

Davis Cup BD players leave for Abu Dhabi today

BSS, Dhaka A five-member Bangladesh Davis Cup team leaves here today for Abu Dhabi to take part in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group-4 tournament to be held from April 23 to 29.

School cricket

FROM PAGE 13 The home side scored 160 all out in 33.3 overs with Rony hitting highest 43.

Javed shows

FROM PAGE 13 get into", said the legendary all-rounder.

Zimbabwe captain Heath Sireak also joined in the chorus of praise for Javed.

"I think it was a superb innings on a wicket where there was always something for the seamers. His technique was very good and application too. He put away the bad balls and kept the pressure on the bowlers to bowl on the right channel. Unfortunately for him there was no one around to form a partnership with him."

Skipper Naimur Rahman lamented that Javed missed a deserving century as batsmen around him failed.

"He played very well in both innings. But the middle-order was unable to give him the support and it must be disappointing for him not to get a hundred", said Naimur.

Bangladesh coach Trevor Chappell opined that Javed's innings should be a model for the other batters.

"Javed showed what could be done on this wicket. If you are prepared to be patient and pick the right ball to play, you can build a partnership which is very important in Test cricket", said the Australian.

WI assume

FROM PAGE 13 Mervyn Dillon was the final casualty of the day, weakly patting a tired Pollock long-hop to Herschelle Gibbs at backward point.

But Jacobs continued to chance his arm in entertaining style, missing as many hook shots as he hit but ensuring the West Indies were firmly in the driving-seat at the close of play.

Dale stamps his mark

Cricket REUTERS, London

Adrian Dale completed the first double-century of the season in the English county cricket championship as Glamorgan took a firm grip on their opening game against Northamptonshire on Saturday.

poised for a convincing win over Somerset who trail by 68 runs with only four second innings wickets standing.

Neil Fairbrother hammered an unbeaten 179 with one six and 27 fours as Lancashire made 378 to lead by 174 on first innings. By the close they had reduced Somerset to 106 for six, with opener Piran Holloway unbeaten on 52.



A DALE ... 204

The 32-year-old right-hander advanced from his overnight 130 not out to reach 204 as the Welsh county piled up 548 for six declared at Northampton.

In the other Division One game, newly promoted Essex are well on course for victory over Leicestershire.

Skipper Ronnie Irani failed to add to his overnight 87 before Essex were dismissed in their first innings for 318.

But they then killed the home side out for 104 in 49.2 overs. Forced to follow on, Leicestershire closed on 62 for two, still trailing by 152.

In Division Two, Hampshire (150 for eight) need 106 runs to avoid the follow-on against Warwickshire at Edgbaston.

Nick Knight was dismissed by the first ball he received without adding to his overnight 140. But

Dominic Ostler went on to reach 119 in Warwickshire's first innings.

Queensland all-rounder Martin Love followed his 61 in Durham's first innings against Gloucestershire with an unbeaten 63 as the home side reached 104 for two in their second innings for a lead of 143.

James Brinkley took a career-best six for 32 as Gloucestershire were dismissed for 198 at Riverside.

SCORE SUMMARIES

Close of play scores on the second day of four-day English County Championship cricket matches on Saturday.

Division One At Leicester: Essex 318 (R Irani 87, W Jefferson 69; J Ormond 71).

At Northampton: Glamorgan 548-6 declared (A Dale 204, M Powell 106, K Newell 103).

At Taunton: Somerset 204 (J Cox 66; G Chapple 6-46) and 106-6 (P Holloway 52 not out).

At Chester-le-Street: Durham 242 (M Love 61; J Lewis 4-50) and 104-2 (M Love 63 not out).

At Lord's: Worcestershire 301-8 declared (D Leatherdale 93, G Hick 81).

At Edgbaston: Warwickshire 155 (N Knight 140, D Ostler 119, N Smith 54).

Sajid stars for Y Cricketers

SPORTS REPORTER

A brilliant century from Sajid Hasan guided promotees Young Cricketers to a vital 72-run win over Victoria Sporting Club in a Premier Division Cricket Relegation League match at the Dhanomdi Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

The discarded national opener, scored 108 as Young Cricketers, electing to bat after winning the toss, scored a huge 290 for nine in the allotted 50 overs.

Sajid faced only 129 balls for his 108 which featured eight boundaries.

Besides, Pakistani Saifullah Magsi (68) and opener Tinku (40) were the other notable run getters.

In reply, Victoria were all out for 218 in 45.4 overs with middle order Rashed Hanif hammering highest 56.

It was Young Cricketers fifth win in 13 matches, which raised their tally to 10 points.

Victoria SC: 218 all out in 45.4 overs (R Hanif 56, Shafiq 34, Omar 32, Shamsul 3/51, Jewel 2/19).

Result: Young Cricketers won by 72 runs.

Div I cricket

UNB, Dhaka

A brilliant 126-run from Sajid Ali steered Lalmitia Club to beat Gopibagh FA by seven runs in the Metropolitan First Division Cricket League at Jagannath Hall ground of Dhaka University yesterday.

Winning the toss, Lalmitia batted first to score moderate 205 runs for seven in 50 overs with opener Sajid Ali hammering 126 in 134 balls.

In reply, Gopibagh closed their innings at 258 for five in allocated 50 overs with Aslam and Babel contributing 117 in the opening pair.

Despite the day's defeat, Gopibagh booked a seat for the six-team super league by virtue of better run-rate as four teams have secured 10 points each from 11 matches.

But Lalmitia, who earned eight points from 11 matches including the day's victory, played 10 among the 12 teams to place in the six-team relegation league.

Uttara SC (20 points) topped the list on completion of the first phase to play in the super league with Young Pegasus (18), Orient SC (14), Khelghar SKS (12), Gopibagh FA (10) and Azad SC (10).

Rajshahi cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Upashar Cricket Club emerged champions in the 4th Hasan Imam and Ali Imam Pintu Smriti (under-16) cricket tournament being Primary Cricket Training Centre by three wickets in the final match at the Rajshahi Medical College Hostel ground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Primary Cricket Training Centre batted first and were all out for 86 in 26.1 overs.

In reply, the winners reached the target (87) in 28.2 overs losing seven wickets.

Hingis, Capriati showdown

AFP, Charleston

World No. 1 Martina Hingis and Australian Open champion Jennifer Capriati advanced to the final of a 1.2 million-dollar WTA clay court event with victories here Saturday.

Swiss star Hingis defeated Spanish third seed Conchita Martinez 6-2, 6-2 to complete a rematch of their Australian Open final showdown against second seed Capriati of the United States, who eliminated Marlene Weingartner 6-0, 6-2.

Hingis, a winner here in 1997 and 1999, rose to 11-3 overall against Martinez. Hingis can win her fourth title of the year here Sunday and the 39th of her career by avenging her January defeat at Melbourne.

"Jennifer was just too good in Melbourne," Hingis said. "I want to give it another shot. I feel like I've got nothing to lose in the final."

Hingis, 20, is 39-5 this year. Her only ouster before the semi-finals came last week with a quarter-final loss to Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

"I always enjoy playing the better players," Hingis said. "Conchita beat me at Berlin (last year) and I wanted revenge."

Capriati bounced back this week in her first event since squandering eight match points against fellow American Venus Williams in the Miami Tennis Masters Series final on April 1.

Capriati, 25, has not dropped a set here and seeks her 11th career singles title. She completed a comeback from personal problems as a teen with her win in Australia.

Lennox loses everything

Boxing AP, Brooklyn

Hasim Rahman's knockout of Lennox Lennox did more than install a new heavyweight champion. It derailed perhaps the most lucrative fight in boxing history.

Rahman flattened Lewis with a stunning right hand near the end of the fifth round early Sunday to capture the WBC and IBF titles.

with Showtime -- and now might never happen after Lewis' stunning upset loss.

"There's no Mike Tyson if I don't get past Hasim Rahman, simple as that," Lewis said.

Rahman, a 28-year-old fighter from Baltimore, chased the champion across the ring and, with Lewis smiling defiantly at him, unleashed a right cross that caught the champion flush on the jaw and

Lewis said. "This is just what happens in heavyweight boxing. He hit me with a good shot. That's the situation when you get two big guys in there with right hands."

Not long after the fight started at about 5:30 a.m. -- the pre-dawn local time -- the fight on U.S. TV at night -- there were signs that an upset was in the cards, with Rahman (35-2) clipping Lewis on the chin in the second round.

Lewis seemed intent on ignoring his left jab, and instead concentrated on throwing big right hands.

In the third round, Lewis landed a left, followed by a left-right combination, but Rahman responded with a big right hand of his own.

Lewis (38-2-1) had Rahman in trouble early in the fourth but was rocked by a left hook and hundreds among the 5,500 in the crowd at Carnival City Casino began chanting "Hasim! Hasim!"

Lewis' stamina was questioned because he arrived in Johannesburg only two weeks before the fight, with little time to get used to the 5,200-foot altitude. That showed in the fifth round as he clearly began breathing heavily.

Rahman, throwing punches on the run, had Lewis backpedalling and the challenger ended the fight with the spectacular knockout punch.

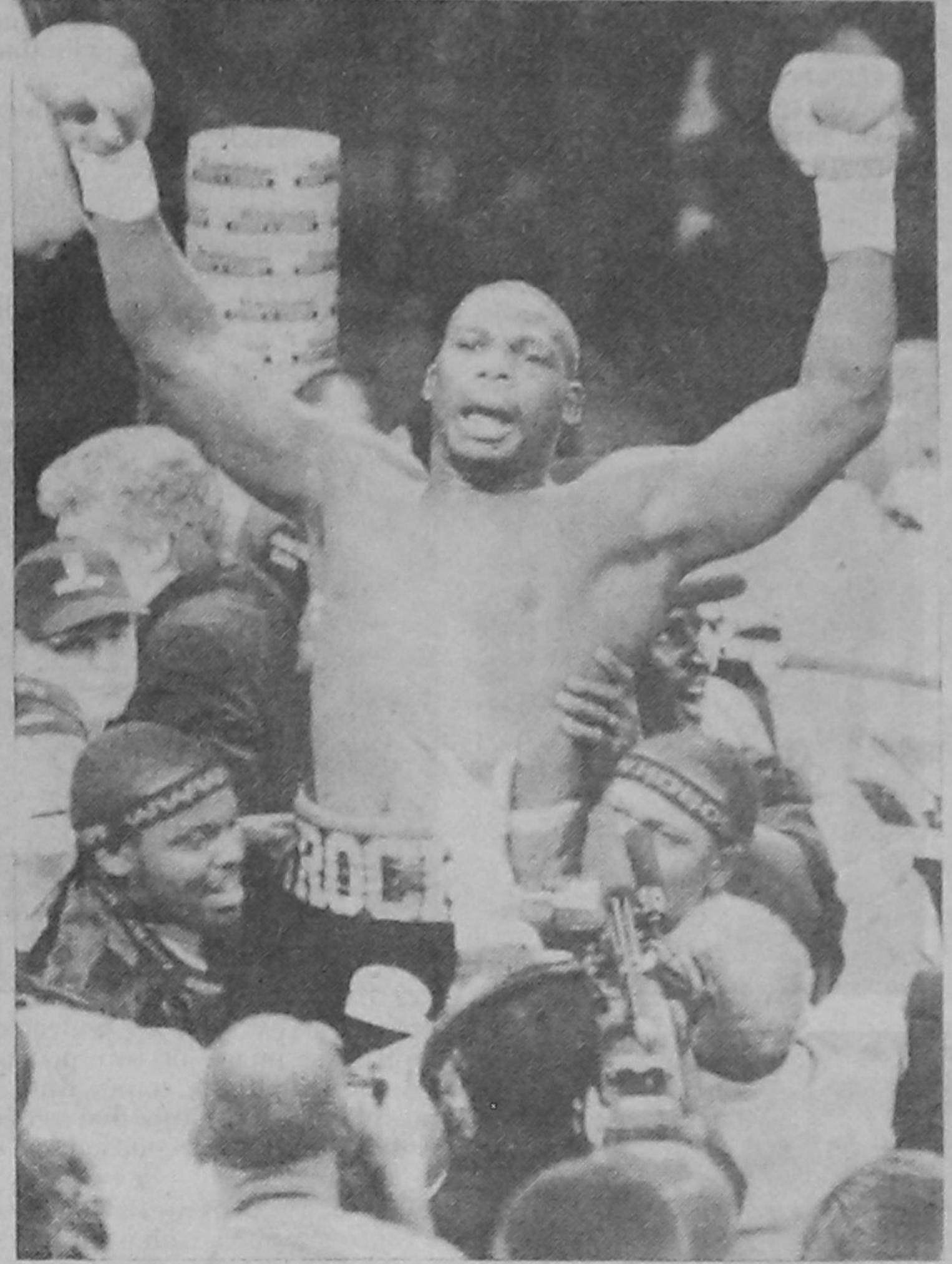
"I told you all I was confident. Not one time since the fight was made was I nervous," said Rahman, who put himself in line for a much bigger payday than the reported \$1.5 million he earned Sunday.

"He came out and tried to dictate the pace but I wouldn't let him. I never took an opponent serious before this. I felt like I didn't train properly he would have the edge."

Lewis went into the bout at his heaviest weight ever -- 253 pounds, 16 more than the challenger, who also surrendered 3 inches in height and 9 inches in reach.

While Rahman had been in South Africa for about a month to prepare for his title shot, Lewis was here half as long after taking time off to film the remake of "Ocean's Eleven" with Julia Roberts, George Clooney and Brad Pitt.

Lewis has a rematch clause in his contract. "I definitely want the rematch," he said. "Hasim Rahman is the champ today. The second time around Hasim Rahman is going to go."



World heavyweight new champion Hasim Rahman of the United States celebrates his victory over Lennox Lewis of Britain in Johannesburg on April 22.

"I kept my prayers going and did all my training. And I came up with one punch," Rahman said. "One punch."

That blow effectively killed any chance of a Lewis bout against Mike Tyson -- potentially a 100 million dollar showdown -- happening anytime soon.

"No Lewis-Tyson! No Lewis-Tyson!" Rahman yelled in the ring after the fight.

Lewis-Tyson had been on hold because of a clash of TV contracts -- Lewis is with HBO, and Tyson

sent him sprawling to the canvas.

Lying on his back for several seconds, Lewis was unable to beat the count and, at 2:32 of the fifth round, the world of boxing had a new, totally unexpected, heavyweight champion.

The finish was eerily similar to Lewis' last loss, on Sept. 24, 1994, when Oliver McCall floored him with a right hand.

"I felt fine in there. I was going about my work nice and comfortably and there was no way Hasim Rahman could beat me,"

Arazi, Kuerten roll on

Tennis AFP, Monte Carlo

Moroccan star Hicham Arazi and Brazilian showman Gustavo Kuerten will contest Sunday's final at the 2.95 million-dollar Monte Carlo Masters Series after both rolled through Saturday's semifinal tests in straight sets.

But the unseeded Moroccan dug in and rallied to take four

games on a roll to wrap up the first set and from then on Australian Open semifinalist Grosjean was fighting an uphill battle.

In the second set Arazi, conqueror of Britain's Tim Henman in the previous round as well as defending champion Cedric Pioline of France and Swedish third seed Magnus Norman, tightened his grip on the contest after struggling off a Grosjean break for 1-0.



BUET Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Nooruddin Ahmed handing over the winners' trophy to the skipper of the Faculty of Civil Engineering in the Professor Dr M Mizanur Rahman inter-faculty cricket tournament on April 21. Civil Engineering defeated Mechanical by 116 runs.

CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid and clues by Eugene Sheffer. Includes ACROSS, DOWN, and CRYPTOQUIP sections.

Lanka press for 'best' tag

Cricket REUTERS, London

Sri Lanka can stake their claim to the title of the world's leading one-day side following a season which has included three tournament victories out of four, as well as a world record.

Sanath Jayasuriya's side completed their 2000-01 campaign on Friday, with a 77-run win over Pakistan in the final of the Sharjah triangular series.

While Australia and South Africa may have superior win-loss ratios, Sri Lanka have consistently won the games that mattered.

They underlined the point in Sharjah, stealing into the final despite winning just one first-phase game against New Zealand before comprehensively outplaying in-form Pakistan to take the trophy.

Coach Dav Whatmore said the win came after "a bit of soul searching."

"We realised there was a big difference between what we are capable of and what we are showing," Whatmore told Sri Lanka's Sunday Times.

"We played the final not only to show our capabilities but also to restore our pride. The team responded magnificently."

The season will have gone a long way towards restoring Sri Lankan pride, yet to recover after they surrendered their 1996 World Cup crown with barely a whimper in England two years ago.

That humiliation prompted a radical rethink, with captain Arjuna Ranatunga axed and leading batsman Aravinda de Silva sidelined as new blood was brought in.

The one-day game remains the first love of Sri Lankan fans ahead of test cricket, and they were rewarded this season with 21 wins out of 31.

They began in July by beating South Africa in the final of a home triangular series also involving Pakistan.

Failure in the ICC Knockout Trophy in October was soon forgotten as Jayasuriya's team won the Sharjah Champions Trophy over India and Zimbabwe.

That tournament provided the highlight of the one-day year -- a 215-run victory over India in the final.

The previous record runs victory margin of 233, by Pakistan over Bangladesh in June, was surpassed as Jayasuriya hit a 161-ball 189 -- five short of the world record -- out of his side's total of 299.

He hit 27 fours to score 108 in boundaries alone.

Left-arm pace bowler Chaminda Vaas then took over with five for 14 as India were skilted out for 54.

Robin Singh, the only Indian batsman to reach double figures, top-scored with 11.

The Sri Lankan low point of the season came in a 5-1 drubbing in South Africa in December-January, although 4-1 and 3-0 series victories over New Zealand and England followed.

Australia won 14 of their 19 one-day matches, most of the victories coming in a successful home triangular event against Zimbabwe and a struggling West Indies eleven.

South Africa, meanwhile, who conclude their season with a seven-match one-day series in the West Indies next month, have won 16 of 23 games but only managed one tournament win in three.

New Zealand are the only other team who could lay some claim world supremacy, by arguing that they won the only event of the year including all the world's teams -- the ICC Knockout Trophy or 'Mini World Cup' in Kenya.

They, however, only played three games to do so -- avoiding Sri Lanka, Australia and South Africa in the process.

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British Prime Minister Tony Blair poses with the London Marathon winners Abdelkader El Mouaziz of Morocco (L) and Derartu Tulu of Ethiopia on Sunday.

Kenyan Paul Tergat, running his first marathon after being a five-time world cross-country champion and former 10,000-metre world record-holder, was second in 2:08:15 with third for three-time winner and defending champion Pinto of Portugal in 2:09:36. Tesfaye Jifar of Ethiopia finished fourth.

Tulu, the two-time Olympic 10,000-metre champion, got her first win in a marathon with in 2:23:57. Second place went to Svetlana Zakarova of Russia in 2:21:04 with two-time winner Joyce Chepchumba of Kenya finishing third in 2:24:12. Romanian Lidia Simon was fourth in 2:24:15.

Defending champion Tola Loroupe of Kenya, who holds the world's fastest marathon time for women, finished eighth in 2:26:10. Loroupe had to stop twice in the first 3 miles (5 kilometers) to stretch her back and hamstring.

Loroupe caught the pack at the 20-mile mark (36-kilometers) after trailing by 47 seconds when the leaders went through the halfway point (13.1 miles/21.1 kilometers), but then couldn't hold the pace.

El Mouaziz was the main protagonist throughout the race, pushing the men's field at every chance. He tried to make the first break with about 12 miles (20 kilometers) to go coming over historic Tower Bridge, but the other leaders moved with him including Pinto, Tergat, Jifar, Tesfaye Jifar and Japhet Kosgei.

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