

# A win that came too late

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Eleven, representing Bangladesh in the Moin-ud-Dowla Gold Cup cricket tournament in India, ensured their premature farewell on a winning note when they registered a comfortable 68-run victory over hosts Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) at the railway ground yesterday.

The Bangladeshi team, which confirmed an early elimination Sunday when they lost to group champions Indian Bank in their tournament opener by six wickets, found their similar capital more than enough for a change of taste in result.

Batting first on a reportedly green top, they collected 157 for six wickets from the quota of 50 overs and then with all the medium pacers getting their act right, they booked the Hyderabad team for 89 in 38.3 overs.

The Dhaka Eleven, comprising four national cricketers besides a host of young cricketers, were in deep trouble at the beginning of their innings as the openers — Jahangir Alam and Javed Omar Belim Golla, the bloke who topscored with 71 in the match against Indian Bank — were out cheaply.

From seven for two, the scoreboard crawled to 49 when Mostadir Litu became one of the two victims of Test cricketer Venkatapathy Raju for 17.

Raju, the left-arm spinner who is an on and off member

Second Test now from August 19

## SL undergo overhauling

COLOMBO, Aug 15: Sri Lanka on Monday axed five leading internationals after the humiliating 301-run defeat in the first Test against Pakistan. AFP

Out went batsmen Asanka Gurusingha, Sanath Jayasuriya and bowlers Pramodha Wickremasinghe, Muttiah Muralidharan and Jayananda Warnawera for the second Test starting here Friday.

"I think it is time to infuse young blood. The seniors have failed to deliver the goods. Our batting let us down and the bowlers gave away too many runs," said Sri Lanka manager TB Kehelgamuwa.

The selectors recalled all-rounder Ruwan Kalpage and opener Dulip Samaraweera to the side and Sanjeewa Ranatunga, Ravindra Pushpakumara and Chaminda Vaas will make their debuts.

**Sanjeewa Ranatunga will become the third member of his family to play Test cricket for Sri Lanka after brothers Arjuna, team skipper, and former opener Dhammika.**

This will be the first time that

## Chang brushes Edberg aside

MASON, Ohio, Aug 15: American Michael Chang beat an embarrassed Stefan Edberg 6-2, 7-6 on Sunday to win the 1.72 million dollar ATP Championship for the second year in a row, reports Reuter.

Chang, the fourth seed and ranked seventh in the world, had few challenges from the second-seeded, fourth-ranked Swede in a repeat matchup of last year's final. Edberg did not look like a player who was once the best in the world.

Edberg picked up his game a bit in the second set. But the first set was a complete disaster. He lost the first 11 points of the match and in the blink of an eye was down two service breaks at 3-0.

"You almost feel embarrassed, at least I do," said Edberg who raised his arms high into the air to a cheering crowd when he finally won the 12th point.

Chang, who earned 24,500 dollars for the win, could understand how Edberg was feeling.

"You have a few matches where you do feel that way," Chang said. "I've definitely been on court feeling very embarrassed. I once played an exhibition with Johan Kriek and I was playing so badly the people just walked out. It was humiliating."

Last year, Edberg pushed Chang to three sets in the final.

This year, Edberg's serve floundered, his trademark backhand slice deserted him, his forehand took a vacation and he couldn't deal with the service returns. Chang consistently dropped at his feet.

Mostly what Edberg had was unforced error after unforced error in the 70-minute match. Edberg made 29 blunders to Chang's five unforced errors in the match.

"Stefan's beaten me badly so many times," said Chang, who

trails Edberg 11-6 in career meetings, but has won their last three encounters. "He shows no mercy when he goes out and plays. I figure if a guy's off one day you should take advantage of it."

Chang's victory is his fifth title of the year and marks the second time in his career he has successfully defended a title. This past January, Chang won his second successive championship in Jakarta.

Except for the fourth game of the first set where Edberg broke Chang's serve, the American, lost only seven points in nine service games.

Edberg, who won the Washington, DC title last month, only held his service game in the seventh game of the first set.

In the second set, Edberg was able to stay even with Chang until he served in the

**Frazier's third**

MANHATTAN BEACH, California, Aug 15: Tenth-seed Amy Frazier won her third career singles title when she whipped 13th-seeded fellow American Ann Grossman 6-1, 6-3 on Sunday in a battle of surprise finalists at the 400,000 dollar Virginia Slims of Los Angeles, reports Reuter.

Frazier had shocked top-seed and recently-crowned Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez of Spain in the quarter-finals, while Grossman had upset second-seed and defending champion Martina Navratilova in the third round of the 56-player, hard court tournament.

Frazier, who hit 23 winners compared to just six from Grossman, called the win a stepping-stone for her as she points towards the US Open beginning August 29.

"I tried all week not to think what round I was in or who I was playing," the 21-year-old American said.

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## Senior Division football leagues resume today

Sports Reporter

The Star Premier and First Division football leagues resume today after a three-day recess owing to unplayable ground conditions at the Dhaka Stadium.

Earlier on Saturday, the Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA), the tournament organisers, decided to suspend the leagues for three days after heavy downpour left the Dhaka Stadium pitch inundated with knee-high water.

Two matches are billed for today with Eskaton Sanjub Sangha taking on Shantinagar Club in First Division encounter in the first match.

The second match, scheduled for a 6.30 start, involves two Premier Division teams — Arambagh Krira Sangsada and Pakirpore YMC.

**Romario ready to pay fine if necessary**

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug 15: Brazilian striker Romario said he was willing to pay a fine for defying orders to return to his Spanish club Barcelona and added he was merely exercising a right to have one month's holiday, reports Reuter.

Romario, who inspired Brazil's World Cup triumph in the United States last month, has been at loggerheads with the Spanish champions over when he should return.

"I'm simply exercising my right to have a holiday," he said on Monday. "The World Cup finished on the 17th (of July), we returned to Brazil on the 20th. I will have my 30 days. I've told Barcelona this but they won't accept it."

**Three cheers for predictability**

HELSINKI, Aug 15: A memorable 5,000 metres win by Olympic champion Dieter Baumann and an historic clean sweep by Spain in the men's marathon provided the final highlights of the 16th European Athletics Championships which ended on Sunday, reports Reuter.

After eight days of often predictable, sometimes exciting but rarely spectacular competition, the best was saved till the very last event with Germany's Baumann adding the European title to his Olympic crown.

Seven men were in contention for gold on the final bend as absorbing tactical race reached a thrilling climax. But then Baumann, who secured the Olympic title with a devastating 25-second kick in the last 200 metres, went into overdrive again to win in 13 minutes 36.93 seconds.

Rob Denmark of Britain

came storming through for the silver in 13:37.50 and Spain's Able Anton, who won the 10,000 metres title last Sunday, took the bronze in 13:38.04, a stride ahead of Moroccan-born Frenchman Abdellah Behar.

"What a race" Baumann exclaimed. "With 200 meters to go I thought it was all or nothing and kicked and surprised myself by getting five metres ahead of the others to win."

The victory was a great morale booster for Baumann who missed the whole of last season, including the World Championships in Stuttgart, because of an ankle injury.

Anton's bronze was Spain's

5th medal of the day — one

more than they had won during

the previous seven days of

competition.

**Vietnam awaits bright dawn**

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam, Aug 15: Vietnam, distracted and isolated by war for decades, is starting to see more international sports events now that its economy is growing and opening to the outside world, reports Reuter.

"I have two more years of my contract with Barcelona to go and there's a clause implying a payment of 10 million dollars to them if I leave before."

"But if a Rio de Janeiro club offers to pay that for me, then I will happily come back. I will only leave Barcelona to come back here. I have already turned down offers from Japan and the United States."

**Sponsors for the recent World Cup badminton tournament staged here.**

The Vietnamese are keen

on sport. People hit shuttlecocks in the streets and small boys play football.

Vietnamese fans in their

millions followed the World

Cup soccer finals live on television for the first time this year.

But playing facilities and

cash for equipment are limited

in what remains one of the

world's poorest countries.

Following a table tennis

World Cup tournament in

December 1992, the badminton event was only the

second in which fans could see

a sport's top players in action

in Vietnam.

Both Vietnamese players in

the badminton tournament, a

man and a woman, were

beaten in the first round.

Pham Van Kiet, vice-chairman of the Vietnam Olympic Committee, predicted that in

seven to 10 years, with inter-

national help, Vietnam would

catch up with its Asian neigh-

bouring countries.

Vietnamese won the under-

16 World Chess Champion-

ship and three Asian chess titles

last year. A Vietnamese woman

won the World Championship

in Wushu, an Asian martial art.

Neither sport has a high pro-

fessionalism.

"Our policy is to try to hold

international tournaments for

one specific game, like we've

just done in badminton...," he

said. Volleyball, judo and taek-

wondo are other sports in

which international tournaments

have been staged.

By seeing top players in ac-

tion, Vietnamese learn to play

better, the spokesman said.

Tournaments also stimulated

mass interest, which might

produce more talent.

Bruce Aitken, whose Hong



Slovenian Britta Bilac soars over the