



PHOTO: AFP

Justine Henin of Belgium returns a backhand shot against Andreja Klepac of Slovenia during the Rogers Cup at the Rexall Center in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on Thursday.

Bangladesh

**FROM PAGE 17**  
Nayeem is the only person to have won both the Arjuna Award (as player) and the Dronacharya (as coach).

India might have tasted their last success under Nayeem, but the veteran coach was at the receiving end when players joined hands to protest against the coach's alleged dictatorial attitude.

Nayeem was sacked unceremoniously but he now maintains that he has no hard feelings against the players or the All Indian Football Federation (AIFF).

"I am a sportsman and I take all these things sportingly. They (players) are a part of me and I have no hard feelings for them. These things keep happening in a sportsperson's life," he said philosophically.

"Here nothing is new for me. It's my country and I will also be playing at the same old stadium."

When asked if revenge against India is on his mind this time, Nayeem smiled and said: "I have come here to win the hearts of my people."

"The match against Syria will be the first big test for us and then we have to take it one game at a time," said Nayeem.

He has also promised his wards a treat at the famous Karim's restaurant in the walled city if they perform well in the tournament.

While interacting with media persons, Nayeem saw current India coach Bob Houghton pass by and rushed forward to greet the Englishman.

"I am looking forward to learning from you for the sake of Bangladesh team, if you are not selfish," Nayeem jokingly told Houghton, who smiled in return.

Gambhir leads

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need to be against a shaky top order. Ajit Agarkar managed gentle swing to get rid of Navdeep Poonia, while RP Singh -- who ambled in to bowl but still put in enough in his delivery stride to produce good lift and carry -- nipped out Fraser Watts and Majid Haq, Munaf Patel, returning after a back muscle problem sent him home from Bangladesh in May, mixed wises with accurate, lifting deliveries and succeeded in getting the crucial wicket of Ryan Watson, the free-stroking Scotland captain.

There were erratic moments, however, as 15 wides in the first 21 overs indicate, and though Munaf might be well enough to return to the line-up, his fielding efforts were by no means adequate. These lapses, and one tough drop by Yuvraj off McCallum after the first rain interval, allowed McCallum and Hamilton to launch a period of Scottish dominance against the spinners.

The sweep, mostly to deliveries on and outside off stump, fetched easy singles and doubles and forced the spinners to change their line. Hamilton was confident driving down the ground, while McCallum was at ease working the ball to leg. McCallum celebrated his reprieve by thumping Ramesh Powar out of the ground and later raised the 50 partnership off 74 balls with a streaky four past gully.

Piyush Chawla tossed it up and was twice swept to the fine-leg boundary but at 131 for 5, Mahendra Singh Dhoni snapped up a thick under-edge to get rid of a leaden-footed McCallum. Chawla caught Colin Smith shuffling across the stumps (146 for 6) but Hamilton and former captain Wright, with a career-best 38, helped Scotland get close to 200.

Henin reaches last eight



AFP, Toronto

World number one Justine Henin advanced to the quarterfinals of this 1.34-million-dollar hard court tournament on schedule Thursday with a 7-6, 6-2 victory over China's Peng Shuai.

Henin, titlist here in 2003, has looked sharp in her first two matches of this US Open tune up, her first tournament since France's Marion Bartoli in the Wimbledon semi finals shocked her.

Henin took her time getting into the match against Peng, feeling out her opponent and finding her rhythm in difficult windy conditions before pulling away for the decisive victory.

Henin broke Peng to take a 6-5 lead in the first set, then won seven of the next nine games to seal the victory.

"It was tough out there," Henin said of the swirling winds. "It's hard

because it's tough to say where the wind comes from, and it's turning a lot in the stadium.

"But it's the same for both players, and you just have to be patient, stay very calm and be focused on every ball.

"But it's tough, especially when you don't have a lot of matches - it's tough to really find a good rhythm."

Henin next faces sixth-seeded Russian Nadia Petrova, who beat Patty Schnyder of Switzerland 6-4, 6-1.

She said she expected a strong challenge from Petrova.

"We had really tough meetings in the past," Henin said. "So I don't want to look too far. I'm still in my preparation for the US Open. I don't want to forget that, and it's good, because it could be windy in New York, too."

In one of Thursday's two night matches, second seed Jelena Jankovic of Serbia beat Sybille Bammer of Austria 6-2, 6-3.

The winner of that match will face France's Virginie Razzano, who dismissed Israel's Shahar Peer 6-4,

6-3. France's Tatiana Golovin also advanced, cruising past Italy's Francesca Schiavone 6-2, 6-0.

Golovin earned a clash with third-seeded Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova, who defeated American Meghann Shaughnessy 6-3, 6-2.

Seventh-seeded Marion Bartoli joined her French compatriots in the quarters when she outlasted Dinara Safina of Russia 6-2, 6-7 (2/7), 6-0.

Since her shocking win over Henin to reach her first Grand Slam final at Wimbledon, Bartoli has struggled, failing to make it past the third round in three previous events.

Bartoli will face Chinese qualifier Yan Zi, who booked a quarterfinal berth, defeating Eleni Daniilidou of Greece 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5) in a match lasting just over three hours.

Boucher 'rested' for Zim trip

CRICINFO, undated

South Africa have rested Justin Kemp and Mark Boucher from their squad for the three-match one-day series against Zimbabwe, which gets underway in Bulawayo on August 22.

Kemp has been given time off to get married, while Boucher's omission is unrelated to his impending disciplinary hearing. He is simply being rested ahead of a busy international season, and the wicketkeeping duties will be taken up by AB de Villiers.

"Mark and I had a long discussion about a month ago," said South Africa's coach, Mickey Arthur. "We both agreed that with the strenuous season ahead we need to ease his workload on the one hand and on the other hand, to give AB more game time with the gloves."

The fast bowler, Dale Steyn -- who is not involved in the Twenty20 World Championship in September -- has been added to the squad. "Steyn will bolster our bowling attack with an eye on the Pakistan tour after the Twenty20s and he also did not get much bowling in during the recent tour to Ireland because of illness."

The team will assemble for a two-day camp on August 18, starting with a coaching clinic in Alexandra Township and leave for Zimbabwe two days later. "This is almost the same Twenty20 squad that will participate in the three ODIs against Zimbabwe," said the convenors of selectors, Pieter Strydom. "They will use these matches in preparation for the inaugural ICC World Twenty20 tournament."

SQUAD

Graeme Smith (capt), Gulam Bodi, Loots Bosman, AB de Villiers (wk), Jean-Paul Duminy, Herschelle Gibbs, Albie Morkel, Mome Morkel, Makhaya Ntini, Vernon Philander, Shaun Pollock, Dale Steyn, Thandi Tshabalala, Johan van der Wath.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

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SERVICES KABADDI

Bangladesh Army, Rifles and Bangladesh Air Force won their respective matches in the Services Kabaddi League at the Shaheed Soharwardy Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

BAF outplayed Prisons Directorate 56-14 with five creditable lonas, Rifles defeated Fire Services 45-15 with four lonas while Army beat Police 32-20 with three lonas.

ACTIVE CHESS

Mohammad Ali clinched the weekly active chess competition at the federation conference room yesterday.

He earned the title after scoring 5.5 points in six rounds of matches in the competition. FIDE Master Aminul Islam was in second position with 5 points.

Mohammad Javed, who won the event last week, shared third place with four others having scored 4.5 points.

Kenya sneak

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two successive wickets in the seventh over.

Fellow opener David Obuya made only seven runs and Nehemiah Odhiambo was out for a duck with the Sri Lankan bowler Chanaka Welegedara claiming the two wickets and leaving the home side at 14 for 20.

Ouma's 50 came off 52 balls including eight fours and a six.

Oduyo took a cautious approach in hitting the winning runs and was undefeated on 24 at the close.

A better

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match fitness, needs to be hidden well and Ramesh Powar used more in the infield. It's a long one-day season but India must start utilising their resources smartly.

TEAMS

**INDIA (likely):** Gautam Gambhir, Robin Uthappa, Sourav Ganguly, Yuvraj Singh, Rohit Sharma, Dinesh Karthik, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (wk, capt), Piyush Chawla, Ramesh Powar, Ajit Agarkar, Munaf Patel.  
**ENGLAND LIONS (likely):** Vikram Solanki (capt), Darren Maddy, Ian Bell, Ravi Bopara, Owais Shah, Luke Wright, Tim Bresnan, Paul Nixon (wk), Jon Lewis, Jeremy Snape, James Kirtley.

Warne up

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and I'm heartbroken I won't be playing," Harmison, whose England colleague Paul Collingwood is set to face Warne once more, said.

But whatever happens at the weekend, Warne has grander ambitions for a Hampshire side that last won the County Championship back in 1973.

"Winning the Championship would be the highlight of my career with Hampshire," said Warne. "We've been second and third in the last two seasons, and I think it's only a matter of time."

Lessons from a salvo



CRICINFO, undated

Recent comments by West Indies captain Ramnaresh Sarwan while he was in Toronto for therapy for his shoulder injury have raised eyebrows and set tongues wagging. Sarwan was reported to have called former coach Bennett King the "worst coach" he had ever had, and to have said King's manner was aggressive and intimidated younger players.

Much speculation has been raised over the timing of Sarwan's remarks, especially as King had returned to Australia a couple of months ago. Had Sarwan been waiting for the new administration to be assembled before airing his gripe? It seems more likely that Sarwan was simply responding to a pointed question and his remarks were neither premeditated nor part of some unfolding strategy.

His history alone reveals the likelihood of this: Sarwan is a chatterbox and will talk freely once he gets going. Perhaps the acupuncture treatment made him more relaxed and inclined to greater frankness, but it is unlikely that he has been biding time and planning a hit.

Yet hit he did. Not only at Bennett King, towards whom his remarks were scathing, but also at his former captain, Brian Lara. Sarwan was bitter as he spoke of the circumstances under which he was dropped for the second Test against Pakistan at Multan in 2006.

"I was in the dressing room on the morning of the Test preparing to go out for batting practice when Brian approached me and said I was not playing," he recounted. "I was very shocked, but I said nothing and went out to do some batting drills. I

don't think my omission was justified. I was very angry because there was no specific reason given for the decision to drop me. It made me understand that the sport is also about politics and that people would do what's necessary to accomplish their own goals, whatever that might be. It was a very humiliating experience, but I think it has made me stronger as a person."

The incident was one Lara had explained as aimed at sending a message to Sarwan to help him improve his game. Indeed, reports were circulating behind the scenes that Sarwan's behaviour at the time was arrogant and that he heeded no one.

Was it appropriate to tell him on the morning of the Test that he was not playing? He was not the first to have been summarily dropped, but surely he was not clueless about the impact of his behaviour. Remember, Clive Lloyd had been asked (after Garry Sobers was unavailable) to come out to join the team to help with player relations.

Sarwan's ego was reasonably wounded by the cut. With many non-cricket months under his belt since, one expects that he would have revisited the circumstances mentally and tried to assess the situation from a distance. If he has done so, and still arrives at the conclusion that his being dropped was a politically motivated move to facilitate other people's goals, that says a great deal about Sarwan, about his relationship with Lara, and about the general atmosphere in which these players huddle (or don't).

Sarwan's criticism of King follows similar statements, notably by Marion Samuels, about the relationship between coach and players. Perhaps Sarwan's claims are true about King's manner being rough, but then there is also the question of how rough is rough. I don't doubt

that Sarwan believes what he says. I also think there is evidence that the players have not been inclined to regard coaching instructions, and those concerning nutrition and physical fitness, with respect. Some months ago a physio's report was circulated that cited some serious slackness within the outfit in each of these areas.

Sarwan himself is not known to be keen on training. In the same Toronto interview he spoke of his ambivalence as he went after the ball, attempting to field which he injured himself. "I wanted to dive earlier, but by the time I realised I was very close to the boundary, I lunged forward and fell awkwardly. Looking back, it was obviously not the right thing to do."

Is it that they are not trained on how to slide and dive, or is it that they ignore the training? Coaches galore have come and gone, most complaining that they cannot get the team to comply. Even Malcolm Marshall threw up his hands in despair. Is it a coach problem, a team problem, or the inability of both sides to understand each other's roles and responsibilities?

Sarwan may have inadvertently started another debate over what ails West Indies cricket. Whether his remarks were temperate or not should not cloud the issue because, right or wrong, he has communicated quite clearly that these flawed relations are as much to blame for poor performance as anything else. The new board would do well to address that, rather than seek to employ the old method of disciplining the messenger.



PHOTO: STAR

Second Division football league champions Jalalabad Club receives the winners trophy from the Sylhet Divisional Commissioner Aziz Hasan at the Sylhet Stadium on Thursday.

Pothas's big test



BBC ONLINE, undated

Nic Pothas has one of the more challenging roles in county cricket.

He bats in the top order for Hampshire, keeps wicket to Shane Warne, and is now focusing on Saturday's Friends Provident Trophy final with Durham.

But even batting on the bowler-friendly Rose Bowl pitch has not stopped him averaging over 50 in both the Trophy and County Championship this season.

"The way I do it, when I'm keeping I'm a keeper alone -- and when I'm batting I'm a batter alone," he told BBC Sport.

"I've found the only way is to keep it separate, and keep the focus as acute as possible.

"I like to think I give a team flexibility as I can shuffle up and down the order, if we need to play an extra batsman or bowler.

"Six is my preferred position, but I'm not really fussed where I bat.

"Opening the batting for a long period of time is tough for a keeper, but if that's what's needed then I'm happy to do it."

Pothas enjoyed a purple patch with the bat when Hampshire last reached a Lord's final in the 2005 C&G Trophy.

In both the semi-final against Yorkshire and the final against Warwickshire, he opened the innings with John Crawley, hit a half-century and shared in a hundred partnership with Sean Ervine, a centurion on both occasions.

Pothas, now 33, played three one-day internationals for South Africa in 2000 but moved to Hampshire two years later, courtesy of his Greek passport.

However, he has played down suggestions of an England call-up, although he has been applying for UK citizenship.

"I'm still in the process of qualifying -- you take a test, and you have to fill in documents and send them in, so I'm waiting around to see what happens," he explained.

"But I've always said (playing for) England would be a bonus -- I didn't come here with that as my goal.

"I came here to play county cricket, but leaving South Africa was one of the best decisions I ever made.

"I enjoyed my time there, but it had got to the point where it wasn't a challenge any more, and at Hampshire with Warne, it's a challenge every day.

"It's an honour to keep wicket to him, as there's not a great number who have kept to him for any length of time -- only the likes of Ian Healy and Adam Gilchrist."

Matt Prior, born in Johannesburg like Pothas, is England's current choice behind the stumps -- but the Hampshire man feels the modern expectations of wicketkeepers are not always fair.

"Of late it's been very important for keepers to bat, and I've never quite understood the theory behind that as the keeper has more work to do than anyone else," he said.

"He has to bat, but it's quite acceptable for opening bowlers not to be able to bat.

"There's a lot of competition, and at the moment they could pick any one of six keepers who would do well."

A new face in the Hampshire attack is recent signing Daren Powell, and the West Indian pace bowler has clearly already made an impression on his new teammates.

"Daren Powell is the funniest bloke I've ever met," Pothas said.

"He laughs the whole time, but we can't understand him when he speaks. I know I speak pretty quickly, but he beats me by a thousand words a minute.

"But he's got such a drive to get better, and his best is phenomenal.

Looking ahead to Saturday's final, Pothas is hoping to continue Hampshire's record of success in Lord's finals -- and has stressed his great affection for the ground.

"When I started playing cricket as a kid, South Africa was under apartheid, and we saw these finals

on TV. "I can remember Robin Smith getting runs against Waqar Younis in the 1991 final against Surrey, and all you wanted to do was to play at Lord's," he explained.

"I came to play club cricket in Hertfordshire when I was 18, and I must have travelled down about eight times just to look at Lord's.

"Durham could be overplayed by the situation, but I don't think that's going to be the case.

"If you look at Shivnarine Chanderepaul, Steve Harmison, Paul Collingwood, Dale Benkenstein and Otis Gibson, they've all played on big stages, so it shouldn't affect them.

"They've got to be favourites on paper, as they've got so many internationals in their side.

"But you look at what happened to Lancashire and Sussex in the Twenty20 finals -- it's all about what happens on the day."

Joseph takes time off

CRICINFO, undated

West Indies batsman Sylvester Joseph is taking a sabbatical from competitive cricket and, according to the Antigua Sun, is considering his future in the game.

Joseph, 28, confirmed his unavailability for this year's Leeward Islands competitions "due to personal reasons", though these latest revelations appear to be linked with his exclusion from West Indies' one-day leg of their recent tour of England.

Joseph has captained Antigua for the past six seasons, and West Indies A for two. He was due to lead the A team to Zimbabwe but, owing to concerns about security, he and several other players refused to tour. The series was subsequently cancelled.

Mustard not cowed



BBC ONLINE, undated

Durham wicketkeeper Phil Mustard has played down the threat of legendary spinner Shane Warne ahead of Saturday's Friends Provident Trophy final.

Warne took 11 wickets when Hampshire beat Durham at the Rose Bowl in June.

But Mustard told BBC Sport: "It'll be a new wicket at Lord's and he won't spin it as much as he would on a used pitch.

"That's a bonus for us -- the pitch might be in our favour. I think we'll go in with the seamers and there will be more in it for them."

Saturday's final promises to be a thrilling climax to the competition if the two previous meetings between the two counties is anything to go by.

They have played out a couple of closely-contested County Championship games this season. Last month they were involved in

a thriller at the Riverside, with a last-wicket partnership of David Griffiths and Michael Brown frustrating Durham's victory hopes.

A Warne-inspired Hampshire won the first clash, with the Australian finishing with figures of 11-133 in a thrilling 50-run win.

Mustard said: "We had a good game up here where we nearly won and they beat us at their place so hopefully we can get revenge on Saturday. I'm very confident of victory."

Mustard has been one of the keys to Durham's passage to the final.

Only four other players have scored more runs than the 24-year-old Mustard in the 50-over competition this season.

The big-hitting left-hander's success even prompted talk of him as a potential England player for the upcoming World Twenty20.

He opens the batting in limited-overs cricket for Durham and recently showed his explosive qualities in the county game when

he smacked 76 off 58 balls to lead them to an unlikely win over Warwickshire.

Mustard is keen to concentrate on his form for Durham, but is hopeful that a good performance in Saturday's match can help push his claims for winter recognition.

He said: "My next step is to continue trying to get runs for Durham more often and doing what I can -- then hopefully this winter I can get on the England A tour.

"If I manage that and have a good winter then who knows?"

The man nicknamed 'The Colonel' has worked closely with Durham's head coach Geoff Cook to try and improve his game.

"We speak regularly about a few minor things," said Mustard. "We've been mainly trying to improve my batting, working on my concentration and trying to take more responsibility and this year it is paying off."