

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

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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.

Gibson spoils

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team," he said.

Hampshire captain Warne had been greeted with a no-ball bouncer by old foe Collingwood, but it was Liam Plunkett who bowled the Australian for five to end the innings.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul had top-scored for Durham with 78 on his 33rd birthday.

Razzaq quits

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"Razzaq's omission does not mean an end to his international career and we hope he would reconsider his decision."

Razzaq, who is among eight Pakistani players offered lucrative contracts by a breakaway Indian league, said his decision was not linked to rebel cricket.

"I have not signed any deal with the Indian league but if I get the same treatment from my own people, I might be forced to join the league, but my decision to retire has nothing to do with the Indian league," he said.

Former captain Inzamamul Haq leads the pack who are considering signing with the multi-million-dollar Indian league being bankrolled by that country's largest media group, which owns the Zee television channel.

Others set to join the league are opener Imran Farhat, Yousuf and Moin Khan.

Pacemen Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif turned down initial approaches.

Razzaq, who also did not sign a central contract with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), said he had received no word from the sport's governing body since he was dropped.

"No official from the PCB has contacted me. I am still waiting for any official to talk to me but no one has yet bothered," he said.

Worcestershire signed Razzaq as a replacement overseas player for the remainder of the 2007 season following the return of Phil Jaques and Doug Bollinger to Australia for their 'A' team tour of Pakistan.

Razzaq arrived in Worcester on Sunday and was to join the squad for training Monday before the team travel to Canterbury for the county championship match against Kent, which starts Tuesday.

The all-rounder previously played English county cricket for Middlesex in 2002 and 2003.

"It has been very difficult to find quality replacement overseas players because of the forthcoming Twenty20 Cup World Championships and Abdul's availability has come at just the right time," said Worcestershire chief executive Mark Newton.

"He will certainly give us the quality and experience we need during the last few weeks of the season, particularly in the Pro40 competition.

"We have received clearance from the Pakistan Cricket Board but still need to complete the registration procedures with the ECB."

Tennis

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."

Fergie faces uphill

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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 following his spell in charge of England.

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

The former Fiorentina forward was stretched over in obvious agony and could face a lengthy lay-off if knee ligament damage is confirmed.

"Bojinov has gone for a scan and we will have to wait and see but we think it is ligament damage," Eriksson said. "But we don't know how bad."

United were without the injured Wayne Rooney, Louis Saha and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer while Cristiano Ronaldo started a three-match ban.

And Ferguson added: "You wish you had your main strikers there of course but we didn't and you saw the evidence of that today with the number of chances and possession we had. We still should have won the match.

"I'm obviously disappointed, there's no question about that, but the performance was outstanding. I don't know what the possession figures were and don't know how many corners we had but it all comes down to taking your chances

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 in 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.

First Aussie

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until the end of next season, having retired from Test cricket in January with a record of 708 wickets in 145 matches.

It was an idea of Hampshire county chairman Rod Bransgrove for Warne to take out German citizenship and Warne is said to be dismayed at how the story has escalated.

Warne owns a house on the south coast of England, which he shares during the cricket season with his former wife Simone and their three children, and they live in Melbourne during the Australian summer.

"Everything's going well," Erskine said. "Whether the family will move back over there next year is for them to decide because of the children's schooling."

"He always likes playing cricket, but I think with the kids growing up he will come back to Melbourne, live in Melbourne, and I would think that probably next year will be the last year with Hampshire."

The weekend report caused a stir in Australia with Prime Minister John Howard saying he would be "amazed" if Warne opted to become a German citizen in order to play cricket in England.

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

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.

Bayliss to mould it like Moody

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's new coach Trevor Bayliss will let his team play their naturally attacking style of cricket, a strategy that clicked for his predecessor Tom 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 would be the World Twenty20 championships to be played in South Africa from September 11-24.

Booters escape

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Bangladesh coach Nayeemuddin told after the match that he was proud 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 (Alfaz Ahmed, 69th), Arham Aziz (SM Rajib, 88th), Abul Hossain, Feroj Mahmud Titu, Abdul Hassan Emily, Mohammed Robin (Mehdi Hassan Ujjal, 77th).

Half-century

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three US Open crowns.

"Everything felt good until I ran into Roger," Blake said, who came in with wins in 16 of his previous 20 matches. "Fifty titles is pretty good."

Federer, so relaxed that he hit up in the morning with former player and current American Davis Cup coach Patrick McEnroe after scratching around for a partner, likes his chances heading to Flushing Meadows.

The Swiss won his second Cincinnati trophy in three years after beating Andy Roddick in 2005.

It was a year and a week since Federer lifted his career 40th crown through a 2006 victory in Toronto. He began his run with a first title in Milan in February, 2001 as a teenager.

Hit it & hit

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reason numerous practice matches have been scheduled.

"We played one international besides seven domestic matches and that's why this version of the game is not familiar to us. This is the reason we felt that it's better to play some matches in preparation rather going through the usual practice session," he informed.

The national team will play two Twenty20 matches today at the same venue against the Australia-bound Bangladesh Academy team and meet in a 40-Over-a-side match the following day before being involved in a number of twenty20 matches against the other local selections.

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 four Pakistanis join retired West Indian captain Brian Lara as the marquee overseas cricketers in the ICL, which is bankrolled by media baron Subhash Chandra, the owner of India's largest listed media company Zee Telefilms.

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.

"We have delivered our promise 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

been linked with the ICL, but both have dismissed claims by the organisers that they have already signed up.

The ICL paraded 44 Indian first-class cricketers at the media conference who had joined the rebel league, which initially comprises Twenty20 matches over two months for each of the next three years.

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.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has also announced a boycott of rebel players, saying they will be not be eligible for selection for official Test, one-day and Twenty20 cricket.

Inzamam, 37, who resigned as Pakistan's captain after the World Cup, was in contention for playing in the home Test series against South Africa in late September.

Yousuf, 32, is Pakistan's batting spearhead, while Razzaq and Farhat declined to sign PCB con-

tracts for the new season. Razzaq announced his retirement from official cricket earlier on Monday.

Among the Indian first-class players who have joined the league are all-rounder Dinesh Mongia, who toured Bangladesh with the Indian team in May, and former internationals Deep Dasgupta and Jai Prakash Yadav.

ICL officials refused to divulge the salaries being paid to the cricketers, but one source said the amounts agreed upon were "more than enough to make the players happy."

Media reports said some domestic cricketers, who earned a maximum of 500,000 rupees (12,200 dollars) from the BCCI during a season, were reportedly signed up for nine million rupees (220,000 dollars) by the ICL for three years.

The BCCI, meanwhile, said on Monday it would increase salaries for domestic cricketers by 20 per cent, but insisted it was only due to the higher revenues earned in the last financial year.

"That has been our policy over the years," said BCCI secretary Niranjan Shah. "If the board's revenues go up, the players also earn more."

Lawson embarks on Pak job

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Australian Geoff Lawson was due to arrive Monday to take over as Pakistan coach, a job which will require him to dig deep to restore the credibility of the cricketing under-achievers.

Pakistan have been making headlines for all the wrong reasons since pacemen Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif tested positive for a banned drug last year.

Their cricketing pride was then badly battered by their shock first-round exit from the World Cup in the Caribbean in March.

Worse followed when Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer was found dead in his hotel room in Jamaica just a day after the team's upset defeat at the hands of Cup debutants Ireland.

But Lawson, who took 180 wickets in 46 Tests, is confident he is the right man for the job, despite the criticism of some former Pakistani cricketers who have described him as "too raw and too new" to coaching.

"I am hoping to talk to those people and see what contributions they can make," Lawson has said.

"Pakistan can be number one,

they have the talent and the skills to match the best in the world."

Lawson's first assignment with Pakistan is the Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa next month.

Coaching Pakistan has never been easy -- it involves meeting the enormous expectation of fanatical supporters, coping with an unyielding media spotlight and working out how to translate the team's potential into performance.

Lawson's predecessors have often found to their dismay that they need more than coaching manuals to get the best out of a team apt to pull in different directions.

That Pakistan have had 11 coaches in the past decade only underlines that many of them have found it difficult to keep their reputation intact in this pressure-cooker situation.

Woolmer's death was a massive blow to the reputation of Pakistani cricket, which had already faced match-fixing accusations and drug bans.

The hunt then began not only for a new coach but also a new captain, after Inzamam-ul-Haq quit one-day cricket immediately following the World Cup.

Cricketer chiefs wisely began from scratch, appointing young Shoaib Malik as the new captain at the expense of senior cricketers and

then naming Lawson as the coach ahead of favourite Dav 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-swings 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.

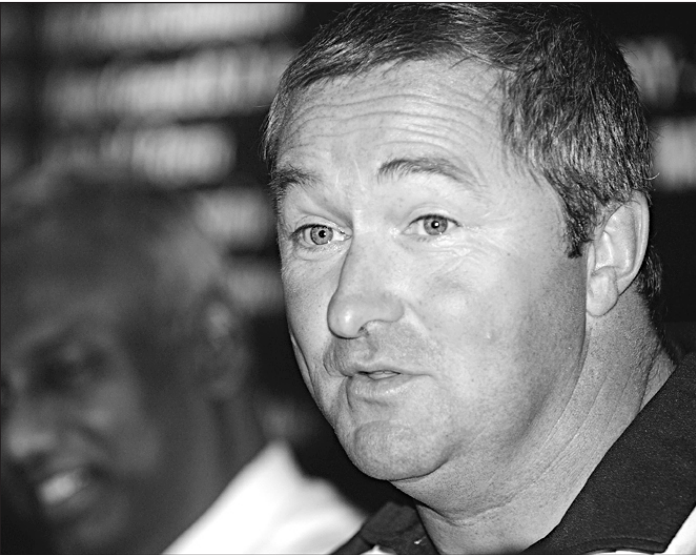


PHOTO: AFP

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

Bangladesh

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victory in Dhaka when Bangladesh won the home leg of the World Cup qualifier in 1985.

The last time the two teams met, the result was 1-1 in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy in Pakistan also in 1985.

Bangladesh got the chance to train at the match venue yesterday under coach Hasanuzzaman Babloo, who has playing experience in the tournament. It was learned that the coach also visited Indonesia's practice session.

On the opening day of the tournament yesterday, Myanmar faced Lesotho while hosts Malaysia were pitted against Laos.

Bangladesh will take on Singapore and Zimbabwe on August 23 and 25 respectively.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 41 Man's pursuer | 2 Anise liqueur | 23 Society newcomer |
| 4 60 sec. | 43 "The Matrix" role | 3 South American country | 25 "There oughta be —!" |
| 7 Teeny insect | 44 Pig's comment | 4 Scratch | 26 Rent |
| 11 One of Donald's nephews | 46 South-western brick | 5 PC picture | 27 Bygone partners |
| 13 Expert | 50 Desertlike | 6 Staircase post | 28 Ego |
| 14 Deteriorates | 53 Wander about | 7 Dowager's pet, traditionally | 29 Saskatchewan tribe |
| 15 Poet | 55 Tale teller | 8 Auction parcel | 30 Female red deer |
| 16 Compete in a regatta | 56 Soap brand | 9 List-ending abbr. | 31 Flop |
| 17 Make art with acid | 57 Storm center | 10 Fire aftermath | 35 Card-table pronouncement |
| 18 Injury | 58 B.P.O.E. | 11 Fire afterthought | 38 — Lanka |
| 20 Night light? | 60 De-pressed | 12 Colonial melody | 40 Wet expanse |
| 22 Youngster | 61 Nevertheless | 19 Needing light | 42 Christmas-topper, often |
| 24 Find | | 21 "Alley —" | 45 Deck in a prize-fight |
| 32 Flower whose name means "flame" | | | 47 Unctuous |
| | | | 48 Make quiche |

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CRYPTOQUIP

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GYBPVUHKZ Y "LYU TYF OA"?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT HIS FAVORITE ASIAN FOOD IS? I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU THAI AND THAI AGAIN!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals I