JAMALPUR, Aug 24: Bangladesh Rifles clinched the title of the 11th national men's handball championship beat-ing Bangladesh Police by 24-17 goals in the final at the local stadium today, reports UNB. This is the 10th national

crown for the riflesmen out of the 11 championships. They missed the title only in 1988 when Bangladesh Air Force took the honours beating Bangladesh Ansars.

In a close final, the winners - Bangladesh Rifles- led the first session by a narrow 10-9

Jahangir scored highest 11 goals and Rafique netted five for the winners while Nurul Islam and Nazrul contributed five goals each for the losers.

Earlier in the morning. Bangladesh Ansars beat Bangladesh Air Force in a position-deciding match to become

Jahangir of Bangladesh Ri-fles was adjudged the best player of the meet while host Jamalpur DSA named as the best disciplined team.

Rezaul Karim Hira MP was the chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners. President of Bangladesh Handball Federation Lt Col (retd) MA Hamid was present as special

Warwicks wag the tail

LONDON, Aug 24: Warwickshire's last wicket pair of Ashley Giles and Tim Munton broke a 66-year-old county record on Friday when they put on 141 together in a rain-shortened second day of their championship match against Worcestershire, reports Reuter.

Elsewhere, other champiouship contenders also suffered from bad weather although former England captain Graham Gooch hit an unbeaten 105, his sixth century of the season and 126th of his career, for fifth-placed Essex against Glamorgan.

The efforts by Warwickshire's last pair enabled the county champions to reach 310 but when Worcestershire had scored 10 without loss in reply rain ended play for the day in mid-afternoon.

Giles made a career-best 83 and Munton reached a maiden championship half-century in beating the previous record of 128 for the last wicket set by Fred Santall and Wilf Sanders against Yorkshire in 1930.

The pair had joined forces at 169 for nine on Thursday and the innings would have folder for 199 but for Giles surviving a

missed chance on 20. In all they were together for 142 minutes before Giles was bowled by Alamgir Sheriyar after hitting 12 fours in nearly three hours. Munton (54 not out) collected eight fours and a six off 131 balls during only the fourth century stand for the last wicket in Warwickshire's his-

Gooch's century enabled Essex to make up for lost time at Colchester after rain delayed the start until after tea. He and Darren Robinson progressed from 72 to 194 without loss to leave the title-chasers just 86 runs adrift of Gloucestershire.

West Indian Carl Hooper became the first Kent batsman to reach 1,000 championship runs for the season — but rain again had the final say in their match against Glamorgan at Cardiff as only 34 overs were possible.

Hooper passed the milestone when he reached a 38 and promptly celebrated by hitting Neil Kendrick out of the ground and into the River Taff for a mighty six.

Inside the 'five-star prison

COLOMBO, Aug 24: Swimming pools with inviting blue water, coconut palms waving gently in the breeze. Waiters plying you with cocktails. High

Try telling that to the cricketers from Australia, India and Zimbabwe who are here for a four-nation cricket series.

ing into it. I know it is my last one and I have accepted it," Ed-They are all confined to berg said following a spirited their five-star Lanka Oberoi two-hour practice session with Hotel because of fears of attacks defending champion Pete Samby rebels fighting for a Tamil pras on the Open's stadium

homeland. The cricketers have been told not to step out of the hotel alone after dusk. Dozens of

armed soldiers in olive green fatigues patrol the nearby Gun-toting security guards escort the players when they go

out to practice at the nets. "We do not want to embar-

rass our hosts, so we accept the conditions," said Zimbabwe's captain Alistar Cambell.

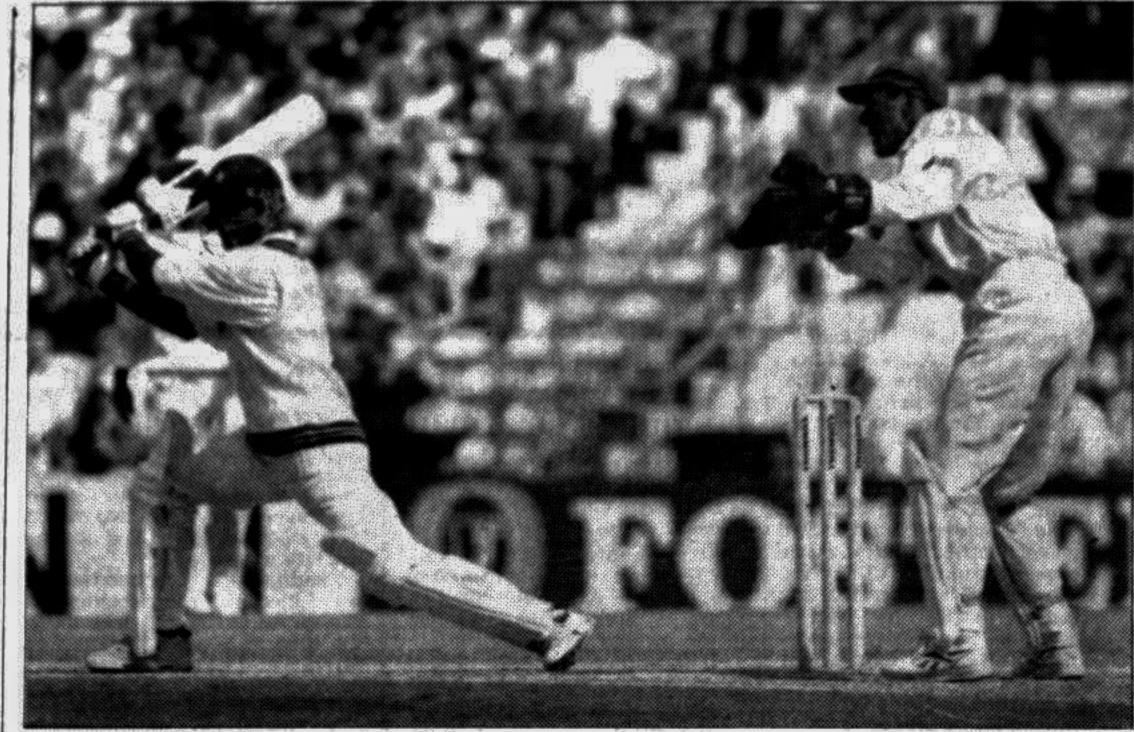
Inside the hotel, the players often discuss the Tamil separatist war that has left more than 45,000 people dead so far. We have nothing to com-

plain about," said India's captain, Sachin Tendulkar. "You get everything that you need to stay comfortably," said Tendulkar, the 23-year-old batsman rated among the top in the

We are here to take part in a tournament and that is it," said Samiran Chakraborty, the Indian team manager.

For players such as Australia's Steve Waugh, who loves to explore foreign lands, the restriction is a disappointment.

Waugh cannot ride the threewheeled motor scooters or hop on to an ox cart hauling lumber. He can't haggle over precious stones, which sell for one-quarter of the price in Australia.



Elegant Pakistani opener Saeed Anwar executes a delicate square cut while England's Alec Stewart responds to an abortive reflex behind the stumps during the third day's play of the deciding Test at The Oval yesterday. The exciting left-hander notched his highest Test score with a scintillating 176.

Anwar lords over Oval

Sports Reporter

runs came off Lewis second

Saeed's 25th boundary, an ef-

fortlessly punishing mid-off

drive off Lewis, taking Anwar to

166. Three runs later the Pak-

istani opener had levelled his

highest Test score which was

scored against New Zealand in

flexed their batting and bowling

muscles at The Oval to flatten

English hopes of a drawn series.

who collected the extra six runs

he needed for his maiden Test

century, a rain-shortened sec-

ond day belonged entirely to the

Pakistanis who romped to 229

for one in reply to England's

Akram set the tone by mopping

up the last four England wickets

for 43 runs before Saeed Anwar

scored a glorious unbeaten 116

to tilt the game drastically

in a mere 135 balls with 16

fours, sharing a destructive

opening sand of 106 with fellow

left-hander Aamir Shohail at

The consistent liaz Ahmed

eagerly joined in, supplying an unbeaten 58 as the shadows and

English expression lengthened

in the first Test at Lord's missed

his side's tour of Australia after

contracting a form of typhoid at

home in Karachi and has also

undergone hospital tests in

London on unrelated stomach

as a classic example of not judg-

ing a cricketer on first impres-

sions. His first two Test innings

both ended in noughts against

West Indies in 1990, but his Test

average has since soared into

lans, swirling winds and the

constant rumble of jets taking

off and landing at nearby La

guardia Airport seemed to play

havoc with Edberg's concentra-

with the Open in the beginning.

with all of the things that were

His inability to cope with the

In 1990 as the world number

myriad distractions made Ed-

berg a regular upset victim at

one. Edberg became the first top

seed to lose in the first round in

19 years when he fell to Russian

Alexander Volkov in straight

only came to grip with the Open.

but mastered it, putting together

impressive back-to-back cam-

paigns that carried him to the

thing changed," he said. "Now I

Rubin skips

US Open

ing 10th-ranked American

Chanda Rubin has pulled out of

the US Open with a wrist injury,

tournament officials anno-

was to be seeded 11th, is still

suffering from tendinitis of the

right wrist that has kept her

into a very lucky break for

eighth-seeded Olympic cham-

the toughest first-round as-

signments of any of the seeded

players in 17th-ranked Karina

non-seeded players in the tour-

nament, Habsudova will be

moved into Rubin's slot in the

draw, while Davenport will now

get a qualifier in the first

round, according to US Tennis

But as the highest-ranked

Rubin's misfortune turned

Devenport had drawn one of

sidelined in recent months.

pion Lindsay Davenport.

Habsudova of Slovakia.

Association officials.

The 20-year-old Rubin, who

unced, reports Reuter.

NEW YORK. Aug 24: Promis-

Since winning it, the whole

title in 1991 and 1992.

Yet somehow Edberg not

going on," Edberg recalled.

Flushing Meadow.

"I had a hard time dealing

the 40s and is still climbing.

Now 27, he should be viewed

problems in recent months.

Anwar, who scored 74 and 88

Anwar reached three figures

Wagar Younis and Wasim

first innings total of 326.

away from the home side.

almost five runs an over.

in equal measure.

Apart from John Crawley.

Earlier on Friday Pakistan

Wellington in 1994.

The shot of the day was

nded opener Saeed Inzamam. Anwar and the fickleness of the istan's 300 by clipping Lewis to England weather

Pakistani left-ha-

ruled The Oval on the third day of the deciding Test on Saturday as the visitors scored 339 for 4, to claim a slim lead of 13 runs at stumps. according to BBC monitored here last night.

Anwar blasted a cameo 176, his highest Test score and fifth century of the series so far, before England seamer Dominic Cork had the Pakistan run-machine after the tea.

With rain playing foul throughout the day, Pakistan could only muster 110 runs on the third day at the docile Over pitch. But despite the interruption, Anwar put on an invaluable 84 runs for the third wicket with a wily Inzamamul Huq. who scored 35.

Salim Malik (2) and lefthanded Asif Mujtaba (1) weather-permitting will resume the innings today the fourth day of the third Test.

Agencies add: Pakistan was unable to repeat their secondday run charge as England leftarmer Alan Mullally and offspinner Robert Croft bowled controlled opening speels. Mullally being rewarded in his fourth over with the wicket of fjaz Ahmed, who was caught behind for 61 after Pakistan had added just 10 runs.

Croft, the pick of England's bowling attack on Friday, continued with his well-controlled. beautifully-flighted orthodox spinners, and bowled three maidens in his opening 12-over spell, conceding just 22 runs.

Saeed brought up Pakistan's 2500 with his 19th boundary the first boundary of the morning — after cracking a rare loose Mullally delivery through cover-point off the backfoot.

Pakistan bad added just 25 runs in the first hour, but the pressure was relieved when spinner fan Salisbury came on. conceding 11 runs off his first over after being hit for two boundaries by Anwar, who reached 150 for the second time in Tests.

aring a poignant farewell as the

two-time champion heads

toward his retirement at the

The US Open has grown

end of this year, reports Reuter.

into something special for me."

the classy 30-year-old Swede

said of the year's final Grand

Slam event which begins on

"It will be a little bit sad go-

Early in his career the la-

conic Swede could not seem to

handle the unique playing con-

ditions of the Open. Unruly

Arantxa faces

Novotna in

semis

24: Top-seed Arantxa Sanchez-

Vicario of Spain and doubles

partner Jana Novotna will

clash in the semifinals at the

450,000 dollars Toshiba Clas-

an effective serve, firing in

seven aces, with her signature

baseline game to ease past un-

seeded Katrina Studeníkova of

Czech Republic rallied past

Sandrine Testud of France 2-6.

7-6 (7-4), 6-3 in a two-hour, 35-

Date of Japan dismissed a

lethargic Argentine Gabriela

Sabatini, seeded fifth, 6-4, 6-1

on the hard courts, setting up

the other semifinal with de-

fending champion Conchita

Earlier, fourth-seed Kimiko

Third-seed Novotna of the

Slovakia 6-3, 6-3 on Friday.

Sanchez-Vicario combined

sic, reports Reuter.

minute match.

Martinez of Spain.

CARLSBAD, California, Aug

Monday.

24: Stefan Edber-

g's once stormy

and later joyous

relationship with

the US Open is ne-

immediately as Anwar brought The fit-again Sohail, whose up the 50-run partnership with aggregate in the series consisted of just two runs at the start of Inzamam registered Pakthe day, fell four short of an equally fluent fifth when he the boundary through square. drove to short mid-off to give olf-spinner Robert Croft his and second boundary through cover by Anwai ensured that 10

lirst Test victim. Croft had a succession of other lung-busting appeals turned down, but he will have to make startling weekend contributions if Pakistan, 1-0 ahead in the best-of-three series, are to be reined back on a good bat-

ting pitch. Crawley had to wait until early afternoon to resume his innings after rain had washed out the morning session, passing the time by strumming a guitar in the dressing-room, finally reaching his goal with an all-run four through mid-

wicket off Wagar. By then, though, England had already lost nighwatchman Salisbury and Dominic Cork with only six runs added to their overnight 278 for six, and Crawley soon followed to a

skidding delivery from Waqar

who finished with four for 95. Last man Alan Mullally swung an entertaining 24 off 12 balls before Wasin claimed his third wicket of the innings and his batsmen took control to leave England as exposed as the male streaker who made a brief appearance.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the third and final Test between England and Pakistan at the Oval on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings 326 [J Crawley 106, G Thorpe 54] Wagar Younis 4-95) PAKISTAN: First innings

(overnight 229-1) Saeed Anwar c Croft b Cork Aamir Sohail c Cork b Croft ljaz Ahmed c Stewart b Mulially 61 Inzamam c Hussain b Mullally Salim Malik not out Astf Muttaba not out Extras. (b-4, lb-3, nb-11) Total (for four wickets)

To bat: Wasim Akram, Moin Khan, Moshtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis and Mohammad

22 29 4.3	29	6	1 76 6 56 6 64 4 45	2
2000		17	17	29 6 64 13 4 45 17 0 91

cual feeling being here."

Glamorgan go after Wagar

LONDON, Aug 24: Waqar Younis has agreed terms to return to county cricket next year, but the Pakistan fast bowler is refusing to confirm his destination, reports Reuter.

Glamorgan remain favourites for his signature, as they are offering a 200,000 pounds sterling (310,700 dollars) two-year package, which would make Waqar the highest-paid player in English domestic cricket history.

Joanthan Barnett, Wagar's London-based agent, said on Friday, "I believe that Waqar agreed terms this morning but I'm not in a position to say with whom.

Glamorgan cricket secretary Mike Fatkin, who confirmed the Welsh side had made Wagar an offer, said, "We could have an answer within 24 hours, or it might take another two or three

Waqar took 232 wickets in three seasons for Surrey -1990, 1991 and 1993 - before back problems interrupted his career.

Pollock's parting shot

LONDON, Aug 24: Shaun Pollock has told Warwickshire that his early departure from his first season in county cricket may not be a final farewell, reports AFP.

The South African allrounder will end his one year at Edgbaston a month early when he returns home next week for ankle surgery. But he promised that, if in-

vited to return to England, then Warwickshire would remain his preferred choice. "I would like to come back

and play county cricket in the future and I don't think I would like to swap counties," he said. Pollock added that he was "very disappointed" to be leav-

ing when Warwickshire still have a chance of success in the championship and the Sunday League, but that it was unavoid He explained, "I have been carrying the injury for a while

and I hope that by having the surgery now I will be able to last out the new season back home. 'I've really enjoyed my summer here. I will certainly be keeping in touch with the lads'

progress in the month of the season. Double delight for Obikwelu

SYDNEY, Aug 24: Francis Obikwelu of Nigeria completed the second leg of the sprint double at the world junior athletics championships by win-ning the 200 metres with ease Saturday, reports AP.

Obikwelu equaled the championship record time of 20.47 seconds into a 1.6-metre per second headwind to add the 200-metre gold medal to the 100-metre title he won two days ago at the Sydney International Athletics Centre.

South African Riaan Dempers was second in 20.96 and Bryan Harrison of the United States third in 21.10. Obikwelu, 17. just missed out

a berth in the Atlanta Olympic 200 metre final after finishing fifth in his semifinal in a time nine-hundredths of a second slower than he ran Saturday.

Ato Boldon of Trinidad and Tobago, who finished third in the Atlanta Olympics 100-metre final, was the only other man to do the sprint double at world junior level four years Bulgarian Nora Ivanova was

unable to match Obikwelu's double gold performance in the women's sprints, and she had to settle for third place in the 200 metres behind Sylvianne Felix (23.32). Ivanova clocked 23.59.

Pakistan opener Aamir Sohail known for his explosive-

ness, plays a rather sedate forward defensive shot on the

second day of The Oval Test against England on August

- AFP/UNB photo

Salah, Svetlana sizzle



BRUSSELS, Aug 24: Moroccan Olympic bronze medalist Salah Hissou produced the run of his life to

smash the men's 10,000 metres world record on Friday, pushed on by the beat of an African drum and an ecstatic Brussels crowd, reports Reuter.

Hissou ate up the ground of a new track to clock 26 minutes 38.08 seconds at the Brussels Grand Prix, slashing 5.45 seconds off the previous mark of 26:43.53 set by Ethiopia's Haile Gebreselassie in the Dutch town of Hengelo in June last year.

It was the second world record of a superb meeting which saw Russian double Olympic champion Svetlana Masterkova break the nonchampionship women's 1,000 metres, her second world mark in 10 days. After breaking the world

mark for the women's mile in Zurich last Wednesday, Olympic 800 and 1,500 metres champion Masterkova clocked two minutes 28.98 seconds to shave 0.36 seconds off the previous best. The Russian powered

through a fast last lap to improve on the 2:29.34 set by Mozambique's former world champion Maria Mutola in the same stadium in August last year. Mutola pushed the Russian all the way and took sec-

and forced his way to the line. Last year, Brussels organisers played African music to spur on the distance racers. The athletes liked it so much that they asked for it again. It clearly added an extra stride to

Afterwards the Moroccan said he could go even faster. "I was planning for 13:20 for the first five kilometres and I saw it was 13:25. This was too slow. This was to slow. Next

time I will be on pace for the whole race," he said. "I have achieved my main goal to have a world record. Now I can't think of anything but that it could be faster. I once thought the record was impossible but about a year ago I realised I could do it ... I would do

The two records were the highlights of the 20th Van Damme Memorial meeting which saw some superb performances on the new track in front of a capacity 40,000 crowd including great middle-distance names of the past such as Britain's Sebastian Coe and New Zealander John Walker.

Dennis Mitchell upstaged a trio of Olympic 100 metres champions, Kenyan Daniel Komen produced another historic 3,000 metres and American high hurdler Allen Hohnson went within 0.01 seconds of the world record despite damp conditions.

Kingdom. Jackson, the only man to have run faster, could not live with his speed, taking

second in 13.24 seconds. Komen failed to qualify for the Olympics but has run the second fastest 3,000 and 5,000 metres in history since the Games. On Friday, the 20-yearold clocked 7:25.87 for the shorter race, beating Algerian world record holder Noureddine

Morceli in the process. It was the third best time ever but Komen was not satisfied. Olympic 1,500 metres champion Morceli, who has been suffering with injury since Atlanta, finished sixth in 7:36.81, well outside his world

record of 7:25.11. American Michael Johnson cruised to a 400 metres victory in 44.29 seconds in his first appearance at a major meeting since his historic 200-400 double at Atlanta.

Johnson, who has been nursing a hamstring injury from the Olympics, could afford himself the luxury of putting up his hands in triumph a few strides from the finish of the

It was not as fast as his victory in Atlanta when he clocked 43.49 but the Belgian crowd rose to their feet as Johnson moved up into top gear with 200 metres to go and powered down the home straight.

Seven athletes went into Friday's penultimate meeting



Olympic gold medalist Russian Svetlana Masterkova points to the clock after winning the women's 1,000 metres in a new world record time of 2 minutes and 28.98 seconds during 20th Van Damme track and field meeting in Brussels on Aug 23. -AFP/UNB photo

Mitchell ran 10.03 seconds

ond place in 2:29.66.

Like Hissou, an exhausted Masterkova earned a bonus of 25,000 dollars for the performance. She paid tribute to her rival after the race.

"That really finished me. she said. "If it wasn't for Maria I couldn't have done it. She pushed me ... it was a fast trace. a terrific atmosphere. The Mexican waves in the crowd gave me wings.

"In the last 400 metres I felt Mutola closing in and that drove me to the decisive extra

effort." Gebreselassie defeated Hissou to win the 10,000 at the Atlanta Games and was not competing here. The 24-year old Moroccan brought the crowd to their feet when he gritted his teeth on the last lap

to take the scalp of Canada's Olympic sprint champion Donovan Bailey, 1992 champion Linford Christie of Britain and American 1984 and 1988 champion Carl Lewis. The American champion.

who finished fourth in Atlanta, also beat world and Olympic champion Bailey in Zurich last Olympic champion Johnson

defied the west conditions at the start of the meeting to clock 12.92 seconds in the 110 hurdles, just one hundredth of a second outside the world record held by Britain's Colin Jack-

Johnson ran the same time at the US Olympic trials in Atlanta in June to become the second equal fastest hurdler of all time with American Roger

of the Golden Four series with a chance of winning 20 one-kg bars.

The prize, worth 250,000 US dollars, is shared between athletes who clinch specific events at each of the meetings in Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin. With next week's final meet-

ing in the German capital remaining, only Jamaican Merlene Ottey, who finished third in the women's 100 metres, has dropped out of the race.

The athletes still in the hunt are Namibia's Frankie Fredericks (200 metres). Denmark's Wilson Kipketer (800), American Derrick Adkins (400 hurdles). Britain's Jonathan Edwards (triple jump), German Lars Riedel (discus) and Bulgarian high jumper Stefka Kostadinova.

the bellboys, 15-year-old Jim

Babcock of Huntington, NY, to

pass out from "heat exhaus-

tion." He was revived by emer-

the first-set tiebreaker after an

Medvedev won the last three

points, two with mini service

11-9 in service aces, but a dou-

ble-fault in the ninth game of

the third set erased his last

chance after he had broken

and 6-3 in the first set

tiebreaker, then doublefaulted

but produced a service winner to

vice in the fourth and 10th

games of the second set, by

decided to stay back and hit

long. He never broke my service

points, both in the sixth game

of the first set as Voinea trailed

15-40. Voinea erased them with

a forehand winner down the

sideline and a volley place-

ment. He extended to four

straight points with two service

Johansson had two break

He broke Johansson's ser-

It was so hot and humid, I

close out the set.

changing tactics.

either," Voinea said.

winners.

Voinea reached leads of 4-1

Medvedev in the fourth game.

Stark outscored Medvedev

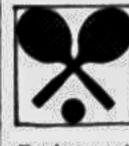
early service break exchange

Medvedev and Stark reached

gency medical personnel.

breaks.

think the US Open has some thing that other tournaments of France (23.16) the rising Aus-Chang suffers a setback don't have, you have a very spetralian star Lauren Hewitt



COMMACK, New York, Aug 24: Ka rol Kucera of Slovakia came up wi th the biggest victory of his career Friday night, a 6-4, 6-4 win over top seeded Michael Chang in the quarterfinals of the Waldbaum

Kucera, ranked 86th in the world, handed the third ranked Chang his second loss in 18 matches on hard court this summer. The other was to Andre Agassi in the finals at Cincinnati earlier this month. The loss gives Chang two

Hamlet Cup, reports AP

where he is the second seed. " I hope this won't effect me going into the Open," Chang said. "It's strange, I felt good in the warm-up before the match. hate to have a day like this just before the Open.

days to recoup for the US Open.

With Chang eliminated. fifth-seeded Andre Medvedev of the Ukraine became the only seed to reach the Hamlet Cup semifinals and he will play Kucera. Adrian Voinea of Romania,

who will be defending champion Pete Sampras' first round opponent in the US Open, also advanced to the semifinals with a 7-6 (7-4), 6-2, victory over Sweden's Thomas Johansson on Friday. Voinea's semifinal opponent

will be Martin Damm of the Czech Republic, a 5-7, 6-2, 6-3 winner over Michael Joyce. Chang double-faulted at an

inopportune time to lose service in the fifth game and then fell behind 0-4 in the second set. " I am very happy. I am

yelling inside," Kucera, 22. said. "But I knew I could bet Michael. We played last year on clay in Rome and he beat me when we were 3-3 in the third

Chang erased three match

points at 3-5, 0-40 with strong service but committed four errors as Kucera held for the match in the 10th game.

Medvedev overcame a strong challenge from Jonathan Stark for a 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 6-3 victory. Medvedev broke open a tight duel with Stark by reaching 3-0 with two service breaks in the



MICHAEL CHANG

" I'm very happy with the way I won," Medvedev said. Stark played such a strong game to break my service at 5-4 in the second set after I was able to win a tiebreaker in the first " But I was able to come right

back and get a lead in the third set in the heat. With the temperature

reaching 90 but with very high humidity. Medvedev said, "You learn to play with discipline." He beat Stark in 2 hours. 23 minutes. Stark, the lowest ranked player in the draw at

113th, had advanced to the quarters by beating Vincent Spadea in 2:31 on Thursday. The humid and uncomfortable conditions caused one of Boxer Romero riding high ALBUQUERQUE, New Mex

Danny Romero will have the hometown cheers, but his isn't worried, reports AP.

well experienced at fighting outside his native land and won't be fazed by the crowd come fight time.

ico. Aug 24: Albuquerque boxer

Colombian opponent and IBF junior bantamweight champion Harold Grey said Friday he's