundaries while number eight batsman Suleman Khan played a vital knock of 64 as Dhaka Metro scored 241 runs in their first innings, one run short of their opponent's first innings score.

Left-arm paceman Syed Rasel was the most successful bowler picking up four wickets.

Barisal finished the day with a 29-run lead but it was Dhaka Metro who left the field smiling as they inflicted a batting collapse on their opponents in the second innings claiming five wickets for 28 runs. Mohammad Ashraful, who has been struggling with his batting, took two wickets.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BARISAL: First innings 242 and Second innings 28-5 in 12.4 overs

(Rabbi 15; Ashraful 2-0)

DHAKA METRO: First innings 241 all out in 82.2 overs (Arman 43, Mehrab 81 not out, Ashraful 11, Suleman 64, extras 10; Rasel 4-31, Kamrul 2-64, Monir 2-47)

DHAKA: First innings 84 all out in 32.1 overs and second innings 38-0 in 14 overs (Ali 20 not out, Majid 17 not out).

SYLHET: First innings 390 all out in 118 overs (Rajin 132, Kapali 133, extras 13; Sharif 4-94, Mosharraf 2-103, Apu 3-44)

KHULNA: First innings 416 all out in 87.3 overs and Second innings 13-0 in 5 overs.

CHITTAGONG: First innings 307 all out in 78.3 overs (Karim 41, Nafis 54, Aftab 49, Faisal 92, extras 15; Razzak 9-84, Robiul 1-54)

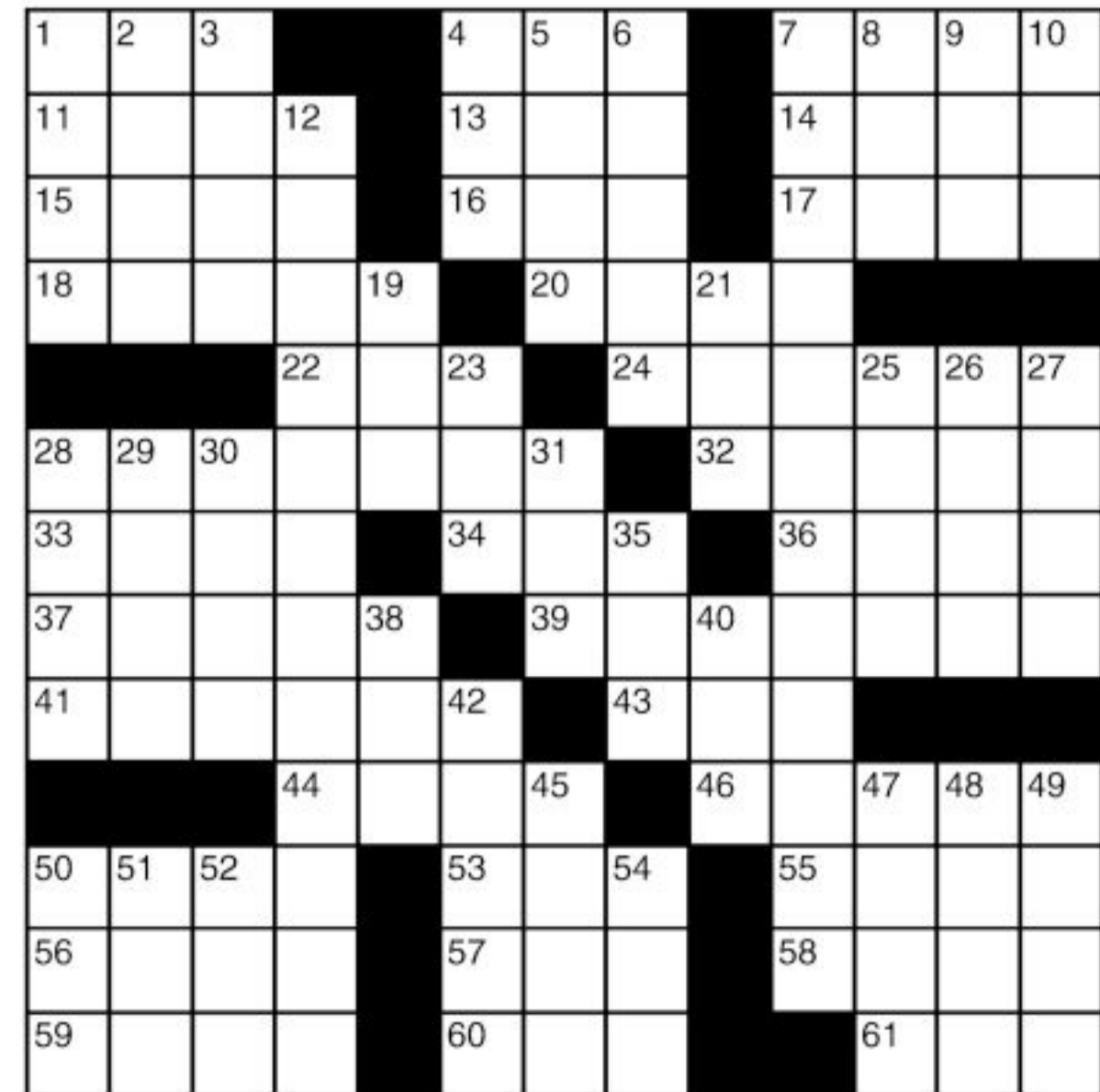
RAJSHAHI: First Innings 232 and Second innings 77-2 in 34 overs (Myshukur 21, Jahurul 40 not out, Forhad 3 not out, extras 7; Shuvashis 1-20, Sajedul 1-14)

RANGPUR: First Innings 171 all out in 57.1 overs (Tarik 44, Babu 48, Sajedul 27, extras 12; Shafiq 2-27, Forhad 2-21, Saqlain 2-54, Sanjamul 3-35)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Towel designation
 - 4 Wildebeest
 - 7 Oscar winner
 - 11 Concept
 - 13 A billion years
 - 14 Gumbo need
 - 15 Ripped
 - 16 Kreskin's claim
 - 17 Office part-timer
 - 18 Does in
 - 20 Opposite of "nope"
 - 22 Commonest English word
 - 24 Elvis' instrument
 - 28 Annoys
 - 32 Cutting tool
 - 33 Jai —
 - 34 Knock
 - 36 Pleased
 - 37 Fool
 - 39 Roams
 - 41 Followed relentlessly
 - 43 Menagerie
 - 44 Chew, as rodents do
 - 46 Used a paper towel
 - 50 Cincinnati's state
 - 53 Pinch
 - 55 Infamous Roman emperor
 - 56 Aspiration
 - 57 Genetic stuff
 - 58 Kindly bloke
 - 59 Disarray
 - 60 Evergreen
 - 61 Decks in the ring
 - 26 Somewhere out there
 - 27 Ball club from
 - 50-Across
 - 28 Musical combo
 - 29 Hodgepodge
 - 30 Piquancy
 - 31 Witted
 - 35 Peace (Sp.)
 - 38 Japanese money
 - 40 Present
 - 42 Fine and —
 - 45 Sommelier's suggestion
 - 47 Cheat at hide-and-seek
 - 48 Cube-smith
 - 49 They get connected
 - 50 Resistance unit
 - 51 Weeding implement
 - 52 Tape speed meas.
 - 54 Dog's hand

Solution time: 24 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

NRDTHA KDLNR LIRNHXY

PTXJ KXTFFJ YTEYRDK ILN

CHPTATJTX PLMXDTHX

YMHERRK: DCR KCRNFT HPTYR.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: SINCE HE'S MAKING FROZEN MARGARITAS LIKE CRAZY, I FEAR THAT MAN HAS GONE ON A BLENDER BENDER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals T