

Dhaka XI nipped in the bud

Sports Reporter

Experience and temperament made light work of euphoria and enthusiasm as the touring Dhaka Eleven were soundly thrashed by six wickets by Indian Bank in their Mohd Dowlah Gold Cup cricket tournament opener at the Osmania ground in the Indian city of Hyderabad yesterday, said a faxed message.

The Dhaka Eleven, comprising mostly the young cricketers who recently won a youth tournament in Kuala Lumpur, virtually confirmed their ouster from the limited over tournament while Indian Bank, by virtue of their second successive win filled the slot for one qualifier from each group to the next round. Earlier, Indian Bank had beaten Hyderabad Cricket Association whom the Bangladesh outfit is scheduled to play today. A win today cannot alter the Dhaka Eleven's fate of a two-match tenure in this annual meet, participated by many top-notch Indian cricketers playing for different clubs.

Javed Omar Belim, the right-handed opening batsman who was adjudged man-of-the-match in the final of the youth meet in Malaysia featuring two young selections from Bangladesh and Test-playing nation Sri Lanka, was the top scorer again as the Dhaka Eleven, batting first, made 155 for six from their stipulated quota of 50 overs.

Opener Jahangir Alam, one of the four national cricketers drafted into the winning team from Malaysia to inject some experience and strength, did not find the matting wicket to

his liking and left early. Zakaria scored 14, three more than Jahangir and left a sedate Javed at the wicket to do some tinkering in tandem with a vastly experienced Anamul Islam Bulbul.

But the ace allrounder, a regular member of Bangladesh team, totally undid the rationale for his selection when he ran himself out for two only and any hopes of an adequate total was all out gone.

The imposing figure of skipper Akram Khan, one of the most consistent batsman of the recent times, did not work magic as too many wickets had fallen too early and all that the hard-hitting right-handed batsman could manage before holing out a catch was a quietish 27 including two hits to the fence.

Enamul Huq Moni, the versatile southpaw and an integral part of the Bangladesh team, stayed unbeaten on 14 along with Naimur Rahman, the man-of-the-tournament for the Malaysia meet had departed for a stone-walling 71 inclusive of two fours missing the line of

a Sridhar delivery in an obvious attempt to accelerate the trickling run rate.

The Dhaka Eleven closed shop at 155 for six wickets with almost all the mediocre bowlers in the opposition camp going unchallenged.

Opening bowler Mukesh had an excellent analysis of one for 26 from ten overs followed by his partner Sridhar who bagged two for 48 also from the ceiling of ten overs.

But the pick of the bowlers was definitely K Srinath who spent only 16 runs from sixty legitimate balls for Zakaria's wicket.

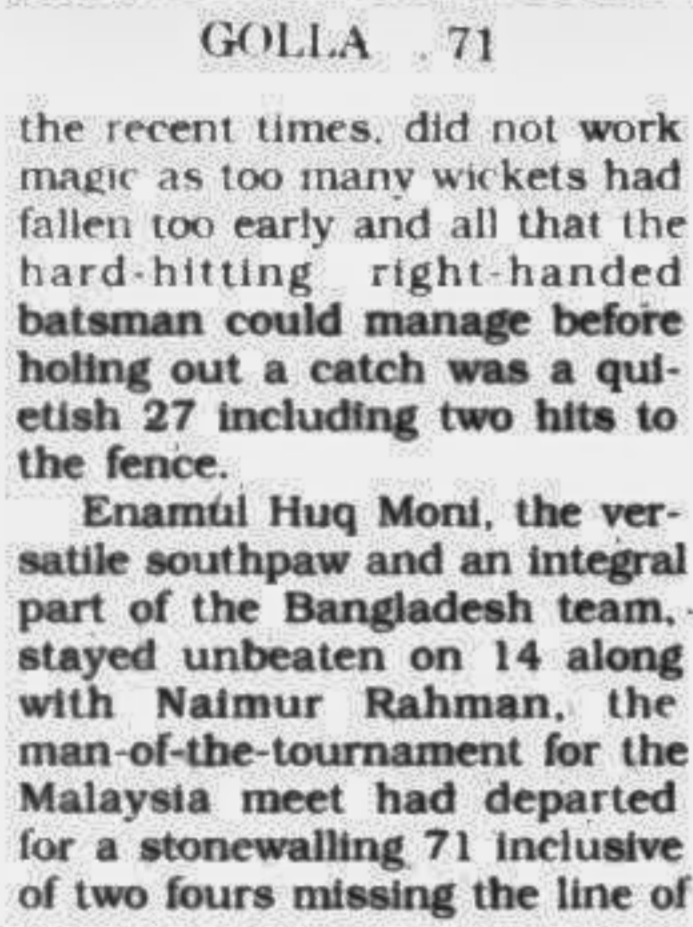
Atmaram captured the other wicket that went to the bowlers' account.

Although a victory target of 156 in 50 overs never seemed to hold any challenge for an experienced team on a matting wicket, Sajal Chowdhury, the lively little right-arm opening bowler, gave Dhaka Eleven a perfect start under the circumstances when he clean bowled Indian Bank opener Ram Krishna for a duck.

But Shyamchandra, the other opener, weathered the early storm competently in company with one drop Suresh and Indian bank's passage to the next round was never in doubt after that.

Suresh drew level with Javed's score before falling to a catch by the Dhaka Eleven opener off left-arm spinner Enam who went on to capture two more wickets to finish with a haul of three for 30 from ten overs.

Srinath, who came to the wicket to replace opener Shyamchandra — dismissed for 23 — remained unbeaten on 27 when Indian Bank posted 56 for four wickets in 42 overs.



GOLLA 71

AFC to rally for four slots

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 14: Asia will ask for four berths in the 1998 World Cup when the tournament is expanded from 24 to 32 teams. Asian Football Confederation general secretary Peter Velappan said Saturday, reports AP.

Velappan, whose comments came following an AFC Congress meeting, also said Asia should get a chance at a fifth berth, to be determined in a playoff with Oceania.

The increase of eight teams, the offer made by Joao Havelange to the CONCACAF, Asian and African Confederations to win himself a sixth term as FIFA president, is now the source of debate among all of the confederation as to which gets how many berths.

In the recently completed World Cup, Europe had 13 teams, South America four, Africa three and CONCACAF and Asia two each.

The 1998 allocation, which will not be determined until later this year, is expected to result with Oceania being guaranteed one berth (as opposed to having to win two playoffs to get in, against a CONCACAF team then against a South American team), with Asia, Africa and CONCACAF each getting one more.

South America would have its fourth guaranteed while Europe would get four more.

But there are other proposals — such as the additional four European teams having to play a two-leg playoff with one

team from one of the other four confederations — and each confederation is lobbying for more for itself.

Velappan told reporters asking for two more for Asia was reasonable.

Additionally, he said having a fifth Asian team play World Cup finals in the United States.

South Korea drew two and lost one, getting eliminated in the first round, while Saudi Arabia reached the second round before being eliminated by eventual semifinalist Sweden in the second round. Along the way it upset Belgium.

CONCACAF had both of its teams reach the second round, the United States and Mexico, while Africa advanced only Nigeria past the first phase.

Besides the four guaranteed Asian berths, Velappan said the AFC's proposal for 1998 included 15 berths for Europe (including host France), four for South America (including defending champion Brazil), five for Africa, three for CONCACAF and a play-off match for Oceania.

Velappan said FIFA, the AFC and Oceania had agreed in principle to integrate Oceania with Asia for FIFA competitions.

"We feel strongly that Oceania with only Australia with the ability to qualify should not be given one seat. It would be totally unfair to all the confederations if one considers the arduous qualification matches. Therefore, Oceania champion should play the fifth Asian teams," he said.

Bowe's bizarre return

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ, Aug 14: Riddick Bowe returned to the ring in controversial fashion Saturday night, hitting Buster Mathis Jr. while he was on one knee and knocking him onto his back, reports AP.

The punch came in the fourth round, and when Mathis could not continue the scheduled 10-round bout was ruled a "no contest."

Mathis was taking punishment from Bowe when he dropped to his right knee. Bowe then fired a right uppercut that left Mathis flat on his back.

Referee Arthur Mercante Sr. ruled the punch was intentional. But Larry Hazzard, chairman of the New Jersey State Athletic Control Board, said Mercante did not think the punch warranted a disqualification, so the bout was ruled a "no contest."

Immediately after the fight ended at 2:11 of the fourth round, Bowe went to Mathis and said, "You were down, I didn't know. I'm sorry."

"I went down on one knee," Mathis said. "I didn't know what he was going to do, but he came over and hit me up."

Bowe explained that the much-shorter Mathis had been fighting low (in a crouch) the whole fight.

and WBA heavyweight titles in a rematch with Evander Holyfield last Nov. 6.

It wasn't the kind of attention a fighter wants.

Bowe has signed for a fight against WBC champion Lennox Lewis, but no site or date have

been set and no WBC sanction has been received yet.

The 1.96-metre (6-foot-5) Bowe, who weighed 112 kilograms (247 pounds), came out to finish Mathis at the opening bell.

He landed a couple of hard rights to the head in the first round, but was missing badly. In the second round, Bowe again landed some power punches to the head, but Mathis kept moving and landed a couple of left hooks.

In the third round, Bowe got his powerful left jab working, and a big right to the head hurt Mathis with 20th second left.

Mathis kept scrapping, however, and in the fourth round Bowe's left eye began to close.

Suddenly, the fight was over and the controversy had begun.

Andexler's condition critical

BOISE, Idaho, Aug 14: Heavyweight Dean Andexler was listed in serious condition at a hospital Saturday with a brain injury from a fight, reports AP.

Andexler underwent surgery to relieve pressure on his brain.

Bob Oleson, Andexler's manager, said there was no brain damage.

Andexler, 30, won his Thursday fight against Charles Roberts when it was stopped in the third round because of a cut over Roberts' eye. Andexler was awarded the victory on points.

Oleson said Andexler complained of a headache and dizziness immediately after the fight. Ringside physician Gerald Carlson examined him, then sent him to a hospital.

"He's kind of groggy," Oleson said Friday night, "but he recognises relatives and stuff like that."

Oleson said Andexler is married and has three children.

Getting drafted for third Test

LONDON, Aug 14: Mike Gatting has been called up for the third and final Test against South Africa, reports AFP.

Gatting's chance of playing at The Oval depends on Graham Gooch's recovery from a hamstring injury. But the 37-year-old Middlesex batsman and former England captain must now be in the selectors' thoughts for this winter's Ashes tour.

Gatting won the last of his 74 Test caps against Australia at Lord's 14 months ago. It looked as though his international career was over but he has returned to top form this season.

Fast bowler Devon Malcolm, discarded after one unimpressive match against New Zealand earlier in the summer, also returns to a 13-strong squad, at the expense of Middlesex seamer Angus Fraser.

England need a victory to share the series with South Africa after losing at Lord's and drawing at Headingley.

The England squad for the third Test against South Africa at The Oval, starting on Thursday, August 18.

Hudson fails again

PONTYPRIDD, Wales, Aug 14: Andrew Hudson's Test place looked in danger when his miserable form continued on Saturday as South Africa lost both openers for only four runs in reply to Glamorgan's opening day 336 for five declared, reports Reuter.

With Gary Kirsten also failing to former England Test paceman Steve Watkins, South Africa were in considerable trouble at four runs for two wickets at the end of the first day of the three-day match.

Hudson, with four failures so far against England, is averaging just 15 on the tour and could be fortunate to retain his place for the third and final Test beginning on Thursday at the Oval.

Left-hander David Hemp had earlier hammered three sixes and 15 fours in compiling a superb 126 to help Glamorgan recover from a somewhat shaky start after they had been reduced to 39 for two.

It took a sensational catch from Jonty Rhodes to put a stop to Hemp's innings, diving full-length at cover point to intercept a flashing square cut of the bowling of Hansie Cronje.

Hemp's departure was not the end of South Africa's problems with 21-year-old Alistair Dalton completing a maiden, unbeaten half-century before the home side declared.

Lara drops

LONDON, Aug 14: Brian Lara's first class average slipped below 100 for the first time this season as county championship leaders Warwickshire struggled to stave off an innings defeat by Nottinghamshire at Edgbaston, reports Reuter.

After making 15 in the first innings, Lara registered his first championship duck when Warwickshire followed on 276 behind after being bowled out for 321.

Lara, who has set world records this year for the highest Test and first class scores, made room to cut Jimmy Adams but was bowled by his West Indian teammate to reduce his average to 95.79.

Despite an unbeaten 74 from opener Roger Twose, Warwickshire were 134 for three at the close in their second innings, still 142 behind.



VURE VIE QUARTEL (from left to right) the gold-winning German quartet of Silke Knoll, Bettina Zapp, Melanie Pochke and Silke Lichtenhagen rejoice after finishing first in the women's 4X100 metres relay at the European Championships in Helsinki on August 13. Germany set this year's best time of 42.90 seconds. — AFP photo

An all-Indonesian affair

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Aug 14: China clinched its sole title in the 166,000 dollar Indonesian

Open badminton championship here Sunday while Indonesia quashed one of South Korea's two hopes for the finals, reports AFP.

Jiang Xin and Zhang Jin of China, overpowered Indonesia's Flandy Limpele and Dede Hasanah in a fast-paced, 15-3, 15-1 straight sets match in the mixed doubles, to give China its only title in the Indonesian Open.

World champion Susi Susanti clinched the top prize in the ladies' singles by trashing her South Korean opponent, second-seeded, Bang Su-Hyun in a stretched set while Ardy Wiranata scored an upset win against top-seed Joko Suprianto in the all-Indonesian finals in the men's singles.

Much to the disappointment of the crowd, Susanti played a meek game in the first set against Bang, whom she defeated in World Cup finals in Ho Chi Minh City earlier this month.

She led briefly until Bang evened the score 2-2, then came back strongly to finish the first set 11-2.

"I was very emotional in the first set but I soon became conscious that I was making a fatal mistake and I reverted to my own style, rally play," Susanti told journalists, afterwards.

Susanti's long rallies in the second set bore fruit, often catching the Korean at the base line with the rest of her territory uncovered. She humiliated the Korean 11-0.

In the decider, she led until 3-0 before Bang caught up at

3-3 and later 5-5. The exhausted long rallies of the second set, took their toll on Bang and despite her aggressive lob play, she had to bow to the Indonesian 11-7.

Susanti took the 10,000



ARDY WIRANATA

dollar first prize while Bang had to make do with 6,000 dollars.

In the all-Indonesian men's final, third seeded Wiranata displayed a brilliant defence interspersed with deadly sudden shots against Suprianto.

Wiranata led until 6-6, greatly helped by Suprianto's many mistakes, then spend to 12-7 before closing the first set at 15-8. In the second set, Wiranata alternated his long rallies with aggressive short

attacks, leading 4-0 before allowing Suprianto to catch up at 4-4.

"The key to my victory was the first set. After winning it, my self-confidence... only strengthened," Wiranata said after clinching the set 15-8, mostly with the help of his opponent's many inaccurate shots.

Ardy became 13,500 dollars richer while Suprianto took home 7,500 dollars. The third prize of 3,500 dollars was shared between Indonesia's Fung Permadi and Heryanto Arbi.

In the mixed doubles, the Jiang Zhang combination kept up the pressure throughout the first set, fishing for long shots from the Indonesians that they could chop with devastating smashes.

They continued their pressure in the second set and led by 12 points allowing Hasanah and Limpele a more three.

Emboldened by the cheering home crowd, the Indonesians started to fight back with accurate shuttle placings punctuated by Hasanah's steep smashes, and almost caught up with the Chinese at 11-12 but their efforts were cancelled by their own mistakes.

The Chinese took the second set 15-11 and pocketed a first prize of 7,000 dollars. Limpele and Hasanah took the 4,360 dollar second prize while their compatriots Aryono Miranat and Rieusu Roslina, whom they beat in the semifinals, took the third place's 2,750 dollars.

The other final matches Sunday will see Indonesian players against South Koreans in the Ladies' doubles and an all Indonesian match in the men's doubles.

Edberg, Chang fight it out

MASON, Ohio, Aug 14: Stefan Edberg and Michael Chang engaged in the final of the 1.72 million dollar ATP Championship for the second successive year by

scoring straight-set semifinal victories on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The fourth-seeded Chang, the defending champion, surprisingly out-served power-serving fellow American David Wheaton, a qualifier here, to win 6-3, 6-4.

The second-seeded Edberg, a two-time former champion here, escaped with a 6-2, 7-6 (8-6) victory over third-seeded Michael Stich of Germany.

The seventh ranked Chang, known primarily for his speed in covering the court and his driving groundstrokes, uncharacteristically smacked 13 aces past the 65th-ranked Wheaton.

Even Edberg, a serve-and-volley artist, made note of Chang's achievement in the semifinals.

"I saw he had 13 aces today, I can't compete with that," Edberg quipped with a smile.

Wheaton would normally out-ace Chang, but only posted seven unreturnable serves in the one hour, 28 minute match.

"Consistently, he was serving as hard as I was," Wheaton said. "He was serving a lot of serves around 115 miles per hour (170 kph). If he can serve them at 115 miles per hour (170 kph), I should be able to serve 140 miles per hour (210 kph) and I can't do that."

Wheaton, whose ranking will move into the mid 30s on Monday, went into the match with a 5-3 career edge over Chang. But Chang has now won all three of their meetings in 1994.

Today, Chang will be looking to successfully defend a title for the second time in his career. He won back-to-back crowns in Jakarta in 1993 and 1994.

the following year and try to defend a title," Chang said. "I just look forward to going onto the court."

Chang, who broke Wheaton's serve in the sixth game, tallied eight aces in the first set including on set point.

Falling behind 2-0 in the second set, Wheaton recouped the service break in the eighth game.

But Wheaton couldn't keep pace with Chang, losing his serve on the third break point of the ninth game by smacking a forehand long with Chang charging the net.

Edberg, who won his 40th career title in Washington, DC, last month, has won his last 11 matches.

Coming into the semifinals, Stich held a 6-4 career edge over Edberg, ranked fourth in the world.

The fifth-ranked Stich was slow to get into the one hour, 20 minute match, allowing Edberg to run away with the first set. The Swede secured service breaks in the second and eighth games for a one-set lead.

Stich came alive when Edberg served a tentative first game in the second set to lose his serve.

The German couldn't hold onto the lead, netting a backhand volley in the 10th game to even the score in the second set.

Stich was poised to take the match into a third set when he raced to a 5-1 lead in the tiebreak. But Edberg was determined to end the match quickly.

"I was very, very lucky to escape the 5-1 lead he had in the tiebreaker," Edberg said. "I won some great points then and got excited. I was pumped up and it brought out my best tennis."



Frenchman Alain Blondel celebrates after winning the decathlon event of the European Athletics Championships in Helsinki on August 13. He collected 8,453 points. — AFP photo

Germain going great guns

PARIS, Aug 14: Champions Paris St Germain continued their unimpressive start to the new season as they managed only a 1-1 home draw against Sochaux while Lyon beat Metz 1-0 to stay top of the French soccer league on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Paris went in front through a penalty by David Ginola in the 70th minute but the vociferous home crowd were silenced when Colviver Baudry equalised one minute from the final whistle.

Both sides had a man sent off, Sochaux midfielder Mehmed Bazdarevic being given his marching orders for a vicious tackle just before halftime and Paris losing midfielder Vincent Guerin soon after the break for his second offence.

Lyon extended their unbeaten run thanks to a late goal by Franck Gava who scored the winner six minutes from time.

Nantes won 2-1 away at Lille to stay level with Lyon on 10 points but behind on goal difference.

Paris have won only one of their first four matches and languish in 11th place, five points behind the leaders.

Demoted Marseille managed only 1-1 draw in their Second Division match at Nancy where veteran Irish striker Tony Cascarino scored his fourth goal in as many matches for the former European champions.

Danes strike a deal

COPENHAGEN, Aug 14: European champions Denmark have called off a pay strike which threatened next week's friendly against Finland and agreed to negotiate a new pay deal, reports Reuter.

"The team has agreed to play on Wednesday's friendly after both parties reached agreement in principle on a new pay structure," Danish Football Association information officer Lars Berendt said.

The Danish soccer team have been negotiating a new pay deal for 1994-96 with the association for about three months.

The players threatened to boycott upcoming matches after the association refused last week to accept team demands for a profit-sharing bonus scheme on top of higher pay.

A spokesman for the players said the new deal would be financially negotiated over the weekend.

He said the players had withdrawn their demands for bonuses and accepted pay increases instead but declined to give any details.

Rothenberg re-elected

SAN DIEGO, California, Aug 14: US Soccer Federation President Alan Rothenberg was re-elected to a second four-year term at US Soccer's 81st annual general meeting, the group said in a statement on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Rothenberg, who oversaw the staging of the first World Cup ever held in the United States, said the biggest task facing him was building a topflight professional US Soccer league, which was promised to world soccer authorities as a prerequisite to hosting the Cup.

"World Cup USA 1994 has already left a great legacy for soccer in this country, but to continue that legacy the soccer family must unite to make Division I professional outdoor soccer a reality," Rothenberg was quoted as saying.