

Amal, Ranjan into 2nd round

SPORTS REPORTER

Amal Roy and Ranjan Ram are among 14 players who moved into the second round of Dhaka Open tennis tournament at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Zakir Hossain of Uttara Club, Laxman Lal of American Club, Hotel Sarina's Shahnewaz Ahmed and Murad Hossain, Henry Prithul Mandal of ZTC, Dipu Lal and Kanchan Ram of Nordic Club, Anwar Hossain of British Club and Milon Hossain, Delwar Hossain, Mazharul Islam, Mofazzal Hossain of National Tennis Complex are the other players who moved into the second round with Amal and Ranjan.

In the boy's under-14 event, Biplob, Tanvir, Munir and Sajib moved to the quarterfinals.

DIU, EWU win easy

SPORTS REPORTER

Daffodil International University (DIU) rode on two goals from Abdul to beat BRAC while East West University (EWU) thumped Atish Dipankar 3-0 in the University Champions Trophy at the Chairmanbari ground yesterday.

DIU dominated from the start and the two strikes saw them home. EWU were also on top in their encounter and strikes from Mamun, Bashar and Naved saw them romp past their hapless opponents.

This concluded the first round of matches with UIU, North South University, Prime Asia, ULAB, DIU, Bhuiyan Academy, EWU and Eastern University all advancing into the knockout stages.

Test on

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and South Africa at Edgbaston in Birmingham on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings 231

SOUTHAFRICA: First innings 314

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 297-6)

Strauss c Kallis b Morkel 25

Cook c Boucher b Ntini 9

Vaughan c Amla b Nel 17

Pietersen c DeVilliers b Harris 94

Bell c Boucher b Ntini 20

Collingwood c Boucher b Morkel 135

Flintoff c Amla b Harris 2

Ambrose b Morkel 19

Sidebottom c Amla b Morkel 22

Anderson b Kallis 1

Panesar not out 0

Extras: (b-8, lb-2, nb-3, w-6) 19

Total: (All out in 98.2 overs) 363

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-39, 3-70, 4-104, 5-219, 6-221, 7-297, 8-363, 9-363.

Bowler O M R W

Morkel 19.2 1 97 4

Nel 20 3 79 1

Ntini 18 4 58 2

Kallis 20 5 59 1

Harris 21 3 60 2

SOUTHAFRICA: Second innings

Smith not out 55

McKenzie lbw b Flintoff 22

Amla lbw b Panesar 6

Kallis lbw b Flintoff 5

Prince c Ambrose b Anderson 2

DeVilliers not out 9

Extras: (b-4, lb-6, w-2) 12

Total: (For 4 wkt in 33 overs) 111

To bat: Boucher, Morkel, Harris, Nel, Ntini.

Fall of wickets: 1-65, 2-78, 3-83, 4-93.

Bowler O M R W

Sidebottom 3 1 6 0

Anderson 8 0 31 1

Panesar 14 3 36 1

Flintoff 8 2 28 2

US men's relay

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Pettigrew's teammates, brothers Alvin and Calvin Harrison had already been suspended for using performance enhancing drugs.

Jerome Young, the fourth member, had also been caught doping.

Michael Johnson, the five-time Olympic champion and the only relay team member not linked to banned substance use, said after Pettigrew's admission that he would return his Sydney gold medal.

Work in progress

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around the Bird's Nest Olympic stadium.

However, a film crew from South Korea's private station SBS sneaked in and filmed the rehearsal and then broadcast parts of it on Tuesday before posting it on the Internet.

Everyone working in the stadium had signed agreements with the Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee or BOCOG, to keep what they saw confidential, the Xinhua state news agency reported.

The International Olympic Committee accused the South Korean station of stealing the footage and Beijing organisers said they were investigating.

Fireworks light up the sky above the stadium again on Saturday and an audience was allowed inside the stadium to watch the rehearsal, according to the Beijing organisers' official website.

A third and final rehearsal is scheduled for Tuesday.

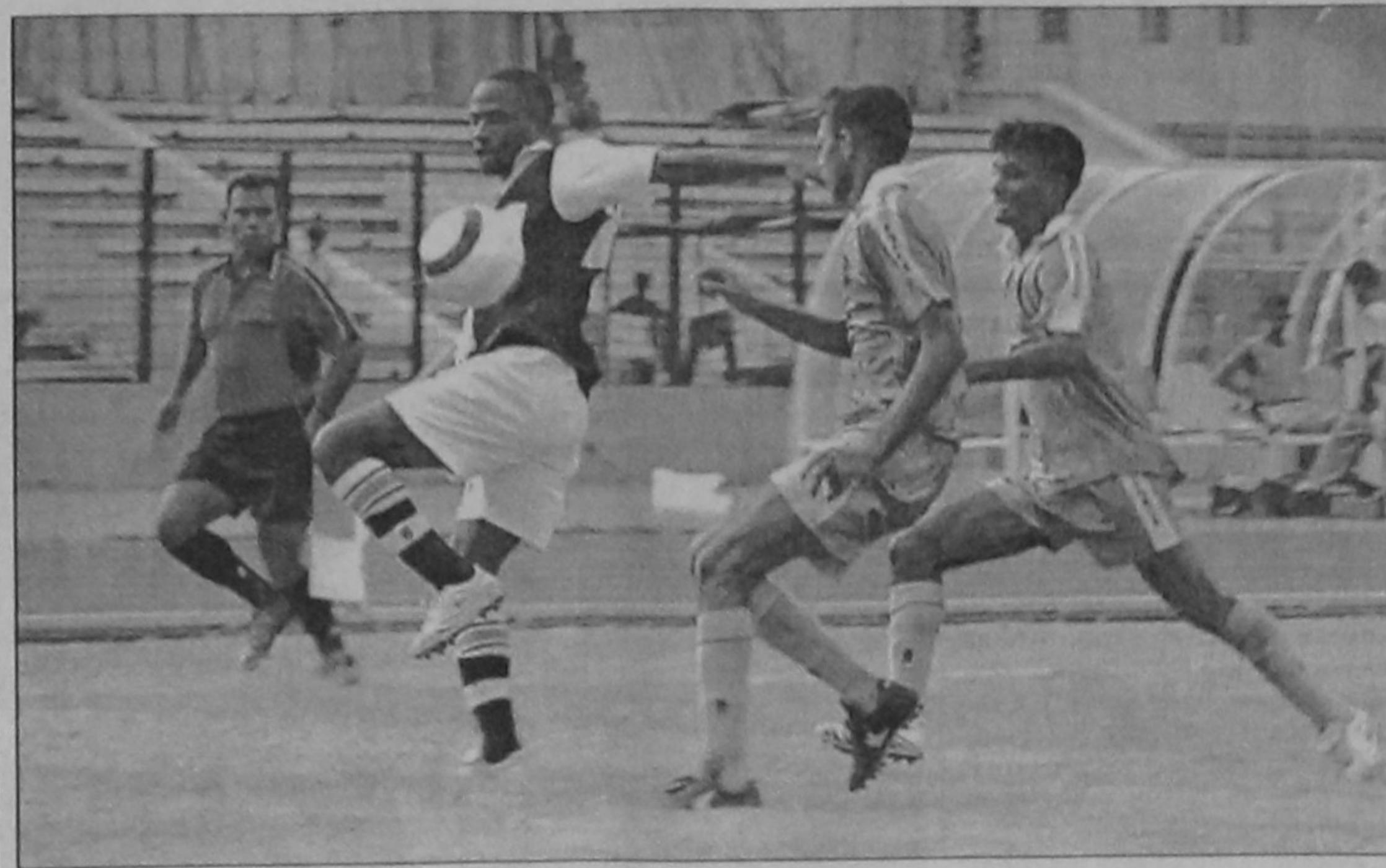


PHOTO: BANGLARCHOUGHT.COM

A scene from yesterday's Citycell Federation Cup qualifying round match between Dhaka Wanderers and Bangladesh Air Force held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Aussie chief tips China as favourites

APP, Sydney



Australia's Olympics chief John Coates has predicted that China will top the United States in the gold medal tally at the Beijing Games, said Saturday.

The Americans have dominated the last three Olympics since finishing second to the former Soviet Union in Barcelona in 1992.

But the Australian Olympic Committee president believes China will emerge with the biggest number of golds at the 2008 Summer Games.

"I expect China to win the gold medal tally," Coates told The Australian newspaper Saturday.

"What we are seeing now leads me to think they can do it. It was at a rowing event where they won eight out of 14 medals -- that is unheard-of."

The United States has topped the medal count in 16 of the 26 Summer Olympics held.

"Four years ago in Athens the US topped the gold medal tally with

36, China was second with 32, followed by Russia, on 27.

But Coates does not expect China will beat the US and win the overall medal count, as he believes the US is too strong in swimming and track and field.

Steve Roush, the US Olympic Committee chief of sport performance, is anticipating a highly-competitive battle in Beijing with China and Russia.

"Russia, China and the US are vying with the most legitimate shot at the top medal count at the Olympics. This is going to be a highly-competitive field," Roush said earlier this year.

"It has created an excitement around these Olympics that has been missing for a while."

Roush said China has targeted 119 medal opportunities for the 2008 Olympics in sports such as archery, shooting, cycling, rowing, paddling and women's wrestling and invested heavily in building talent in those areas.

China's great leap forward has been orchestrated by the old art of copying Western techniques and technology, The Australian said.

After Beijing won the right to

host the 2008 Games in 2001, China began hiring Western coaches and pairing them with Chinese staff to develop new squads in sports where they had no expertise, including rowing and kayak canoeing and track and field.

Then as the Games approached, the Western coaches were sidelined and the local ones stepped forward to lead the Chinese athletes to gold.

Veteran Australian Olympic kayaker Clint Robinson said that was what happened in his sport.

In 2005, China hired "one of the best coaches in the world," former German team coach Joseph Capouesk.

"In the last three years the Chinese have come up very quickly and just about beat the best crew in the world at the World Cup," Robinson said.

"They will be tough and it will be a real battle for all the canoeists against the Chinese."

Having served his purpose, Capouesk was sacked a month ago and a Chinese coach heads the kayak team.

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After Beijing won the right to

Phelps at his prime

APP, Singapore



Michael Phelps warned Saturday he had never felt better as he attempts to win an unprecedented eight Olympic gold medals, but made clear he does not want to be remembered as "the second Mark Spitz".

The American swimming sensation, training in Singapore, is poised to make Olympic history in Beijing by bettering Spitz's record of seven gold medals at one Games.

He fell short of that goal in Athens four years ago, coming away with a still impressive six gold medals and two bronze.

The 23-year-old will swim the same events in Beijing that he tackled in Athens: the 200m and 400m individual medleys, the 100m and 200m butterflies, the 100m freestyle, and the three relays.

He holds the world record in four them - the 200m freestyle,

200m butterfly and the 200m and 400m individual medleys. US

teammate Ian Crocker holds the 100m butterfly record, but trails in his head-to-head rivalry with

Phelps.

While Phelps admits to being in his best form ever, he is riled with comparisons to Spitz.

"As far as the Mark Spitz thing goes, I've said that before and I'll say it again," he said.

"I want to be the first Michael Phelps and not the second Mark Spitz."

"I don't mean to downplay his accomplishments by any means. For what he did, it was and still is, the greatest Olympic performance of all time."

"He will always be remembered as one of the great Olympians of all time. I'm just lucky that I can be in a position to hopefully do something different to him."

"I'm just focused on what my goals are."

Ahead of Beijing the American team has been training at the Singapore Island Country Club and Phelps said it had been the perfect preparation to his Olympic quest.

"I've felt the best ever in the water here," he said. "Who knows what will happen in Beijing, time will tell."

"But I'm happy with where I am right now, I'm excited and I'm looking forward to going to Beijing and hopefully having a good meet."

"As of right now I feel the best I have ever felt."

A year ago it was a different story

before being caught behind off Kumble.

The teams observed a two-minute silence before the match in memory of former India batsman Ashok Mankad, who died in Mumbai on Friday.

Sri Lanka lead 1-0 in the three-match series following their win by an innings and 239 runs in the opening Test in Colombo.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second Test between India and Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Saturday:

INDIA: First innings 329 (Sehwag 210 not out; Mendis 6-117)

SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 215-5)

Vandort c Dravid b Zaheer 4

Warnapura c Gambhir b Harbhajan 66

Sangakkara c & b Harbhajan 68

M Jayawardene c Karthik b Kumble 86

Samaraweera lbw b Harbhajan 14

Dilshan c Gambhir b Harbhajan 0

P Jayawardene c Laxman 24

b Harbhajan 1

Kulasekara 5 0 31 0

Muralidaran 21 1 70 1

Mendis 17.4 3 66 1

Wickets 1-90, 2-144, 3-200, 4-200.

Bowler O M R W

Mendis 35 Just 1

India 37 Vault 1

India 38 Perch 1

India 41 Cushion 2

India 43 Fawn's 3

India 44 Sea 4

India 45 Went 5

India 46 Footrest 6

India 47 Footrest 7

India 48 Footrest 8

India 49 Dis- 9