

Vettori wants Flemo as coach

ANI, Wellington

New Zealand's captain and de facto coach Daniel Vettori believes former skipper Stephen Fleming would make a wonderful Black Caps coach.

Vettori will lead the team to the United Arab Emirates for a one-day and Twenty20 series against Pakistan as both captain and coach following Andy Moles' decision on Saturday to step down as coach after a review process revealed he was ill-equipped to continue in the role.

With Moles not stepping up to the mark, Vettori has been effectively coaching the team for the past six months.

The Sunday Star-Times quoted Vettori as saying that he was happy to continue as player-coach for the next few months, including the home test series against Pakistan next month, but after that he would prefer to see someone come into the role.

"Stephen and I keep in regular contact and he's been quite a big help in going through all this stuff and some other things that have gone on. He has concerns about my workload and he wants to be a sounding board and do anything he can to help," Vettori said.

Wasim's wife

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players revolt against his captaincy in 1993-94. Ijaz Butt, the PCB chairman, also expressed his grief over the demise. "We are with Wasim and his family at this hour of need and pray to God to give them strength to bear this great and irreparable loss," he said. "All the management of PCB and fellow cricketers have also extended their condolences and prayed eternal peace for the departed soul."

Wasim, 43, played 104 Tests and 356 ODIs during his 17-year career, before retiring in 2002 with 414 and 502 wickets in the respective formats.

Indo-Aussie

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also showered praise on the leadership of Mahendra Singh Dhoni as Indian captain.

"Dhoni is a wonderful cricketer. He has amazing calmness. He doesn't ever seem to panic," said Gilchrist. India has been strengthened by the return of the explosive batting pair of Virender Sehwag and Yuvraj Singh from injuries while the tourists have been weakened with injuries to leading players.

Only goals

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team, and it is a difficult ground to play at.

"We must not talk about the injured players, but only the ones that are here." Pepe sustained a sprained ankle during the game but was able to carry on in spite of the injury. Xabi Alonso and Ezequiel Garay were substituted as a precautionary means.

The Portugal international was not at all surprised by the injury count, saying: "Apart from the international games, we have played eight games in a month."

"It was also a difficult pitch."

Bordeaux

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a perfect, if fortuitous, start at the Stade Chaban Delmas, with Yoan Gouffran's shot hitting the right-hand post and rebounding into the net off the back of Le Mans goalkeeper Didier Ovono's head in the fourth minute.

Victory was secured 23 minutes from the end, as Marouane Chamakh rose at the near post to head Yoann Gourcuff's left-wing corner inside the right-hand upright, with David Bellion adding a third in the 83rd minute.

Bordeaux climb back to the summit, a point above Monaco, who won 3-1 at 10-man Boulogne-sur-Mer thanks to a late brace from league top scorer Nene in the 87th and 94th minutes - the Brazilian's eighth and nine goals of the campaign.



Women's water polo was introduced first ever in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.



PHOTO: AFP

Italian motorcycling great Valentino Rossi, passionately called "The Doctor" by his fans, celebrates his seventh MotoGP title, 9th in all categories after the Malaysian Grand Prix at Sepang on Sunday. The 30-year-old Rossi secured the title with a third-place finish and one race to go for the season.

Rossi in 7th heaven

AFP, Sepang



Defending world champion Valentino Rossi claimed his seventh MotoGP title in a thrilling race in wet conditions on Sunday at the Malaysian Moto GP.

Australian Casey Stoner won the race but the 30-year-old Italian secured the title by coming in third on his Yamaha. Spain's Dani Pedrosa was second.

Rossi said he was delighted to seal the championship title with one race to go, in Valencia on November 8.

"With one round to go, I have clinched the world title. I thank all the people who helped me achieve this achievement. We did some great fight," he said.

"Today's race went a bit like how the season has gone because we were so fast on the dry tyres, but right before the start of the race it started to rain so we had to go out on the track without any wet setting," said Rossi.

"It's a great achievement, and for me it's the ninth championship, the seventh in MotoGP," he said.

Rossi paid special tribute to his Yamaha teammate Jorge Lorenzo. The 22-year-old Spaniard finished the race fourth but had been the only rider still in contention for the world title.

But Lorenzo, who was second on the grid, ended up starting from the back of the field after his number one bike could not start in the pits. He had to ride his spare machine.

"Throughout the season I had great rivals, at the end especially Jorge my teammate, who stayed very close to me, and we had some great fights. He's a great rival so congratulations to him," said Rossi.

"But we are on the top and now we'll relax and try to take in this achievement. The ninth championship is great. I'm so happy," he added.

Rossi pulled a wheelie over the finish line to

celebrate his latest success.

Heavy rain delayed the start of the race by 35 minutes and played a major part when the action finally got underway.

Rossi started on pole but failed to hold his lead and went wide into the first corner with a pack of riders, led by Pedrosa and Stoner, who had overtaken him with ease.

Stoner, fresh from victory at Phillip Island, passed Pedrosa and never looked back, romping home with something to spare.

The 2007 champion here in Sepang, Stoner came home in 47min 24.834sec, while Pedrosa was adrift at 14.666sec and Rossi narrowly behind him.

"I got a good start," said Stoner, who began in the second row on the grid. "I did not expect to pull such a gap. I am happy with the pace. I am looking forward to the race in Valencia."

Pedrosa admitted that it was tricky to keep second position with Rossi snapping at his heels.

"It was a tough race until the end because Rossi was pushing me hard," he said.

Earlier, Japan's Hiroshi Aoyama, riding a Honda, led from the start to win the 250cc race.

Birthday boy Aoyama, who now leads the 250cc championship standings with 252 points, clocked 42 minutes, 55.689 seconds in the 20-lap race after starting from pole position.

Spain's Julian Simon won the 125cc on an Aprilia.

World champions in the premier class of motorcycling (since 2000):

- 2009 -- Valentino Rossi (ITA) Yamaha
- 2008 -- Valentino Rossi (ITA) Yamaha
- 2007 -- Casey Stoner (AUS) Ducati
- 2006 -- Nicky Hayden (USA) Honda
- 2005 -- Valentino Rossi (ITA) Yamaha
- 2004 -- Valentino Rossi (ITA) Yamaha
- 2003 -- Valentino Rossi (ITA) Honda
- 2002 -- Valentino Rossi (ITA) Honda
- 2001 -- Valentino Rossi (ITA) Honda
- 2000 -- Kenny Roberts Jr (USA) Suzuki

Aussie nerve wins

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to Johnson slowed India further. That Johnson bowled even a single delivery was a positive for Australia after he rolled his ankle early in the fielding effort and appeared to be in significant pain. He left the field briefly and returned to have an impact, although the loss of James Hopes to a leg injury after he sent down two overs will be a concern for the remainder of the series. Australia had the bowling options to cover for Hopes and the part-time spin of Adam Voges accounted for Virat Kohli, who had combined with Gambhir for a 58-run stand until he skied a catch for 30.

Gambhir was comfortable rotating the strike and found the boundary six times, also clearing it once with a strong strike over wide midwicket off Hopes. He was at the crease at No. 3 thanks to the return of Virender Sehwag, who opened with Sachin Tendulkar, although neither of the veterans could make it to the ten-over mark.

But whereas India's two most experienced players failed, Australia's two most capped batsmen stepped up to guide their team. Ponting's 74 was the innings that set the tone but it was Hussey's 73 from 54 deliveries that kept things on track and ensured a healthy total when India threatened to fight back late in the innings.

Australia took their batting Powerplay from the 43rd over and it brought 3 for 33 (India's would later result in 3 for 32) after the powerful White skied a catch for 51 from the second delivery. It was important that Hussey bat until the end and he did survive to the final few balls, accumulating his runs in

typically anonymous and understated fashion.

One exception came in the penultimate over when he launched Praveen for a monstrous straight six that left the ground and was so impressive that Hussey was even caught by the TV cameras raising his eyebrows and mouthing "that's big" to his partner. But for the most part, Hussey pierced the field along the ground and ticked the score over with hard, tireless running between the wickets.

He followed the lead of his captain Ponting, who was fierce against the fast men, punching off the back foot and going over the top when the occasion warranted. Few batsmen in the world would have the confidence to hook a fast man after walking down the pitch and being surprised by a bouncer but Ponting did just that, launching Praveen over the boundary for six.

Praveen felt the brunt of Ponting's form and he was also whipped through leg by Paine, whose 50 was important in setting up Australia's effort. Ishant Sharma was more dangerous with a fuller length that allowed the ball to swing and his 3 for 50 was well deserved.

Nehra collected two wickets and bowled reasonably, while Ravindra Jadeja's figures improved when he trapped Ponting plumb lbw. But ultimately India had too few contributors while the Australians all played their part.

The only visitor who didn't contribute was the umpire Mark Benson, who sat out of the match through illness. He missed a classic of the 50-over format.

SCOREBOARD

day international between India and Australia at the Reliance Stadium in Vadodara on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA
Watson lbw b Nehra 5
Paine c Dhoni b Sharma 50
Ponting lbw b Jadeja 74
White c Raina b Nehra 51
Hussey c Kohli b Sharma 73
Voges c Gambhir b Harbhajan 3
Hopes run out 14
Johnson not out 14
Lee b Sharma 0
Extras: (lb-2, w-4, nb-2) 8
Total: (For 8 wks in 50 overs) 292
Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-102, 3-151, 4-227, 5-233, 6-256, 7-201, 8-292.

Bowler O M R W
Kumar 10 0 77 0
Nehra 10 0 58 2
Sharma 10 0 50 3
Harbhajan 10 0 57 1
Jadeja 9 0 39 1
Raina 1 0 9 0

INDIA
Sehwag c Paine b Lee 13
Tendulkar c Ponting b Watson 14
Gambhir lbw b Johnson 68
Kohli c Watson b Voges 30
Dhoni c Lee b Watson 34
Raina c & b Johnson 9
Jadeja lbw b Hauritz 5
Harbhajan b Siddle 49
Kumar not out 40
Nehra not out 2
Extras: (lb-10, w-14) 24
Total: (For 8 wks in 50 overs) 288
Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-45, 3-103, 4-167, 5-183, 6-186, 7-201, 8-285.

Bowler O M R W
Lee 6 0 28 1
Siddle 9 0 55 1
Watson 10 0 70 2
Johnson 10 0 59 2
Hopes 2 0 10 0
Voges 4 0 22 1
Hauritz 9 1 34 1
Result: Australia won by four runs.

Man-of-the-match: Michael Hussey.

Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Faizul Islam of Orient Sporting Club grabbed a five-wicket haul to see his side post a four-wicket victory over Lalmatia Club in a low scoring affair at the Mirpur City Club Ground on the second day of the First Division Cricket League yesterday.

Spurred by Faizul's excellent bowling that saw him take five wickets for just 16 runs, Orient restricted Lalmatia to 83 runs in 41 overs. Orient got home with four wickets to spare and half the overs left. Raihan Ahmed started with four wickets for 13 runs for Lalmatia in a losing cause.

In other matches of the day, Uttara Sporting Club trounced Bangladesh Boys Club by eight wickets, Brothers Union beat Jatrabari Krira Chakra by 7 wickets and City Club edged past Gopeebag by one wicket.

Sampras beats Agassi again

AFP, Macau

Former world number one Pete Sampras beat long-time rival Andre Agassi at an exhibition match in Macau Sunday, the first time that the retired American champions have faced off in seven years.

Sampras, 38, lost the first set 3-6 but rallied to take the second 6-3 and then finished off the 39-year-old Agassi in 10-8 tie-breaker at The Venetian hotel in the southern Chinese gambling enclave.

The pair, who played against each other 34 times in their professional careers, last met at the 2002 US Open. Sampras won the match to grab a record 14 Grand Slam titles -- later surpassed by Swiss Roger Federer.

Hamilton not dreaming of Ferrari

INTERNET, undated

Lewis Hamilton does not share Fernando Alonso's dream of driving in Formula One with Ferrari.

When the Spaniard announced his 2010 switch to the famous Italian team, he said it had always been his dream.

"I don't feel the same way," Briton Hamilton, who was paired at McLaren with Alonso in 2007 before winning last year's title and penning a long term contract, said in an interview with Germany's Auto Motor und Sport.

"Everyone who grows up watching Formula One chooses a car," the 24-year-old explained. "Some liked the Jordan, the yellow car, some prefer the red car, others the silver one."

BCB's board

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more board directors with the age-group programmes with giving them specific responsibility regarding programmes and made a decision on looking into the areas whether expenditure could be reduced as a contingency measure.

The 11th board meeting also decided to hold its annual general meeting and BCB Award Night on December 26. The board also decided to accelerate the process of making the Regional Cricket Association functional.

Schiavone wins in Kremlin



AFP, Moscow

Italy's Francesca Schiavone won just the second title of her career here on Sunday by defeating Olga Govortsova of Belarus 6-3, 6-0 in the Kremlin Cup final.

The 29-year-old veteran, ranked 24th in the world and seeded eighth in Moscow, won in one hour 17 minutes to record her second win in three head-to-head meetings with Govortsova.

The finalists traded breaks throughout a closely-fought first set, but it was Schiavone, the 2005 runner-up here, who was the more consistent.

She broke her rival's serve three times for a one-set lead in 47 minutes, while Govortsova managed to just two breaks.

In the second set Govortsova, currently 67th in the WTA rankings, lost her nerve completely allowing the experienced Schiavone to break three more times to win the set to love.

"In the first set we were pretty close battling for every single point," Schiavone said. "But in the end I was a bit more precise and served well when it was 5-3 to win the set."

"I won! I'm happy!" claimed Schiavone who had won only one of her previous 10 WTA tournament finals at Bad Gastein in 2007.

At the award ceremony Schiavone, who was playing in her seventh Kremlin Cup, praised the Moscow public for their support throughout the week.

Schiavone received a silver trophy and a prize purse of 157,427 dollars, while runner-up Govortsova, who lost her second career final, pocketed 83,908 of prize dollars.

Third seed Russian Mikhail Youzhny and Janko Tipsarevic of Serbia, who was seeded sixth, will decide Kremlin Cup winner in the ATP section of the event later on Sunday.

In the men's section of the two-million-dollar joint ATP and WTA event, third seed Mikhail Youzhny cruised comfortably into the final past qualifier Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan 6-2, 6-1.

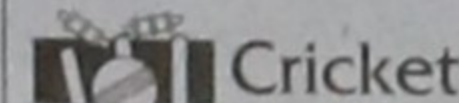
Youzhny will face Serbian sixth seed Janko Tipsarevic in the final, who outclassed Ilya Marchenko of Ukraine 6-1, 6-4.

The 25-year-old Tipsarevic was in complete command against Marchenko, the world 190, breaking twice in the opening set for a 5-0 lead before Marchenko chalked up his first point.

After taking the first set in 34 minutes Tipsarevic, 46th in the rankings, eased up in the second but still broke Marchenko in the seventh game to win the set, the match and a place in the final.

"The key was that I really started dominating from the first set," said Tipsarevic, who is still seeking his first career title.

Warne takes digs at captains, coaches



ANI, London

Australian bowling legend Shane Warne has said that the biggest threat to the art of spin bowling comes from coaches and captains who lack the understanding of the art.

Warne, who is in Adelaide for a poker tournament, said the inability to set the right fields and an unhealthy preoccupation with dot-ball (no-run) bowling had placed his craft in jeopardy.

Warne is still trying to educate the next generation in a bid to revive the relevance of spin as a strike weapon, as Australia continues to seek his replacement three years after he retired.

"From where I stand, and I'm obviously very passionate about spin bowling, I think one of the biggest things that we're lacking in Australia at the moment is the captaincy of spinners at domestic level," he said.

The Herald Sun quoted Warne, assaying.

"I'm trying to put something back into the game and have a role with Cricket Australia as an ambassador for the spin-bowling program. I go around to all the states and work with the captains and spinners about how to captain and set fields, encourage the spinners technically as well."

"We've got some really good spinners, but I think there's too much concern at the moment about being economical. They want to bowl 20 overs and get 1-50 -- not go for any runs. I'd much rather see 4-100. The emphasis seems to be restricting runs rather than being attacking," he said.

"The mentality and attitude needs to change -- from the captains and coaches. That's the biggest problem we've got, that they don't understand the game. So the spinners have to take more responsibility to understand their own fields," Warne added.

Sky Blues

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half. However, the players felt nervous in the second half and it is nature to be nervous with only a one-goal margin," said Amalesh.

Despite losing the first match, Beانبازar coach Jasimuddin Ahmed Joshi was also happy and promised to put up a better performance in the matches to come.

"Today (Sunday), I struggled to make the starting eleven and was forced to play two players with fever and I never thought of winning the match," Joshi said. "We could have made the match drawn had we were not 2-0 down in the first half."

Teams

ABAHANI: Biplob, Ibnul Siraji, Mishu, Ujjal, Awal (Munna), Shahedul, Zahed, Enamul, Sheriff and Sujan.

BEANIBAZAR: Sultan, Faisal, Rikto (Abid), Ashraf, Bappi, Roni, Sumon, Gafur, Masum, Mohammad Conte and Lamine Soumah.

Yellow card: Zahed (Abahani)

Referee: Azad Rahman



PHOTO: COURTESY

Vice chairman of Intraco Group Monowara Hakim Ali (3rd from right, front row) poses with winners of the "Intraco Properties 4th Jahangir's Cup Golf Tournament" at Ghatail Golf Club in Tangail on Saturday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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7 Animal
12 Sleep phenom
13 Bill's partner
14 White-collared thrush (Var.)
15 Sphere
16 Quasi-modo, notably
18 Tramcar contents
19 Sequence
20 Mac-Donald's place
22 Ages and ages
23 Hardy cabbage
27 Help
29 Penn pal
31 Be a gold-brick
34 Material for blue shoes
35 Addicted
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2 Earth
3 Cautionary color
4 Reverberate
5 Went sight-seeing
6 Individually owned apartment
7 Physicist
8 Abrade
9 -- Today
10 Sleuth
11 Antlered animal
17 Minimal change
21 Report card data
23 Hardly dexterous one
24 Brewery product
25 Started
26 Before
28 Mamie's man
30 Kreskin's claim
31 Bashful
32 Weeding tool
33 Charged bit
36 Colorless
37 Source of gum arabic
40 October birth-stones
42 Square dance group
43 Preach, maybe
44 "Oops!"
45 Not us
46 Distort
48 Over-active one?
49 Khan title
50 Slight amount
51 Bkpr.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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S P R L W ? E R W E V F N U D G L Y R A .

Yesterday's Cryptquip: AFTER CHOPPING WOOD FOR HOURS THIS AFTERNOON, WE ALL ENDED UP WITH A SPLITTING HEADACHE.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: S equals U