

## 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

FROM PAGE 17  
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

FROM PAGE 17  
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

FROM PAGE 20  
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 despite the injury. Xabi Alonso and Ezequiel Garay were substituted as a precautionary measure.

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

FROM PAGE 20  
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.



## Did U Know?

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

FROM PAGE 17  
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 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.

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 Hopes 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 Hopes was even caught by the TV cameras raising his eyebrows and mouthing "that's big" to his partner. But for the most part, Hopes 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.

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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 wkts in 50 overs) 292

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-102, 3-151, 4-227, 5-233, 6-256, 7-291, 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 wkts 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 Lalimata 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 Lalimata to 83 runs in 41 overs. Orient got home with four wickets to spare and half the overs left, Raihan Ahmed starred with four wickets for 13 runs for Lalimata in a losing cause.

In other matches of the day, Uttrala 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.

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

The Herald Sun quoted Warne, as saying.

The pair, who played against each other 34 times in their professional careers, last met at the 2002 US Open. Schiavone 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.

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

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