

## FC Goa hope to ground high-flying Bengaluru

FATORDA (Goa), Nov 29 /- After a disappointing result in Mumbai last weekend, FC Goa coach Sergio Lobera will look to bounce back to winning ways when his players take on in-form Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League here on Thursday. But getting the better of table-toppers Bengaluru won't be an easy task. And the former Barcelona youth coach knows that well. Speaking to mediapersons on Wednesday, Lobera said that Bengaluru were the strongest team in the ISL at the moment. But at the same time, he maintained his team would do its best to get the desired result. "Bengaluru know how we play and we know how they play. But what is important to me is that we need to maintain our ideas and philosophies and our style of play. We need to focus on our strategies and ensure we execute what we plan to do. Bengaluru FC are a strong team at this point in time. They have shown they are the team with the best form. For us, it will be important to get the right result against the team that has been most superior so far," the Spaniard said. Even though Goa conceded an early goal against Mumbai City FC, they managed to enjoy

over 65 per cent possession. Lobera will be hoping to repeat the same against Bengaluru FC when the team's meet for the first time. "FC Goa midfielder Brandon Fernandes, who has faced Bengaluru FC in the Hero I-League, said, "Bengaluru FC are a much stronger team and we have to take that as a challenge. So we need to plan as a team and play like a team tomorrow. Then we can take it from there." On the other hand, Bengaluru FC coach Albert Roca wants to capitalise on their good start to the season. The Spanish coach, however, was full of praise for his counterpart Lobera. He said he was looking forward to the encounter. "For sure it is going to be a tough game. Goa has a Catalan coach who has been on the same team as me: Barcelona. We have similar philosophies: maintain possession, press high. They have shown that in their first two games. For me, they have been one of the most impressive teams in the Hero ISL, even though they lost their last match." Roca also tipped FC Goa to make it to the playoffs. But at the same time, he wants his team to win tomorrow. "We'll try our best to win. Let's see what happens," he added.

## West Indies hope to end 22 win-less years in New Zealand



WELLINGTON, NOV 29 /- The West Indies harbour hopes of their first away win over New Zealand in 22 years as the loss of Tim Southee and BJ Watling put pressure on the Blacks Caps ahead of Friday's first Test in Wellington. Without strike bowler Southee and a lack of experience among the New Zealand middle order batsmen, West Indies captain Jason Holder sees the key to

success as the swift removal of senior batsmen Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor. New Zealand are returning to the Test arena after an eight-month break while the battle-hardened West Indies are coming off a 2-1 series loss to England, including a dramatic victory at Headingley, and a 1-0 win over Zimbabwe. "We've been on the road together for a while (and) we're doing some good things but we need to be pushing the consistency button

more to keep heading in that upward direction," Holder said. New Zealand have delayed making a decision on whether Lockie Ferguson, with his extreme pace, or the consistent Matt Henry will replace the 57-Test new-ball bowler Southee, who will miss the Test due to the impending birth of his second child. Tom Blundell has already been confirmed to make his debut as wicketkeeper with Watling failing to recover

from a thigh injury. New Zealand coach Mike Hesson expects whoever wins the toss at the Basin Reserve to bowl. "Same as always," he said when viewing a wicket that was greenish on Wednesday but expected to brown off before the Test begins. "Everyone gets a bit excited about that. I always think it's a bowl first up here anyway but it's always a good cricket wicket." Unlike the West Indies, who have had a recent diet of

Test cricket, New Zealand are fresh from a limited overs series in India and have not worn their whites since the 1-0 series loss to South Africa in March. Openers Jeet Raval and Tom Latham did play for New Zealand A in the West Indies warm-up match with Raval's unbeaten 32 in the second innings their best score. Ferguson, who could replace Southee, used his pace to worry the West Indies with figures of five for 67 and two for 24. The tourists dominated the first two days of that match, posting 451 for nine declared when they batted first, with Shai Hope posting 110 while Sunil Ambris, pushing for his first Test selection, made 157. But in their second innings they were rolled for 186 with Kraigg Braithwaite's unbeaten 88 the only score of note. With Watling out of contention and in mid-order of Henry Nicholls, Mitchell Santner, Colin de Grandhomme and Blundell having only 35 Tests and 48 innings among them, the West Indies quicks will be keen to make early inroads. Holder said they will be formulating plans to remove Williamson and Taylor cheaply. "We know the caliber player both of them are. It's just a matter of us being patient and sticking to our plans. Over the next few days, we'll sit down and have some discussion around those two players," he said. "I think they're their main players, but you can't rule out a guy like Tom Latham. He's done well in the past for New Zealand and he's carrying some current form as well." The West Indies have not tasted a Test victory in New Zealand since February 1995 when they won by an innings and 322 runs at the Basin Reserve on the back of a 660 for five declared first innings headed by Brian Lara (147) and Jimmy Adams (151).

## ManU win to stay in touch, Tottenham Hotspur stumble in Leicester



Manchester United's Ashley Young celebrates after scoring

MANCHESTER, NOV 29 /- Manchester United sent a timely message to leaders Manchester City as they won 4-2 at Watford but Tottenham Hotspur's Premier League challenge is fading fast after they slumped to a 2-1 defeat at Leicester City on Tuesday. Ashley Young was on target for the first time in 18 months as he scored twice for second-placed United who led 3-0 at the break before Watford produced a late fightback. United's win

moves them to 32 points and they are within five points of leaders City who host Southampton on Wednesday. Leicester's Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez turned the clock back two years as they both scored in a first-half display reminiscent of when the Foxes won the title in 2015-16. Harry Kane replied for Tottenham after they had scored seven or eight goals. As it was they were hanging on towards the end after Tony Deeney's converted a 77th-minute

Bromwich Albion's caretaker manager Gary Megson looked set for a morale-boosting victory as his side led Newcastle United 2-0 with goals from Hal Robson-Kanu and Sam Field. But Newcastle rallied to avoid a fifth straight league defeat with Claran Clark halving the deficit and an own goal by West Brom's Jonny Evans frustrating the hosts who are expected to name a successor to sacked Tony Pulis this week. The BBC reported after Tuesday's match that former Newcastle and Crystal Palace manager Alan Pardew, 56, was set to be appointed as the new West Brom manager as early as Wednesday. Basement club Palace drew 0-0 at Brighton & Hove Albion to move level on nine points with second-bottom Swansea City. Pep Guardiola's Manchester City look unstoppable but neighbours United are emerging as their most likely challengers with a derby looming next month. United have been hamstrung by their poor away form, losing their last two on the road in the league, but they found a cure for travel sickness at a freezing Vicarage Road where manager Jose Mourinho said they could have scored seven or eight goals. As it was they were hanging on towards the end after Tony Deeney's converted a 77th-minute

penalty and Abdoulaye Doucoure stabbed home to make it 2-2 with six minutes left before Jesse Lingard's superb solo goal sealed the win. The second half should have been five or six nil, it was easier to score than the first," Mourinho said. "We missed chances. Out of nothing, they got a penalty for 3-1, then it was a different game. We should be smoking cigars but then we're in trouble. It's important we have three wins in a row, nine points in three matches is good." Former Watford winger Young had put United ahead after 19 minutes with a powerful near-post effort, celebrating by cupping his ear to the home faithful who responded with boos. He topped that with a superb free-kick that gave goalkeeper Heurelio Gomes no chance six minutes later. Anthony Martial made it 3-0 in the 32nd but home substitute Deeney's spot-kick breathed new life into the hosts who began the night seeking a third straight league win of their own. Needless to say their manager Marco Silva was not inclined to agree with fellow Portuguese Mourinho's verdict that United could have won by much larger margin. "The result is hard take for us, we didn't deserve this result," he said.

## SC seeks BCCI response on Chaudhry's threat to CFO

NEW DELHI, Nov 29 /- The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought responses from the BCCI and its treasurer Anirudh Chaudhry on allegations that he had threatened the BCCI's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Santosh Rangekar with "liquidation" on three occasions. Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justice A.M. Khanwilkar and Justice D.Y. Chandrachud sought the response

after amicus curiae Gopal Subramaniam produced an e-mail from the CFO to Vinod Rai - head of the Committee of Administrators managing the cricket affairs as an interim measure. Subramaniam said Chaudhry had told Rangekar that had he been in Haryana, he would have been "liquidated" by now. Rai is the former Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Speaking to the reporters, Chaudhry said this could be a fallout of his views on certain issues including financial transactions which were not palatable to the CFO. Directing the listing of the matter in the second week of January, the court asked the BCCI to submit its comments on the draft constitution submitted by the Committee of Administrators on the last hearing.

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CQ003

**WHO BUILT THE FIRST AUTOMOBILE?**

**WHERE DOES THIS BIT GO?**

**Yesterday's Answer** Kingston.

Name: Aastha Vinod. Address: Nabard colony goal ghar, M.S. Abhinash, Phoenix Bay, C. All, Island Gateway.

We will publish your name, correct answer in this space. SMS the answers alongwith your name, address, correct answers to the following mobile number: 8334826380

## Thisara Perera named Lanka's limited-overs captain

COLOMBO, NOV 29 /- Sri Lanka on Wednesday ousted Upul Tharanga as One-day captain and brought in Thisara Perera to lead the team for an upcoming ODI and T20 series in India. The move comes after a series of defeats while Tharanga and senior Sri Lankan players refused to play a 20-over international against Pakistan in Lahore. "We have appointed Thisara the ODI and T20 captain," a top Sri Lanka Cricket official told AFP ahead of a formal announcement later Wednesday. Batsman Tharanga, 32, was captain when Sri Lanka lost series to India, South Africa and Pakistan this year without winning a game. Having led Sri Lanka against Pakistan when they played in the United Arab Emirates, Tharanga and other senior team members refused to travel to Lahore for the Pakistan leg of the T20 series. Perera was brought in as Sri Lanka became the first country to play in Pakistan since the Sri Lankan team bus was attacked in March 2009. Pakistan had since been a security no-go area for international cricket teams. The three One-day games against India are on December 10 in Dharamsala, December 13 in Chandigarh and December 17 in Visakhapatnam. The T20 internationals are on December 20, December 22 and December 24 in Cuttack, Indore and Mumbai.