

BCB's new committee holds first meeting

SPORTS REPORTER

The newly-elected Executive Committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) held its first meeting at the BCB Office in Mirpur yesterday. Presided over by the first elected president of BCB Nazmul Hassan Papon, the meeting thanked the ad-hoc committee which, which handed over the reign earlier in the day, for their efforts.

The committee also complimented the performance of the Bangladesh national team for their performance in the first Test against New Zealand in Chittagong, with special mention for the man-of-the-match Shohag Gazi who became the first Test cricketer in history to score a hundred and also take a five-wicket haul with a hattrick in the same match.

The meeting was attended by 21 members out of a total of 26.



A MOMENT TO BEHOLD: Bangladesh fielders run in a way as if they have just won the first Test against New Zealand at Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. The Tigers were actually celebrating Shohag Gazi's hattrick, which was one of the few positives for the home side in the drawn Test.

PHOTO: STAR

Australia thrash India

PRI, New Delhi

balls with six fours, while Suresh Raina contributed a 45-ball 39.

Ravindra Jadeja (11) and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (19) could not pull the team around after India slumped to 166 for five by the 35th over just before the power play and their dismissals in successive overs effectively ended the match.

For Australia, James Faulkner grabbed three wickets for while Clint McKay and Shane Watson chipped in with two wickets apiece. Mitchell Johnson, Aaron Finch and Adam Voges got a wicket each.

Australia had lost by four wickets in the opening game of their short tour, the one-off T20 International at Rajkot on October 10.

The two sides now moved to Jaipur for the second ODI on October 16.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: 304 for 8 in 50 overs (Hughes 47, Finch 72, Bailey 85, Maxwell 31, Faulkner 27; Ashwin 2-55, Yuvraj 2-34)

INDIA: 232 all out in 49.4 overs (R Sharma 42, Kohli 61, Raina 39, Dhoni 19, B Kumar 18; McKay 2-36, Faulkner 3-47, Watson 2-31)

Result: Australia won by 72 runs, Player-of-the-match: George Bailey.

Virat Kohli top-scored with 61 from 85

Stosur wins Japan Open

AFP, Tokyo

Former US Open champion Samantha Stosur fought back from a first set loss to claim victory Sunday against Canadian Eugenie Bouchard 3-6, 7-5, 6-2 in the Japan Women's Open final.

The 29-year-old Australian fired two aces in the first set and another in the second at the Utsubo Tennis Center in western Osaka.

But she managed to defend only two of eight break points, while 19-year-old Bouchard ached once and saved eight of 15 break points.

The victory in the 2-hour-and-13-minute match was the second title this year for third-seeded Stosur, who previously won the Osaka tournament in 2009.

Kallis ready to roll

SA-Pak first Test starts today

AFP, Abu Dhabi

South Africa's premier batsman Jacques Kallis said he felt refreshed after a three-month break from cricket and was raring to go in the first Test against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

Kallis, who returned to domestic matches after his break, played the last of his 162 Tests against Pakistan in February this year and has not featured in a limited over international since early 2012.

"After 17-18 years I needed a good three months away so it's been a pleasurable period where I could refresh my mind and get a little niggle sorted out," Kallis said on Sunday.

The 37-year-old, who hit a confident 70 in the drawn side game ahead of the two-Test series, said he was feeling good.

"I am hitting the ball as well as I have ever hit and probably playing the best cricket of my life. From that point of view, it's been two weeks of good work," said Kallis, who

hit successive hundreds against Pakistan in the drawn two-match series here three years ago.

Kallis said he was confident the South African batsmen would handle Pakistan's spinners, led by the prolific bowler Saeed Ajmal, well.

"As a team we probably play spin as well as anybody. Our record shows that. Our players have got some good game plans against it and we've scored some big runs and got some good results in the subcontinent," said Kallis, who has 1552 runs in 17 Tests, with six hundreds against Pakistan.

South Africa have not lost an away series since being beaten in Sri Lanka 2-0 in 2006 and they have only lost one series against Pakistan, 10 years ago.

Kallis played down a potential threat from off-spinner Ajmal, who took 24 wickets when Pakistan routed England 3-0 here last year.

"He is still a good bowler anywhere around the world but in his own conditions he'll be a bit more of a handful here."

Rajib beats Indonesian WGM

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Enamul Hossain Rajib moved to 2.5 points after the 5th round of the Indonesia Open Chess Championship, when he beat WGM Nakhbayeva Gulishkhan of Mongolia, at the Grand Shahid Jaya Hotel in Jakarta on Sunday.

Japan GP Vettel's

AFP, Suzuka

Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel stormed to a fourth victory in five years at the Japanese Grand Prix Sunday but will have to wait to celebrate a fourth successive Formula One world title.

Vettel reeled in his departing teammate Mark Webber in the closing stages as well as Lotus driver Romain Grosjean, who wound up third for Lotus after a flying start at Suzuka.

But Fernando Alonso's fourth place means Vettel's celebrations stay on ice at least until India in two weeks, despite the German's career-best run of five straight race wins.

Webber began the race on pole for the first time this year but Grosjean's scorching start from fourth saw the Frenchman sneak into turn one ahead of the Australian.

Both men had their chances but ultimately Vettel proved too strong and, after roaring past Grosjean on the home straight on lap 41, went in front when Webber pitted for the third time and was never seriously threatened thereafter.

"Ichiban (first)!" whooped Vettel over the radio as he took the chequered flag for the ninth time this season. "You're the best team in the world. I love you guys. Yes! Ichiban!"

Webber's three-stop strategy cost him and, although he finally passed a determined Grosjean with two laps of the 53 left, it was too late to catch his team-mate and claim a first victory of the year in his last season in F1.

Germans party hard

AFP, Berlin

Germany's stars partied until dawn after securing their World Cup berth with even coach Joachim Loew admitting to a cheeky pre-press conference beer following their win over Ireland.

Germany face Sweden away in their final World Cup qualifier on Tuesday, but his stars seized the opportunity by partying until 4:30 on Saturday morning after Loew gave them the weekend off.

Germany booked their Brazil 2014 place with a 3-0 win over Republic of Ireland in Cologne on Friday with Brazilian music and a barrel of beer soon pumping out in the dressing room after the final whistle.

"It was the first time I drank a beer before a press conference, but it tasted good," quipped Loew.

There is only pride at stake on Tuesday with Germany confirmed Group C winners, while the second-placed Swedes face a World Cup play-off in November.

"We have earned the right to a bit of a party to celebrate," German captain Philipp Lahm of Bayern Munich said in Cologne.

"After all, a barrel of Cologne beer is about the same size as a (litre) mug of Bavarian beer."



Novak Djokovic of Serbia kisses the Shanghai Masters 1000 trophy after beating Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina in the final at the Qizhong Tennis Stadium on Sunday. Djokovic won 1-6, 6-3, 7-6.

Hiddink in line for Aus job

AFP, Sydney

Guus Hiddink has emerged as a leading contender to coach Australia after the country's football governing body chief indicated that discussions have been held with the Dutchman following the sacking of Holger Osieck.

Osieck's contract was terminated on Saturday just eight months out from the World Cup after the Socceroos were thrashed 6-0 by France in an international friendly in Paris.

Despite guiding them to next year's flagship tournament in Brazil, the veteran German's position had been on the line ahead of Friday's match in Paris after the team was hit for six by Brazil a month ago.

Football Federation Australia chief executive David Gallop told Fox Sports in France on Saturday that preliminary talks had taken place with Dutchman Hiddink, 66, who steered Australia to their best-ever placing at the World Cup when they reached the second round in Germany in 2006.

"There's often conversations and it's fair to say some feelers have been put out. Nothing more than that at this stage," Gallop said.

Ivorians ride on Drogba

AFP, Johannesburg

Didier Drogba scored as Ivory Coast overcame Senegal 3-1 in Abidjan Saturday to boost hopes of a third consecutive World Cup appearance.

The 35-year-old striker converted a penalty after five minutes at Stade Felix Houphouet-Boigny, Lamine Sane conceded an own goal and Salomon Kalou netted soon after half-time.

But Papiss Cisse pulled one goal back six minutes into stoppage time after the ball slipped from the grasp of goalkeeper Boubacar Barry.

Aristide Bance converted a disputed late penalty to give Burkina Faso a 3-2 win over Algeria in Ouagadougou in another Africa zone play-off first leg.

Crowd violence when Senegal hosted Ivory Coast last year in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier led to a one-year ban on matches in Dakar.

So on top of trying to wipe out a two-goal deficit, the Senegalese must play the November 16 second leg in Moroccan city Casablanca.

Turkey-based Drogba put the Ivorians ahead after Cheikhou Kouyate fouled Gervinho, whose cross nine minutes later was turned into his own net by Sane.

Roma wide man Gervinho was also involved in the third goal, sending Kalou through the middle to beat Bouna Coundoul at his near post.

Bance snatched the winner after Essaid Belkalem appeared to have his arms behind his body when the ball struck him four minutes from time.

But a Zambian assistant referee insisted it was a hand-ball and Bance made up for having an earlier spot-kick saved.

The home team suffered a blow when defender Bakary Koné was forced to come off with a thigh injury on seven minutes and Steeve Yago came off the bench.

Algeria settled quicker and mounted numerous attacks without seriously threatening to score at a near-full 40,000-seat Stade du 4 Aout.

Burkina Faso seemed nervous with one corner so over-hit by captain Charles Kabore that it went out of play on the far touchline.