



Andrey Silnov of Russia clears 2.34 metres to win the men's high jump gold of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games at the 'Bird's Nest' National Stadium yesterday.

ITF under-14 meet starts

SPORTS REPORTER

The Prime Bank ITF under-14 tennis tournament began yesterday at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna.

Some forty-five participants including 13 girls from India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Thailand, Saudi Arabia and host Bangladesh are taking part in the competition.

The tournament is being held on four events -- boys' singles, boys' doubles, girls' singles and girls' doubles.

Chief Advisor's Special Assistant for Youth and Sports Mahbub Jamil inaugurated the six-day tournament as chief guest in the morning. Chairman of the meet's sponsor Prime Bank Limited Azam J Chowdhury was present as special guest on the occasion.

Federation president AMM Nasir Uddin, general secretary Mohammad Sanau Haque, tournament director Mohammad Samiur Razzak and Prime Bank Limited managing director Mahbubul Alam were also present.

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Overall Medal

	G	S	B
GER	11	8	9
RUS	10	14	18
KOR	8	10	6
JPN	8	6	8
ITA	6	6	7
UKR	5	4	8
FRA	4	11	14
NED	4	5	4
ROM	4	1	3
ESP	3	4	2
POL	3	4	1
SVK	3	1	0
CAN	2	6	5
KEN	2	3	2
CZE	2	3	0
JAM	2	3	0
NZL	2	1	4
DEN	2	1	3
PRK	2	1	3
ETH	2	1	0
SUI	2	0	3
GEO	2	0	1
CUB	1	5	5
BLR	1	3	7
KAZ	1	3	4
ZIM	1	3	0
AZE	1	2	2
NOR	1	2	2
SLO	1	2	2
INA	1	1	3
BUL	1	1	2
FIN	1	1	1
EST	1	1	0
MGL	1	1	0
BRA	1	0	5
ARG	1	0	1
CMR	1	0	0
IND	1	0	0
PAN	1	0	0
THA	1	0	0
TUN	1	0	0
HUN	0	4	1
SWE	0	3	0
TUR	0	2	1
UZB	0	1	3
AUT	0	1	2
GRE	0	1	2
LTU	0	1	2
ALG	0	1	1
COL	0	1	1
CRO	0	1	1
KGZ	0	1	1
SRB	0	1	1
CHI	0	1	0
ECU	0	1	0
MAS	0	1	0
POR	0	1	0
RSA	0	1	0
SIN	0	1	0
TRI	0	1	0
VIE	0	1	0
ARM	0	0	5
TPE	0	0	2
Egypt	0	0	1
IRI	0	0	1
LAT	0	0	1
MAR	0	0	1
MEX	0	0	1
TKJ	0	0	1
TOG	0	0	1

Friendly tests for big guns

Football

AFP, Paris

Less than two months after Spain were crowned as the best team in Europe, the continent's big guns take to the stage anew Wednesday for friendly tests as they finalise preparations for their 2010 World Cup qualifying campaign.

The Spaniards, under new coach Vicente del Bosque, who has succeeded Luis Aragones, head for Copenhagen to face Denmark after ending a trophy drought stretching back to 1964.

In due course, the 'furia roja' will take on Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Estonia and Turkey for the right to contest the World Cup in South Africa but first they and their neighbours have the chance to try out some new formations.

The Stuttgart trio of Mario Gomez, Thomas Hitzlsperger and Serdar Tasci are on coach Joachim Low's list along with the Borussia Moenchengladbach player Marko Marin. Heike Westerman (Schalke 04) has also been called up in defence.

Memories of Basel could come back to haunt the Dutch, who have a reprise of their Euro quarterfinal clash against Guus Hiddink's Russia.

New Holland coach Bert Van Marwijk was no doubt hoping the 'Oranje' would do better than in their 3-1 defeat last June, when he named a 19-man squad for the encounter at Moscow's Lokomotiv Stadium.

The list includes Mark van Bommel (Bayern Munich), who is

by Philippe Mexes and newcomers Rod Fanni of Rennes and Yoann Gourcuff of Bordeaux.

England, having missed out on Euro 2008, host the Czech Republic at Wembley on Wednesday with coach Fabio Capello unable to field Michael Carrick, injured last weekend on duty for Manchester United.

Capello has named Tottenham's Jermaine Jenas as a midfield replacement.

The Italian left Portsmouth striker Peter Crouch off his list with 30-year-old Emile Heskey of Wigan included instead.

In Germany, the innovation will be in goal where Robert Enke of Hanover takes over after Jens Lehmann's retirement.

Skipped Michael Ballack of Chelsea will miss the friendly at Nuremberg against Belgium because of injury.

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The list includes Mark van Bommel (Bayern Munich), who is

coach Van Marwijk's son-in-law and who has been named captain.

Also featuring are Liverpool striker Dirk Kuyt, Andre Ooijer (Blackburn Rovers), Robin van Persie (Arsenal), Arjen Robben (Real Madrid), and Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (Celtic).

Van Marwijk plans to stick with the approach including a lone strike up front favoured by his predecessor Marco Van Basten.

"The playing style is the best fit for the qualities of the players," he told uefa.com.

Neither defender Khalid Boularouz (Stuttgart) nor midfielder Orlando Engelaar (Schalke) is available, following recent injuries.

Hiddink warned it would be a serious clash as he bids to derail his compatriots once again.

This will not be just another friendly for our team because the Dutch will be eager to settle the score, so we will have to be ready," Hiddink told Moscow media on Monday.

Hiddink is including one newcomer, uncapped Spartak Moscow striker Nikita Bazhenov, for the match.

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SELECTED FIXTURES

(all times GMT)

England v Czech Republic (at London, 2000), Denmark v Spain (at Copenhagen, 1915), Germany v Belgium (at Nuremberg, 2000), Romania v Latvia (at Bucharest, 1845), Belarus v Argentina (at Minsk, 1800), Austria v Italy (at Nice, 1945), Switzerland v Cyprus (at Geneva, 1845), Turkey v Chile (at Izmit, 1900), Russia v Netherlands (at Moscow, 1815)

Lolo falls in final hurdle

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with a serious foot injury leaving the title at the mercy of Cuba's world record holder Dayron Robles.

The 21-year-old did not disappoint in his second round heat, producing a sublime display to easily win and progress to the semifinals.

There was some solace for the home fans as Liu's training partner Shi Dongpeng qualified as well.

Robles, who is bidding to emulate compatriot Aner Garcia's win in the 2000 Games, said he was sorry he would not have the chance to race against Liu.

The first gold of the evening had already been decided as Russian high jumper Andrey Silnov won with a jump of 2.34 metres.

Bolt enjoyed a cat and mouse duel with defending champion Shawn Crawford down the home straight before cantering over the line in 20.9 - the fastest time of the semis.

Jamaica's women had set the

tone earlier as they seek to sweep the Americans in the 200m as they did in the 100m on Sunday.

The Americans are smarting after being swept aside for all three medals in the 100m women's race.

All six sprinters from the two countries moved to within a race of having another showdown, with Jamaica's defending 200m champion Veronica Campbell and the joint 100m silver medallists in Beijing, Kerron Stewart and Sherone Simpson progressing - the latter with the fastest time of the second round.

The American trio led by 2004 silver medallist Allyson Felix also easily reached the semifinals, though, neither she nor Marshevet Hooker or Munia Lee won their respective heats.

Neither the Americans nor the Jamaicans will threaten to win the women's 500m but it should prove to be a fascinating duel between Ethiopian duo defending champion Meseret Defar and

Uruguayan referee Martin Vazquez was kept busy issuing a total of seven yellow cards -- four to Brazil and three for Argentina.

Sehwag out

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yesterday and he is still in the hospital," Dhoni said during the post-match press conference.

"That's the way it goes in cricket. You can't really think about the guys you are missing. Instead, you must fill that space. That's the only way the team can win."

Schwan was the top scorer in the recent three-Test series against the hosts as he made 344 runs, including an unbeaten 201 in his team's victory in the second match in Galle. India eventually lost the series 2-1.

He has made 5,810 runs in 191 one-day internationals with nine hundreds and 29 half-centuries.



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Premier h'ball from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The 14th Cate Premier Division Handball League begins today at the Outer Stadium handball ground with two matches billed for the opening day.

Narinda Progati Boys Club, Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club, Old Ideals, Victoria SC, Surjodaya KC, Menjis KC and Bratirho Samaj Kallayan Sangha are taking part in the tournament.

Last time runners-up Narinda will play against newcomers Bratirho SKS in the opening match at 3:30pm while Mariners face promoted side Menjis in the other opening day fixture.

Defending champions BDR are not allowed to play in the premier league as they have already participated in a separate league for the services team.

Sponsors Mousumi Industries will provide the entire expenditure of the league amounting to Tk 2.37 lakh.

Adebayor signs new deal

AFP, London

Arsenal striker Emmanuel Adebayor has signed a new improved deal with the club tying him to the Gunners until 2012, according to an official statement Monday.

Togo international Adebayor scored 30 goals last season but was persistently linked with AC Milan and Barcelona during the summer.

However, a statement on the club's official website, www.arsenal.com, revealed that "Arsenal can today confirm that Togoese forward Emmanuel Adebayor has signed a new long-term contract with the club."

"Everyone at Arsenal looks forward to Emmanuel's continued contribution to the club over the coming years."

The 24-year-old Adebayor, whom Arsenal signed from Monaco in January 2006, said on the eve of the new season he would be staying put after agreeing terms on a new improved deal worth a reported 80,000 pounds (155,000 dollars) a week.

In pre-season friendly action some Arsenal fans barracked Adebayor amid the uncertainty over his future.

But coach Arsene Wenger expects him now to receive their full backing.

"We have to get behind him and support him because he is a tremendous force and (he is) of tremendous importance for the team - you want your own fans to be behind him."