

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 ZITC, 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, Bashir 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

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 314

ENGLAND: Second innings (over-

night 297-6)

Strauss c Kallis b Morkel 25

Cooke c Boucher b Ntini 9

Vaughan c Amla b Nel 17

Pietersen c De Villiers 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

SOUTH AFRICA: 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

De Villiers not out 9

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

Total: (For 4 wickets in 33 overs) 111

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

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

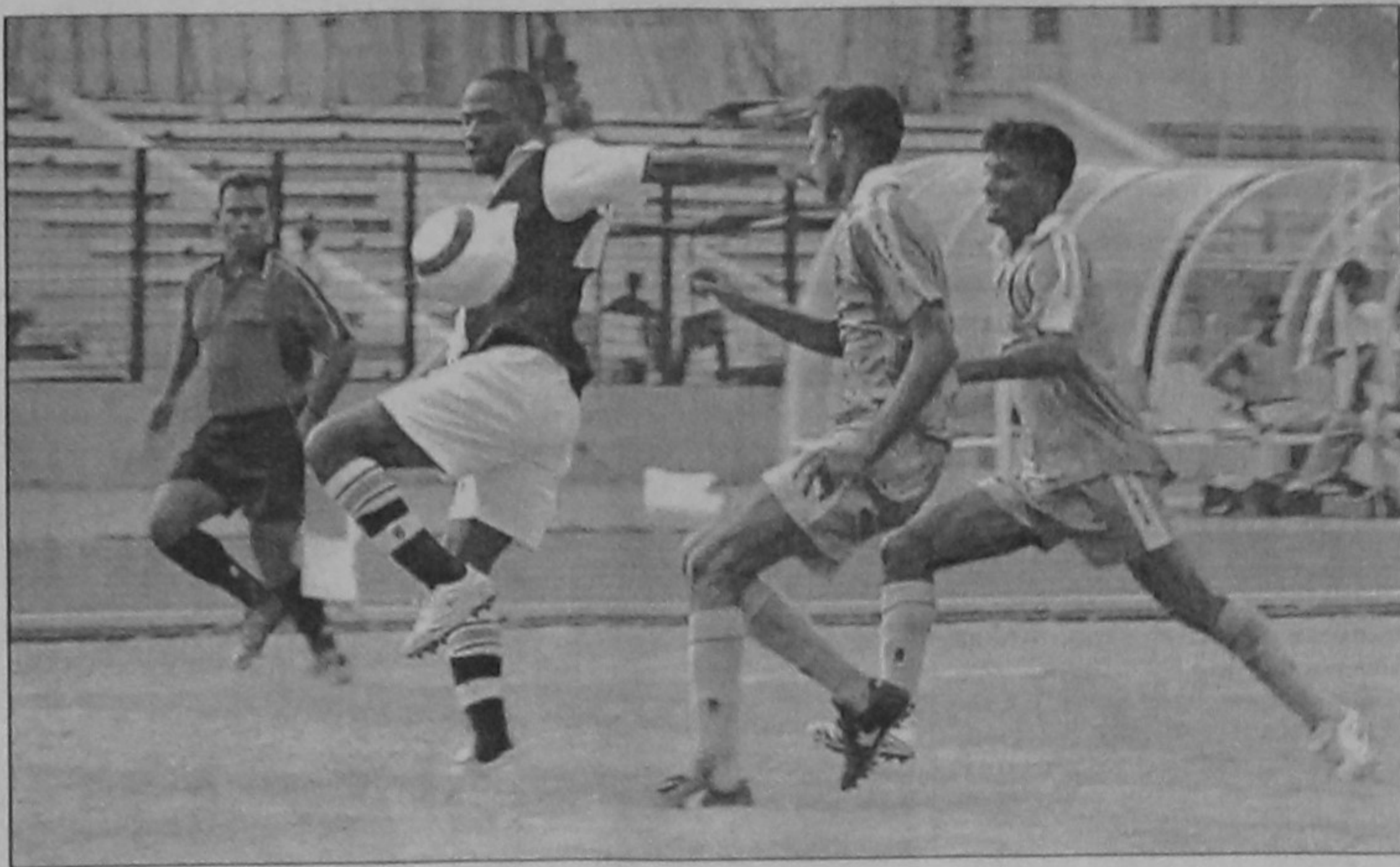
Bowler O M R W

Sidebottom 3 1 6 0

Anderson 8 0 31 1

Panesar 14 3 36 1

Flintoff 8 2 28 2



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

AFP, Sydney



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. I 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.

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 Capousek.

"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, Capousek was sacked a month ago and a Chinese coach heads the kayak team.

Phelps at his prime

AFP, 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 200m 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 this 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

after he broke his wrist, believing then that it had ruined his 2008 chances.

But his performance at the US trials, with five victories in five events and two world records (in the medleys), showed he had recovered from that setback.

"This year has been up and down. I've had some life changing experiences and been able to get through them and get here," he said.

"I'm swimming well, feeling good in the water and I'm ready to compete."

Another incentive for Phelps to equal or break the Spitz record is an offer by Speedo to pay him one million dollars if he reaches the magic number.

Australian swimming great Grant Hackett said this week he felt Phelps could reach the landmark, but the American is not keen to dwell on his record attempt, going so far as to play down his chances of winning any gold.

"The only pressure I get is from you guys," he said when asked if the expectations were weighing on his mind.

"If I can come in faster than what I was at the trials then that means I am successful. If that means not winning gold medals then that is fine, I am still successful."

Lankans crawl back

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Sri Lanka bounced back into the match when they dismissed Tendulkar and Dravid in the space of eight deliveries.

Tendulkar was caught in the slips driving an away-going delivery from Vaas, while Dravid was adjudged leg-before off Muralidaran.

Dravid was initially given not out by umpire Billy Doctrove of the West Indies, but the Sri Lankan captain requested the official to review the decision under a new experimental rule which is on trial in the series.

Doctrove changed his decision after consulting TV umpire Gamage Silva of Sri Lanka.

The Indian spinners earlier shattered Sri Lanka's hopes of gaining the lead by sharing five wickets, with Kumble taking three and Harbhajan two. The hosts could add only 77 to their overnight total of 215-5.

Jayawardene, averaging 99.21 before this match at the Galle International Stadium here, was the lone batsman to thwart the Indian spinners. He looked set to complete his 24th Test hundred

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 (Sewhag 201 not out; Mendis 6-117)

SRI LANKA: First innings (over-

night 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

Kulasekara not out 5

Mendis lbw b Kumble 0

Muralidaran c Ganguly 0

b Harbhajan 24

Extras: (b-10, lb-12, nb-2) 24

Total: (All out in 93.3 overs) 292

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-137, 3-144, 4-192, 5-192, 6-250, 7-255, 8-291, 9-291, 10-292.

Bowler O M R W

Zaheer 9 1 51 1

Sharma 8 1 36 0

Kumble 36 7 81 3

Harbhajan 40.3 8 102 6

INDIA: Second innings

Gambhir b Mendis 74

Sewhag c Dilshan b Vaas 50

Dravid lbw b Muralidaran 44

Tendulkar c M Jayawardene b Vaas 31

Laxman not out 0

Extras: (lb-1) 1

Total: (For four wickets in 56.4 overs) 200

To bat: Karthik, Kumble, Harbhajan, Zaheer, Sharma.

Fall of wickets: 1-90, 2-144, 3-200, 4-200.

Bowler O M R W

Vaas 13 4 32 2

Kulasekara 5 0 31 0

Muralidaran 21 1 70 1

Mendis 17.4 3 66 1

Shooting Fed's AGM held

SPORTS REPORTER

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the National Shooting Federation was held at the Shooting Complex in Gulshan yesterday.

Federation president Maj Gen Ashab Uddin headed the eleventh meeting with general secretary Nazimuddin Chowdhury reporting the members on the activities of the 2007-08 financial year.

Vice-president and acting treasurer Kashem Humayun presented a budget with a deficit of Tk 310,000 and informed that cost cutting on administrative expenses and increasing income would help reduce this gap.

Councillors Wazedul Islam, Mohiuddin Manik Bir Pratik, Taimur Faruq Munna, Omar Kama, Mujibur Rahman Mollah, Syed Ashraf, Enamul Kabir, Anwarul Kabir, Ishtiaque Ahmed, Advocate Moniruzzaman, Ishfaq Ahmed, Abdus Salam Khan and Alauddin Chowdhury were also present.

Jelena misses opportunity

AFP, Montreal

Serbian Jelena Jankovic's latest bid to grab the world number one ranking ended Friday with a quarterfinal exit from the 1.34 million-dollar WTA hardcourt tournament here.

Unseeded Slovakian Dominika Cibulkova continued her impressive run this week with a 7-5, 6-2 victory over the world number two and second seed.

Jankovic missed out on a chance to overtake compatriot Ana Ivanovic atop the rankings when she lost in the semifinals in Los Angeles. Once Ivanovic lost here on Thursday, Jankovic could have accomplished the feat by reaching the final.

She made a good start, winning the first four games and taking a 5-1 lead in the opening set, but she couldn't keep up the momentum.

"I was feeling good, and I was hitting the ball well. But then all of a sudden I just got exhausted, completely lost my concentration," Jankovic said.

"It was hard for me throughout, you know, for that rest of the match to keep up because the points were quite long. The longer the play went, I felt worse and worse."

Jankovic said she hasn't regained her top form after being sidelined by a knee injury suffered at Wimbledon.

"I'm still not in the best physical shape," she said. "I'm suffering in that department. It will take time for me to get that better because at the moment, you know, I'm struggling to play in a high level for two sets."

Zia, Himanshu

FROM PAGE 17

Pakistan and IM Dinesh Kumar Sharma of India followed the leaders with 3.5 points each.

In the other fifth round games, Sagar drew with Shakil, Lodhi drew with Dinesh, Elin beat Bitan Banerjee of India, Parag beat Debaraj Chatterjee, Saif Uddin Lavlu beat FM Rezaul Haque, IM Shahzad Mirza of Pakistan beat Anichuzzaman Jewel, Keshav Shrestha of Nepal drew with Shrestha Bilal Lal of Nepal, Delwar Hossain beat Hasan Emam, Sheikh Nasir Ahmed beat Mohammed Abdul Malek, FM Mohammad Javed beat Monir Hissain, Mohammad Ali drew with Abdullah Al Saif, Sohail Chowdhury drew with Arman Monir and Badri Nepali beat Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin.

Final round

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Gazipur Stadium.

Jewel struck the all-important goal in the 74th minute.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Pintu Kumar Das put Wanderers Club ahead in the second minute with a spectacular header from a goalmouth melee and Iqbal Hossain, who romped home with a left-footer, sealed the margin in the 75th minute.

At the Army Stadium, Victoria took first lead through a 25th minute strike by Mamun but their opponents cancelled the advantage in the first-half when Monir found the net on the stroke of the break to level the scores.

Hasan finally relieved Victoria as he scored the match-winner in the 79th minute.

Stalwarts to help

FROM PAGE 17

capacity. The board has spent large sums of money for me, so it would be bad if I am ultimately sitting idle.

I also want to share my experience that I have gained during my long career," added Mashud, who played 44 Tests and 126 ODIs.

Another former national skipper turned operations manager of the academy Khaled Mahmud considered it as a new window for the ex-cricketers.

"I think this process will ultimately help us to be self sufficient in the future," said Mahmud.

Colly feels relieved

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

Paul Collingwood overcame what he admitted was huge pressure as he and Kevin Pietersen gave England a chance of a come-from-behind victory on the third day of the third Test against South Africa at Edgbaston on Friday.

England were 297 for six at the close, an overall lead of 213, with Collingwood capping a return to form in glorious fashion by reaching his sixth Test century with a six off left-arm spinner Paul Harris.

He finished the day on 101 not out. Pietersen made 94 before falling when he tried to hit a six off Harris.

"There was lots of pressure," said Collingwood, who was in danger of being dropped after a summer of poor performances. "It's not pressure so much from the outside as knowing that you have to contribute or you are letting the team down."

"Today was very special, everything went my way and it's a day I won't forget. It's been tough over the past couple of months."

Collingwood said there was still a big job to do with South Africa able to call on a new ball at the start of play Saturday.

With the pitch still playing well, Collingwood said he would like

England to get 280 to 300 ahead.

Collingwood paid tribute to England captain Michael Vaughan. "He said to me, just before I went out to bat 'Don't be reckless, but be aggressive'. I quite enjoyed having my freedom from the skipper. That's the way I play my best cricket."

South African coach Mickey Arthur said he was very, very disappointed with his team's performance. "It simply wasn't good enough. We've got that out of the way in the dressing room. We've got a gift tomorrow morning and that's the second new ball."

"We're going to have really make it work fast for us," Arthur said. "The game's on a knife edge. We had an opportunity today which we didn't take. We forgot about everything we've spoken about today."

"But we've got that second opportunity with the new ball. The wicket's flat, there wasn't a huge amount of spin on offer and it didn't swing much today when the sun was out."

"We believe we can chase down most totals on that but it's going to be difficult."

Pietersen and Collingwood brought England back into the game in thrilling style with a fifth wicket stand of 115 off 138 balls but when Andrew Flintoff was out four balls after Pietersen it seemed South Africa were on the way to

victory.

But Collingwood and Tim Ambrose added an unbeaten 76 against lacklustre bowling to raise English hopes of a win which would level the series with one match to play.

After a watchful start, Pietersen was looking in total command when he twice in the space of three balls reverse-pulled Harris for boundaries.

At that stage the South African bowlers were looking ineffectual in the best batting conditions of the match, with the sun shining and the ball not deviating through the air or off an easy-paced pitch.

But Pietersen was out to the first ball of Harris' next over when he danced down the pitch. He mistimed the ball and was caught by AB de Villiers three-quarters of the way to the long-on boundary.

Pietersen batted for 186 minutes, faced 136 balls and hit 13 fours. Four balls later Flintoff was caught off bat and pad at short leg off Harris and South Africa were on top again.

Collingwood, who had reached his half-century off 61 balls, batted cautiously for a period but with Ambrose proving a solid partner he lifted the tempo towards the end of the day to notch his century off 133 deliveries with 14 fours to add to the six which brought a capacity crowd to their feet.

Ryan stars in Dutch win

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Netherlands won the first match of the ICC World Twenty20 Qualifier tournament with a good victory over Kenya by 19 runs. Their star performer was the South African-born Ryan ten Doeschate, the Man of the Match with a top score of 56 and impressive bowling figures of 3 for 27.

At nine o'clock this morning it looked unlikely that the match would be able to take place, or indeed the other two scheduled for today, as the rain was falling steadily as it had done for much of the last twelve hours. But there was a remarkable transformation as the sun suddenly appeared, the groundstaff did a superb job in clearing up, and though pampered Test players might have protested, the associate members were only too keen to take the field.

Kenya won the toss and put Netherlands in to bat. Play opened only 25 minutes late, for the full 20 overs, in sunshine and in front of a crowd approaching 100 in number.

Netherlands made a steady start, with Darron Reekers the more attacking of the openers, until, with 13 off Peter Ongondo's first over, they reached 49 off the sixth over. Then left-arm spinner Hiren Varaiya came on and immediately had Reekers stumped for 29 off 26 balls.

Eric Szwarczynski, South African by birth, was his opening partner, beginning slowly but then making 28 off 25 balls before driving a simple return catch to Varaiya. ten Doeschate and Daan van Bunge pushed on the score with some hectic running, and Kenya missed a stumping and at least one run-out opportunity. After 10 overs they were a promising 80 for 2. Varaiya finished four overs with 2 for 24, but the off-spinner Jimmy Kamande travelled for 11 off four