

BCB condoles Hosne Ara's death

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) condoled the death of Hosne Ara Begum, wife of former national cricket coach late Chan Khan and mother of national cricket coach Osman Khan.

Hosne Ara breathed her last yesterday.

In a message, the BCB expressed its deepest sympathies to the bereaved family members.

Yuvraj set

FROM PAGE 17

the one-day arena.

England, beaten 2-1 at home by the West Indies in a one-day series last month, did at least make it into the second round of the World Cup.

But they never looked like making the semifinals despite going into the tournament following a surprise one-day success over Australia on the world champions' home turf.

In the absence of opener Marcus Trescothick, still unavailable because of a stress-related illness, England have yet to find a batsman who can make the most of the initial 10-over powerplay period.

Meanwhile the decision of new one-day captain Paul Collingwood to move from backward point, a vital position in limited overs cricket, so he could better assess the game, meant England's best fielder was not in his ideal place.

England welcome back pace-bowling all-rounder Andrew Flintoff for his first taste of international action this season following a third operation on his troublesome left ankle.

TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): Paul Collingwood (captain), Ian Bell, Stuart Broad, Andrew Flintoff, Monty Panesar, Matt Prior, Ryan Sidebottom, James Anderson, Ravi Bopara, Alastair Cook, Dimitri Mascarenhas, Kevin Pietersen, Owais Shah, Chris Tremlett.

INDIA (from): Rahul Dravid (captain), Ajit Agarkar, Sourav Ganguly, Zaheer Khan, Piyush Chawla, Rohit Sharma, Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Gautam Gambhir, Dinesh Karthik, Munaf Patel, Ramesh Powar, Rudra Pratap Singh, Robin Uthappa.



PHOTO: AFP

Justine Henin of Belgium celebrates her victory against Jelena Jankovic of Serbia in the Rogers Cup final in Toronto on Sunday.

Toronto title Henin's



AFP, Toronto

World number one Justine Henin captured her 35th career title and sixth of the year, beating world number three Jelena Jankovic 7-6, 7-5 to win the Toronto hardcourt crown here Sunday.

The Belgian top seed needed six match points, five in the final game, to subdue her third-seeded Serbian opponent and collect a 181,980-dollar top prize from the 1.34 million-dollar event, a tune-up for the US Open that begins August 27.

"Jelena is a real fighter ... and she proved it many times this year, so I was ready for a big fight," said Henin, who admitted after the match that she almost pulled out of the final due to a nagging shoulder problem.

"Yeah, that was true. Because last night I was really concerned about my problem with my shoulder."

"It was really inflamed. Last night I wasn't really positive about the fact that I could play today. So I really wanted to wait until my warm-up and I was feeling much better this morning."

Henin made it clear that she will be on the court for the US Open later this month.

"It's going to be sore for a few days, I know it because that's a pain I've known for a couple of years," Henin said.

In her first tournament since losing in the Wimbledon semi-finals, the 25-year-old Henin improved to 43-4 this season in only her 10th tournament.

Henin, who also won this event in 2003, was down a break in both sets but rallied each time to deny Jankovic a fifth title of the year and improve to 7-0 lifetime against Jankovic, including five triumphs this year.

Henin jumped to a 5-1 tie-breaker lead and captured the first set four points later when Jankovic pushed a volley wide.

Jankovic, wearing a bandage on her left knee, broke Henin to open the second set but double faulted away a break for the second time in the match to allow Henin to level at 2-2.

Jankovic broke again, held serve and was two points from a break for a 5-2 lead before Henin rallied to hold serve, break back to level at 4-4 and hold again for a 5-4 edge.

"I played some great games and was really playing well and then I would just let down and make a few mistakes and she would just take advantage of that," Jankovic said. "You give her one point ... it's like I give her one finger, she takes my whole hand."

Henin reached match point on Jankovic's serve but the Serbian star smashed a service winner to deny the threat and went on to hold serve and level the set.

Henin squandered a 40-0 lead and was forced into a marathon 11th game that saw nine deuces before Henin hit a backhand winner and Jankovic netted a forehand volley, allowing Henin to hold for a 6-5 lead.

After that drama, Henin won the first three points in the next game to gain triple match point but squandered them all, the last on a wide forehand, and missed on a fifth match point by pushing a backhand wide.

An overhead smash gave Henin a sixth match point and she finished matters at last, blasting a second serve for a cross-court winner to capture the title.

Fergie faces uphill

FROM PAGE 20

Geovanni's effort was enough to bring City victory in the eagerly anticipated first meeting of Eriksson and Ferguson since the Swede returned to club football couldn't have been better and singled out defender Micah Richards for praise after a robust defensive display.

But Eriksson joy at seeing his side maintain their 100 percent start to the season was tempered by an injury to Bulgarian striker Valeri Bojinov just five minutes into the game.

"Richard Dunne and Micah Richards were absolutely fantastic, as was the rest of the back-four. It's important to remember Micah is 19 and to have a defender that strong and that quick. That is a combination that is very rare."

"I like the situation. It's my first time in the Premiership and we are a young, new team. This was a big test and we showed we can stand up to the champions."

and we certainly should have seen the game up early on."

Eriksson admitted his return to club football couldn't have been better and singled out defender Micah Richards for praise after a robust defensive display.

He said: "Of course it's very nice to beat the champions but three games and three clean sheets, I must be happy with that. And I am, very happy."

"Richard Dunne and Micah Richards were absolutely fantastic, as was the rest of the back-four. It's important to remember Micah is 19 and to have a defender that strong and that quick. That is a combination that is very rare."

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Maradona taunts

FROM PAGE 20

Maradona earned thunderous applause when he said he loathed everything that came from the US. "I hate it with all my strength." He pledged allegiance to his host and to Cuba's Fidel Castro, who has arranged treatment in Havana for his addictions.

"I will be amazed if Shane ended up doing that -- amazed. So would a lot of Australians," Howard told reporters.

"I believe in Chavez, I am Chavista. Everything Fidel does, everything Chavez does, for me is the best."

Tait out of T20

AFP, Sydney

Australian fast bowler Shaun Tait was Monday ruled out of next month's ICC Twenty20 World Cup with an elbow injury, Cricket Australia said.

It said it was seeking approval for Tait to be replaced by Tasmania fast bowler Ben Hilfenhaus.

Chairman of selectors Andrew Hilditch said he was advised that Tait's elbow has not recovered sufficiently from recent surgery for him to take part in the tournament in South Africa from September 11-24.

"This news is very disappointing for Shaun after such a successful World Cup campaign, and I know he was looking forward to being part of the first ICC World Twenty20," Hilditch said.

"The flip side is that this presents a great opportunity for a good young fast bowler who had such a good season last year."

"Ben Hilfenhaus is highly regarded, and the chance to be part of an Australian touring squad will greatly assist his development."

"We're really keen, fitness permitting, for Shaun to take part in the India tour (in October) which is a very important one-day series and a tremendous springboard for our domestic season of international cricket."

Australian team physiotherapist Alex Kountouris said Tait has recovered slower than expected from right elbow surgery.

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to give you a star-studded line-up, and it is not over yet. Expect more big names to follow," ICL chairman Kapil Dev said.

Ex-Australian stars Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath have

Haq, Yousuf join ICL

Cricket

AFP, Mumbai

Pakistan superstars Inzamamul Haq and Mohammad Yousuf were on Monday confirmed to take part in the breakaway Indian Cricket League (ICL), a move that could end their international careers.

All-rounder Abdul Razzaq and left-handed opener Imran Farhat were the other Pakistanis who had signed up with the multi-million dollar league, ICL official Himanshu Modi told reporters here.

The inaugural event is scheduled to be held in October and November.

No member of the Indian team

currently touring England has been linked with the ICL, which has not

been recognised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The BCCI, which runs official cricket in the country and is a member of the International Cricket Council, has said any player joining the ICL will be barred from national selection.

Former South African internationals Lance Klusener and Nicky Boje have also signed up, Modi said, adding that the names of other international players will be disclosed once they had signed their contracts.

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to give you a star-studded line-up, and it is not over yet. Expect more big names to follow," ICL chairman Kapil Dev said.

Ex-Australian stars Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath have

then naming Lawson as the coach ahead of favourite David Whatmore.

Pakistan are a talented but unpredictable side -- something Lawson believes can be an advantage.

"Unpredictability can be an advantage as much as a drawback," he said in earlier published comments. "We will use the characteristic to take teams by surprise."

Woolmer tried to transform Pakistan into a consistent and competitive unit during his three-year tenure but had only partial success, the highlight being winning a home series against England, India and the West Indies.

Lawson's man-management skills will be tested when he deals with Akhtar, a mercurial paceman known as much for his mood-swing as his bowling.

"Akhtar is a vital cog to them (Pakistan) being top of the tree," Lawson said.

Still, former Pakistan captain Imran Khan has lent his support, saying last month that he believes Lawson could help the fast bowlers progress and bring "Australian aggression" into the team.



PHOTO: AFP
Recently appointed Sri Lanka coach Australian Trevor Bayliss speaks during a press conference in Colombo on Monday.

Lawson embarks on Pak job

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Australian Geoff Lawson was due to arrive Monday to take over as Pakistan coach Trevor Bayliss will let his team play their naturally attacking style of cricket, a strategy that clicked for his predecessor Tom Moody.

Moody,

Bayliss, who took over from fellow Australian Moody after the World Cup in April, said he will continue the tactics that helped Sri Lanka reach the final of the cricketing extravaganza.

"Sri Lanka have been successful with their attacking style. Not a lot will change as they have proved successful during the last 18 months or so," Bayliss told reporters here Monday.

Under Moody, the Sri Lankans

shed their tag of poor travellers by drawing Test series in New Zealand and England besides their runners-up finish at the World Cup.

The immediate challenge for Bayliss, 44, and Mahela Jayawardene's team will be the World Twenty20 championships to be played in South Africa from September 11-24.

Boomers escape

FROM PAGE 17

Bangladesh coach Nayeemuddin

post

after the match that he was

pride

of his boys who "fought well".

"They played well but have to be

more aggressive," he added.

Bangladesh will play Cambodia

tomorrow.

TEAMS

India:

Subrata Paul,

Surkumar Singh,

Mahesh Gawli,

Deepak

Mondal

(Rahim Nabi 51st),

NS

Manju,

Steven Dias,

Mehrajuddin,

Climax

Lawrence,

Renedy Singh

(Clifford Miranda, 57th),

Bhaichung

Bhutia

(Tarif Ahmed, 85th) and Sunil

Chetri.

Bangladesh:

Biplab Bhattacharjee,

Ariful Islam,

Rajani Barman,

Nazrul Islam,

Waly Faisal,

Zahid Hossain