

Sport

Column One SPORTS TALK



Michael Chang (World No 2 tennis player) You can't expect a cake walk in any round.

BOOST sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-79

Tick the Correct Answers Competition closes at 8 pm, Oct 3, '97

- 1 Who are the defending European soccer champions? 2 How many countries will take part in the World Youth Cup cricket? 3 How many titles has Pete Sampras won this year to date? 4 Which nation finished third in the SAFF Championship? 5 For which team will cricketer Nannu play next season?

Name, Class, Roll No., School Address, Phone: (If any)

Sobhan made BBF Chief

The government has appointed Farooq Sobhan as president of the Bangladesh Bridge Federation, according to a BBF press release, reports BSS.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer

Jhalakathi Public Works Division, Jhalakathi Phone No. 459

Tender Notice (2nd Invitation) No. 4/1997-98

- 1. Name of work: Under the project construction of 44 new district headquarters in Bangladesh... 2. Estimated cost: Tk. 3,18,413/= only 3. Earnest money: Tk. 6,369/= only 4. Time limit for completion of work: 45 (forty-five) days from the date of issuing work order. 5. Last date of selling tender: 8-10-97 up to office hours. 6. Date of receiving tender: 9-10-97 up to 12-00 Noon & to be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM (in presence of interested tenderers). 7. Place of selling & receiving tender form, schedule etc: All Divisions under Public Works Directorate Circle. 8. Eligibility of contractor: Public Works Directorate's bonafide special class/first class/second class/ third class/building contractors/ firms enlisted under Public Works, Directorate/Public Works Directorate's Khulna Zone, Khulna and Public Works Circle, Barisal respectively. 9. Contractors/contractory firms from other Divisions interested to buy tender of this work shall have to apply in writing to the Executive Engineer of the Division concerned minimum 5 (five) days prior to the receiving date of tender. 10. Contractor himself or through his representative, with the representative's signature & photograph attested by the contractor, can purchase the tender through application on production of the enlistment register. 11. All other detailed descriptions can be collected from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Aminul Huq Khan Executive Engineer Public Works Division Jhalakathi DFP-20961-16/9 G-2262

Final selection likely today Commitment the missing cue



Chief selector Lutfar Rahman Makhan and his associates put their heads together yesterday to finalise the list of fourteen cricketers for the Bangladesh squad which will take part in a triangular tourney starting in Kenya from October 10.

Although the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is likely to announce the squad today, it is not hard to predict that the selection is highly likely to be the same combination of the so-called star performers in the domestic circuit. At least, none expects a surprise selection as long as a long-standing Lutfar, who is better known for his conventional approach, heads a panel.

The practice-shy star cricketers, who had the gruelling training sessions in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar under the supervision of their Caribbean coach Cuthbert Gordon Greenidge, are expected to be among the traditional choices for the tourney which also includes hosts Kenya and Test-babes Zimbabwe.

Optimists, who had been relishing the ICC Trophy triumph early this year, woke up into a harsh reality when they saw Bangladesh performing pathetically in the recently concluded Asia Cup in Colombo.

It was not their expected defeats to their much illustrious opponents that shattered the mute expectation of the cricket-

Sports Reporter

crazy nation. It was rather the appalling attitude and caricature of some old guards that shocked the enthusiasts.

Prior to the Colombo spectacle Coach Greenidge had promised that "his boys will fight till the last ball is bowled". But the reality was that his boys gave up the battle even before a ball was bowled.

No one expected a miracle from the rank-outsiders among the three-Test playing nations. But the general expectation was to see a "never-say-die" approach from the players.

Apart from opener Athar Ali Khan, skipper Akram Khan and off-spinner Sheikh Salahuddin, none had shown the guts to go down fighting. Bowling and batting reflected the inexperience. But the fielding of the Bangladesh team nakedly exposed their lack of commitment and conviction for country's cause.

Athar was certainly at his impressive best with the willow. "But if we have 11 Athars in the team we are still a loser," quipped a keen follower of cricket, who dubbed the tall all-rounder as the slowest fielder in the world. One would call it an optical illusion if he (or she) avails the rare chance to see him running down the fine leg boundary to save a four with his hat still firmly fixed on his head.

Minhazul Abedin Nannu was standing at short mid-wicket. But the demanding position proved too hot for the

most experienced cricketer of the country when he let alone a half-hearted drive from Saurav Ganguly for a four. But then Nannu looked at his butter fingers in a way as if he narrowly escaped a disaster.

Sheikh Salahuddin dropped Tendulkar at deep third man. The tardy offie, oblivious of his blunders, then went on to buck up the team spirit wearing on a sheepish smile and clapping his hands when Shanto was kicking the dust in disgust after being deprived of the most valuable wicket of his life.

The reason behind the sloppy showings was not only due to the players' reluctance to give their hundred per cent. The simple fact is that our cricketers are physically unfit at this level of the game.

Fielding apart, the team also suffered from serious application disorder. Aminul Islam Bulbul, an otherwise solid bat, seemed to have forgot the Alpha and Omega of cricket while batting against India.

With Tendulkar continuing to attack by setting fielders at mid-on and mid-off, even after the 15-over filed restriction, the dapper right-hander did not even dare go over the top, which is a common practice in the abridged version of the game.

The same team is however likely to hop the Kenya flight on October 7. And will it be too much for us to expect that the cricketers would play men's cricket this time?



South African expert Philip Russell who arrived in the city for the second time on Monday to prepare sporting wickets, had a busy time at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

McRae retires in Leg 2

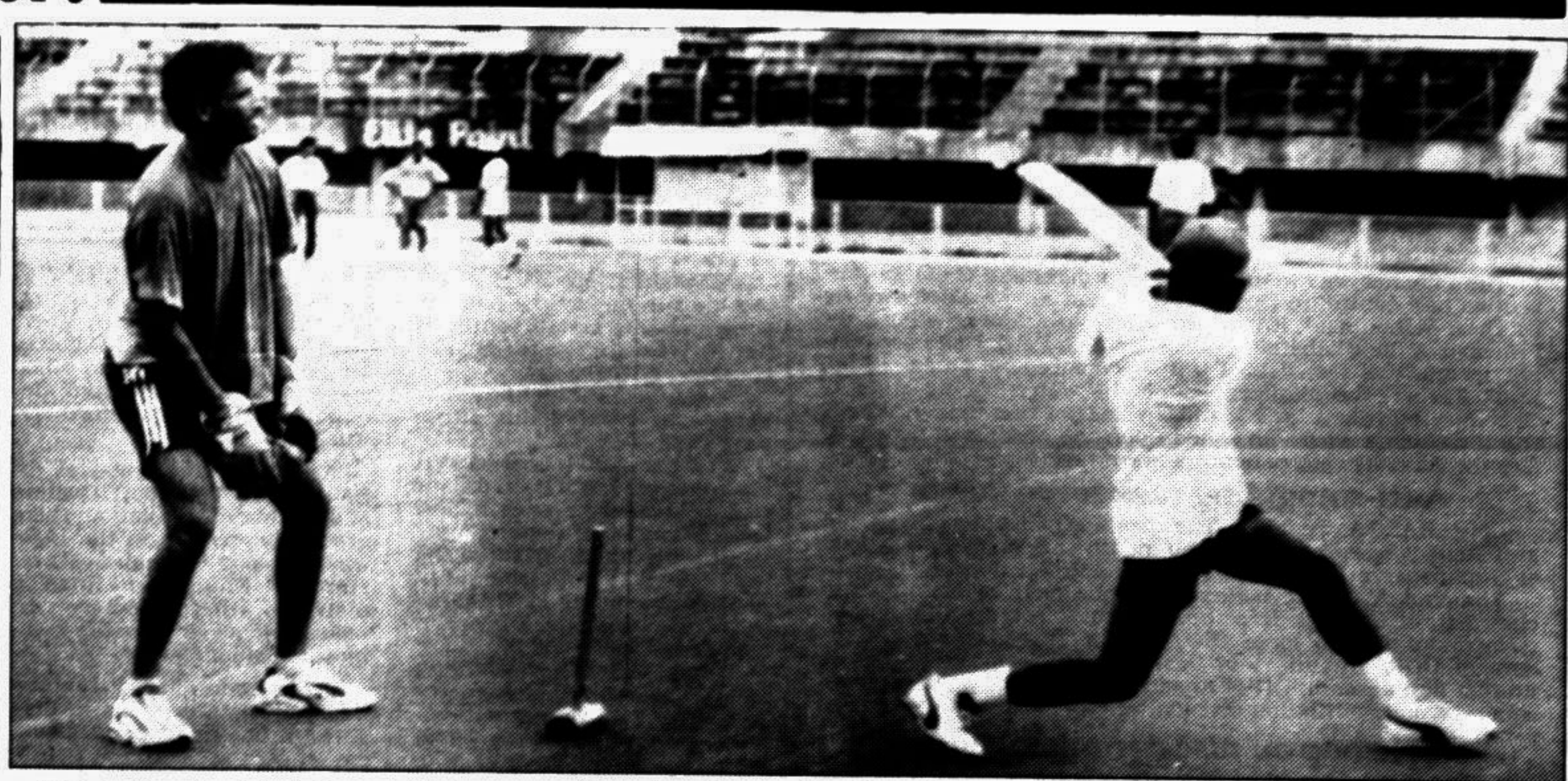
The second leg of the Rally of Indonesia has seen drama and frantic action, but ultimately the Ford Escort World Rally cars of Carlos Sainz and Juha

Kankkunen have come out on top, with the 555 Subaru World Rally Team crew of Kenneth Eriksson and Staffan Parmander finishing leg 2 in 3rd position on Saturday. The conditions have however taken their toll, and the increasingly long list of retirements now includes World series leader, Tommi Makinen, 555 Subaru driver, Colin McRae, and Toyota's Didier Auriol, says a press release.

Double World Champion, Carlos Sainz, stormed into the lead on the final stage of the day, overhauling teammate Juha Kankkunen to reach the overnight halt at Parapat 20 seconds ahead. Torrential rain overnight threatened to make the roads extremely slippery, but hot early morning sunshine quickly dried the sodden tracks, once again leaving drivers with a difficult choice of tyres to use for stages that were neither wet nor dry. "It's been a tremendous day for me and the Ford team," said the Spaniard.

555 Subaru World Rally Team driver Colin McRae was however the one to set a blistering pace in the morning, winning the first two stages and extending his overnight lead to 58 seconds over Tommi Makinen.

Like the Scot, Tommi Makinen fell foul of the conditions and retired from the same stage as McRae while lying in 3 position. Ideally placed to extend his World Championship lead, the Finn's Mitsubishi suffered a radiator leak after hitting a stone. "It was such bad luck because our Lancer is always so reliable. The World Championship is getting a bit tight now and I think Sanremo is going to be interesting," he said.



The national cricket team which returned to the city on Sunday after a week-long conditioning session in Cox's Bazar, making their final preparation for the forthcoming Kenya tour at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Damal Smriti cricket from 1st October

Sports Reporter

The draw for the first round of the Damal Smriti cricket tournament scheduled to commence in the city from October 1, was finalised by Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) last night.

A total of 22 teams, 12 from Premier and ten from First Division leagues, will split into six groups for the first round robin league. Six group winners will then be divided again into two groups in the second round.

Top two teams from each group will qualify for the semi-finals. Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra have been placed in Group A alongwith Victoria Sporting Club and City Club while last year's runners-up Agrani Bank are placed in Group B alongwith Wari Club, Dhanmondi Club and GMCC.

Title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club will have Surjo Tarun Club and Bangladesh Railway in the Group C. Group D comprises Kalabagan KC, Azad SC, Gulshan Youth Ajax and Bangladesh Boys while Ajax Sporting Club, Brothers Union Club, Gopabag Friends Association and Orient Sporting Club will be featuring in Group E. Giants Biman, Lal-matia Sporting Club, Sadharan Bima and Dhaka Wanderers Club are the four other teams placed in Group F. The fixture of the first round will be announced on September 28.

According to the tournament committee secretary Mahmudul Haque Manu, the first round matches will be played in three venues — Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, City Club ground in Mirpur and Dhanmondi Club ground, while the second round will be held at the Dhaka Stadium which is now being prepared under the supervision of South African pitch specialist Philip Russell.

Manu also informed that the start of the Damal Smriti cricket tournament might be delayed for a week if the monsoon continues. The final decision in this regard will be taken next Sunday. He also said that the Premier Division cricket league was likely to begin from the last week of next month.

Badminton course

Sports Reporter

A four-day long basic course on badminton umpiring, organised by the Bangladesh Badminton Federation, will begin at the NSC auditorium from Sunday afternoon.

The course will begin at 5 pm and continue up to 8 pm every day. Following are the selected shuttlers to participate in the course: Simon, Mahub, Sarwar, Shakil, Rinku, Kachi, Talukder, Salauddin, Bablu, Russell, Azad, Munir, Badar, Palash, Enayet, Maruf, Ahsan Habib, Elna, Konica, Juthi, Momo, Saaki, Noori, Lipi, Rashed, Khurshid, Hamidul Haque, Javed, Zia, Linkon, Morshed, Mohsin, Goutam, Babul, Mukhtar, Faruque, Sohag, Milton, Rinku, Kamaluddin, Mukul, Loba, Zakaria, Ul-lash, Pesta, Helal, Ruhul, Mukul, Peter and Manju.

S Waugh to lead Aussies in HK Sixes

SYDNEY, Sept 24: Australian cricket vice-captain Steve Waugh will pick up a bat for the first time in five weeks when he leads the national six-a-side team in the Hong Kong Sixes this weekend, reports AP.

Asian jr chess Tipu off to India

National junior champion Dewan Shahidul Amin Tipu left for India yesterday to participate in the 20th Asian Junior Chess Championship, reports UNB.

The eleven round Swiss League basis competition will be held in the Indian city of Joypur from September 26 to October 7. Players from Asia and Australia are likely to take part in the meet. National Sports Council bears the entire expense of Tipu.

Abahani-Guoan tie today



Sports Reporter

The Beijing Guoan Football Club has promised an absorbing battle while Abahani Krira Chakra considered it a fight to preserve their prestige when the second round first leg match of the Asian Cup Winners' Cup between the two untested opponents kicks off at the flood-lit Mirpur Stadium today.

The match will start at 8 pm. The intention of the visiting Chinese team, who finished runners-up in their semi-professional national league last year, was crystal clear.

"We have come here to win the match and strengthen the existing friendly relations with Bangladesh," said Zhang Lu, the chef-de-mission of the 24-member team, in a pre-match press briefing at the conference room of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) last night.

In his introductory speech Zhang said that they are carrying 17 players including three foreigners. But the strong Beijing team, who recorded a 12-0 aggregate win over Maldives New Radiant in their first

round matches, this time failed to turn up in full strength.

"Three of our key players are now engaged with the national side," said the soft-spoken Zhang through an interpreter. But with their Paraguayan duo — striker Jorge Luis and midfielder Casiano Wilberto — and Spanish playmaker Andres Olivas Rubio around, the Beijing team is hopeful of a good fight against their unknown opponents.

Although he expressed his ignorance about the standard of Bangladesh football, but considered Abahani as a powerful opponent.

"This match is crucial for us. I believe it will be an outstanding battle to watch."

When Zhang captured the limelight during the press briefing, his chief coach of Beijing Guoan Guo Rulong seemed to be worried about the ground conditions.

"The ground is good. But it is not as good as we have at home," said the former national coach.

On the other hand Abahani, who waloped their way into the second round with an 8-0

whitewash of Sri Lanka's Old Benedictines, will also rely on their three foreign booters for a respectable result. Besides, with the inclusion of their fresh recruit John Obhiambo, the home side has the opportunity to upset the apple-cart of their more fancied opponents.

"The inclusion of Obhiambo has provided some solidity in our attacking line-up," said Abahani's Romanian coach Constantine, who termed the Kenyan midfielder as a very good player.

Obhiambo is the fourth and final foreign recruit of the sky blues this year. The nimble Kenyan, who donned the national cap eleven times, will make his Dhaka debut today.

Meanwhile, the organisers BFF, who were forced to delay the kick-off for two hours due to some unavoidable circumstances, have completed arrangements. The rate of gallery tickets have been fixed at Taka 20 while for VIP, it will be Taka 50 a piece. Tickets will be available from 6.15 pm while the enclosures of the stadium will be opened at 6.30 pm.

Inter brave Foggia storm



Sports Reporter

MILAN, Sept 24: Italian league leaders Inter Milan courted disaster here on Tuesday night, before scraping a 3-2 win over Second Division Foggia to reach the third round of the Italian Cup, reports AFP.

Inter, fielding a second string team without the likes of Ronaldo, had won the first leg 1-0 and looked to be cruising when they took a fourth minute lead with Uruguayan Alvero Recoba's penalty.

But Foggia soon found a hero in strike David Di Michele. His shot just before the break took a deflection off Inter skipper Giuseppe Bergomi to make it 1-1 and his 66th minute half-volley gave them a 2-1 lead.

Inter looked destined for a humiliating exit on the away goals rule until the 82nd minute, when Brazilian Ze Elias, who had put on a fairly dismal performance until then, struck the winner into an empty net.

Dutchman Aron Winter scored a superb third in the second minute of injury time, but the second round had already been decided.

Ze Elias' crucial goal was scored amid scenes of bloodshed, though, after a nasty aerial collision between Inter striker Marco Branca and Foggia goalkeeper Flavio Roma.

Branca stayed on with blood streaming from a head wound — he finished the match with his head bandaged — and while Roma was still in a heap on the floor, Ze Elias curled the ball past him from 25 yards.

The Foggia keeper soon left the pitch with blood oozing from his mouth.

Inter may have clocked up

their sixth win in six league, cup and UEFA cup matches, but the performance was certainly not an inspiration for the party of 3,000 crowd at San Siro.

Coach Gigi Simoni, who can expect a hard time from club president Massimo Moratti, was clearly unhappy as he headed down the tunnel.

"We've still got a lot of work to go," he said. Recoba, who had scored the only goal of the first leg three weeks ago, bagged his fourth goal for Inter in a promising start.

But the league leaders, committing the cardinal sin of overconfidence, treated the match more like a training session than a cup tie — before it all went horribly wrong in the 45th minute.

Di Michele's low shot from just outside the area slipped through the Inter defence, took a deflection off Bergom and wrong-footed goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca for an own goal. And only Pagliuca and a large piece of luck kept Inter in the competition after the break.

Advertisement for Bangladesh government services, including a notice for a tender and information about a badminton course.

Crossword puzzle by Eugene Sheffer and Cryptokuip puzzle.