

Biplob into quarters

UNB, Dhaka

Biplob Ram of Bangladesh reached the boys' singles quarterfinal of the Prime Bank ITF under-14 Asian Tennis Championship beating his Indian rival Deka Sidhant 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 on the second day at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Except Biplob, all local players made early exits from the meet.

In the day's other matches, Merzuki Mohd Asri of Malaysia beat Raisul Islam by 6-2, 6-1. Soon Hyun Hwang of South Korea beat Hasibul Haque 6-2, 6-2. Naruka Digvijay Singh of India beat Rustam Ali 6-2, 6-1 and Korean Gwang Eun Byun beat Duzbionjit Singh of Malaysia 6-4, 7-5.

Malaysia's Abdul Razak Ahmed Deeda beat Sanjib Fernando 6-0, 6-2. Jordan Joshua beat Bhuiyan Jamil 6-3, 6-2 and Hi Hoon Son of Korea beat Vishal Passi of India 7-6 (2), 7-5.

In the girls' singles, Indian Amrita Mukherjee, Koreans Jung So Hee, Choi Ji Hee and Num Yeon Jun won their respective matches.

Lee to skip

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and provide a wonderful opportunity for Brett Geaves to join the Australian group for the first time," Brown said.

"We look forward to Brett Lee rejoining the group as soon as possible."

Australia is already without captain Ricky Ponting for the series, while he recovers from wrist surgery.

Opener Matthew Hayden has been named for the series, despite lingering concerns over an achilles injury.

Bangladesh lost their first warm-up one-day match of the tour earlier this week, but bounced back to beat an Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) side in Darwin on Wednesday by three wickets.

The AIS side made 284-8 and Bangladesh reached the target in the 45th over.

Vijender makes

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Kumar comes from India's 'Village of Boxes' -- Kalwasi in the northern state of Haryana.

His father, who worked overtime on the buses to pay for his career, and his mother went on a special Hindu pilgrimage to the Ganges river before the Olympics.

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Overall Medal

	16	17	18
Australia	11	12	13
Germany	11	8	9
South Korea	8	10	6
Japan	8	6	9
Italy	6	7	7
Ukraine	5	5	8
France	4	12	14
Netherlands	4	5	4
Jamaica	4	3	0
Romania	4	1	3
Spain	3	5	2
Poland	3	4	1
New Zealand	3	1	5
Slovakia	3	1	0
Canada	2	6	5
Kenya	2	4	2
Belarus	2	3	8
Czech Rep	2	3	0
Denmark	2	1	3
North Korea	2	1	0
Ethiopia	2	1	0
Switzerland	2	0	3
Georgia	2	0	2
Cuba	1	6	6
Kazakhstan	1	3	4
Zimbabwe	1	3	0
Azerbaijan	1	2	2
Norway	1	2	2
Slovenia	1	2	2
Turkey	1	2	1
Bulgaria	1	1	3
Indonesia	1	1	3
Finland	1	1	1
Estonia	1	1	0
Mongolia	1	1	0
Thailand	1	1	0
Brazil	1	0	5
Argentina	1	0	1
India	1	0	1
Mexico	1	0	1
Bahrain	1	0	0
Cameroon	1	0	0
Panama	1	0	0
Tunisia	1	0	0
Hungary	0	4	1
Sweden	0	3	0
Uzbekistan	0	2	3
Austria	0	1	2
Greece	0	1	2
Lithuania	0	1	2
Algeria	0	1	1
Colombia	0	1	1
Croatia	0	1	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1
Serbia	0	1	1
Dutch Antilles	0	1	0
Chile	0	1	0
Dominican Rep.	0	1	0
Ecuador	0	1	0
Malaysia	0	1	0
Portugal	0	1	0
South Africa	0	1	0
Singapore	0	1	0
Trinidad & Tobago	0	1	0
Vietnam	0	1	0
Armenia	0	0	5
Taiwan	0	0	3
Afghanistan	0	0	1
Egypt	0	0	1
Iran	0	0	1
Israel	0	0	1
Latvia	0	0	1
Morocco	0	0	1
Tajikistan	0	0	1
Togo	0	0	1
Venezuela	0	0	1



India paceman Zaheer Khan appeals successfully for a caught-behind decision against Sri Lanka's Chamara Kapugedera during his devastating opening spell in the second one-day international at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium on Wednesday.

India pay Lanka back

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Badrinath batted really well and their partnership took the game away from us," said Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene.

Sri Lanka were earlier in danger of falling to their lowest-ever total of 96 against India when they were reduced to 44-6, but Thushara (44) and Kulasekara (25) rallied their side with a defiant 74-run stand.

The Indian skipper's decision to put the hosts in to bat after winning the toss produced instant results as Zaheer bowled Kumar Sangakkara with his sixth delivery which moved in sharply to hit the off-stump.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between India and Sri Lanka at the Dambulla International Stadium on Wednesday:

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya lbw b Zaheer	13
Sangakkara b Zaheer	2

Jayawardene c Yuvraj b Zaheer	2
Kapugedera c Dhoni b Zaheer	0
Silva c Kohli b Kumar	0
Dilshan c Badrinath b Pathan	16
Kulasekara c Badrinath b Kumar	25
Thushara c Kohli b Kumar	44
Mendis c and b Harbhajan	0
Fernando c Kohli b Harbhajan	12
Muralidaran not out	11
Extras: (lb-6, w-11)	17
Total: (All out in 38.3 overs)	142
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-10, 3-10, 4-11, 5-33, 6-44, 7-118, 8-118, 9-122, 10-142	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kumar	10	2	34	3
Zaheer	9.5	3	21	4
Patel	6	1	24	0
Pathan	5	0	21	1
Harbhajan	5.4	0	26	2
Yuvraj	2	0	10	0

INDIA

Pathan c Sangakkara b Kulasekara	5
Kohli c Kapugedera b Thushara	37
Raina lbw b Kulasekara	1
Yuvraj lbw b Mendis	20

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kulasekara	9	2	26	2
Thushara	7	1	32	2
Mendis	10	1	22	2
Fernando	5	0	25	1
Muralidaran	8.4	0	31	0

Man-of-the-match: Zaheer Khan.

Result: India won by three wickets.

Umpires: Billy Doctrove (WIS) and Ganihi Silva (SRI)

TV umpire: Tyron Wijewardene (SRI)

Match referee: Chris Broad (ENG)

Third one-dayer: Colombo (Sunday)

Maradona to be a grandfather

AFP, Beijing

Diego Maradona is about to become a grandfather, with Atletico Madrid forward Sergio Aguero revealing the Argentine football legend's daughter Gianinna is expecting a baby.

Aguero, who scored two goals to help Argentina inflict a humiliating defeat on arch-rivals Brazil in the Olympic semifinals on Tuesday, is the father.

The rumour mill has been working overtime in Argentina and Aguero demonstrated to the crowd that Gianinna was pregnant by sucking his thumb after netting his first goal.

"Yes, it was a dummy, you all saw it. It was for the baby that is coming," he said.

Another volt

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will be, and then I will be ready to kiss my record goodbye."

That smooch came earlier than he expected even as more Jamaicans showed top form.

Reigning world champion Allyson Felix of the United States and defending Olympic champion Veronica Campbell-Brown of Jamaica led trios of women from each of their nation's into Thursday's 200m finals from semi-final heats.

The grudge match began when Jamaicans swept the women's 100m medals with three Americans adrift.

Campbell-Brown won her semifinal heat in 22.19 seconds with compatriot Kerron Stewart second in 22.29 and American Muna Lee third in 22.29.

BKSP hold

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Two minutes later, Matiur Munna picked up Tapu with a right-side cross but the latter volleyed the ball over.

BKSP who once against relied on quick counter attacks, threatened to score after 20 minutes when Sabju, making most of a defence lapse, got through Brothers' three-man central defence. But Zia rushed out of his line to slow the pace of the shot with his palm, allowing Ariful to clear the danger.

Six minutes later, Tapu's header on a corner by Shakil went agonisingly close of the near post.

BKSP created better chances in the second half but substitute Sabbir shot just wide from 20 yards ten minutes after resumption.

Pranab then curled a freekick from the right but Zia was alert enough to tip it over. The resulting corner provided Pranab another shot -- very powerful -- at goal but Zia kept the ball out of his area.

Brothers, who made all three changes, came close to snatch a late winner but Abdullah Parek's long-range effort missed the mark in the 72nd minute.

BFF hands over

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promise and hope that this money will help the clubs a lot," said Salam.

BFF vice-presidents Badal Roy, Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir, members Harnur Rashid, Fazlur Rahman Babul and Golam Rabbani Helal and others were present.

Former general secretary Harunur Rashid said that the BFF is also ready to help the clubs getting sponsors. "If the clubs want us to help them in this regard, we will do as best we can."

Badal Roy invited the other clubs to follow Mohammedan's example of organising 'fun matches' in different areas of the city in a bid to build crowd awareness.



BKSP goalkeeper Mustaq dives to cut a cross toward Brothers Union striker Farhad (L) during their Citycell Federation Cup match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Media predict Dunga axe

AFP, Beijing

Dunga is confident he will keep his high-pressure job as Brazil's national coach after a galling blow to the football-mad country's psyche from a 3-0 Olympic drubbing by rivals Argentina.

Pressure is ratcheting up on Dunga as Brazil leave the Olympics again without a gold medal and the prospect that Argentina will clinch back-to-back titles in Saturday's final against Nigeria.

Dunga came to Beijing already under fire over the five-time World Cup champions' struggling start to South American qualifying for the 2010 World Cup, lying in fifth spot one-third of the way through the play-offs where the top four go to South Africa.

Brazil next face a testing away match against fourth-placed Chile

in Santiago on September 7 where a loss could spell the end of Dunga's two-year tenure in one of world football's most demanding jobs.

But the 44-year-old former midfielder, who was captain when Brazil won the 1994 World Cup in the United States and also wore the armband four years later when they finished runners-up to France, remains calm amid the maelstrom.

"We are going to carry on with the same work I've been doing since my arrival," said Dunga, who doubles up as Brazil's Olympic under-23 team coach.

"Of course, the pressure and the questions will increase but I have enough confidence in what I am doing to carry on with the job."

Brazilian media are predicting that Dunga could eventually suffer the same fate as Wanderley Luxemburgo, who was axed as coach after his Olympic team lost in the quarterfinals in Sydney eight years ago.

"It's at this sort of moment that we see how people react," Dunga said.

"This defeat increases the pressure on our work. It is a delicate time, but we have to keep working hard and stand by our convictions."

"In the final of the Copa America we beat Argentina 3-0, and now it was our turn to lose," Dunga added.

Brazil, a two-time Olympic silver medalist, will try to get something out of the wreckage when they play Belgium in the bronze medal match in Shanghai on Friday.

Brazil's pragmatic playing style under Dunga has been criticised with the country's aficionados obsessive about 'Jogo bonito' -- play beautiful -- but Dunga insists he will not change his results-oriented approach.

"We have to play against everything, we have to play to win, there's no other way," he said.

"If the opposition play open football against Brazil, then we can play open and pretty football."

Live your dream

AFP, Beijing

South Africa's Natalie du Toit says she wants to inspire others to realise their dreams after fulfilling her ambition to compete at the Olympic Games despite having her leg amputated seven years ago.

The 24-year-old finished 16th in the women's 10 kilometre marathon swim here on Wednesday, prompting gold medal winner Larisa Ilchenko, from Russia, to insist du Toit deserved a medal just for competing.

Having lost her lower left leg in a motor accident on the way to training in her home city of Cape Town, the South African, who won six medals in the Athens pool at the 2004 Paralympics, said it had been emotional to be an Olympian.

"I have had this dream since I was six years old," said du Toit.

"I think for me to come to an Olympic Games is a dream come true, my message isn't just to disabled people, but to everyone out there -- you have to work hard to make your dreams reality."

"I have been through a lot of ups and downs, I missed my place at the Commonwealth Games in 1998, then I just missed out on the Sydney Olympics and that was before I had my accident in 2001."

"It's about using the negatives in a positive light."

"You have to keep your dreams and never give them up."

The South African, who uses a prosthetic leg to walk, admitted she shed a tear before her race, but was far from happy with her performance.

"I was a bit disappointed with my first Olympic race, placing sixteenth is not that bad, but I wanted to come in the top five," she said.

"I beat myself up a bit, I couldn't have done anything differently and I struggled to get out of the water, because I had swim so hard."

"It was a bit rough in the pack, there was a bit of dunking going on, it's always dangerous, but you just have to make sure you don't panic."

Having competed in the long-distance race here against able-bodied athletes, du Toit will now focus on the Beijing Paralympics which start on September 7.

She will compete in the 100m butterfly, 100m backstroke, 200m individual medley as well as the 50m, 100m and 400m freestyle events.

"I have got two weeks to prepare for that and I will celebrate tonight with some junk food, maybe an ice cream," she said.

"I had a few people who told me after the accident that this wouldn't be possible, but I was fortunate enough to get back to swimming."

"When I am in the water, it is one of the few times I forget about the leg and I am completely free -- that is who I am."

And du Toit says no quarter is given by her rivals in the water and she wouldn't have it any other way.

"Whatever the competition, able-bodied or not, nobody is going to hold back," she said.

"I don't look at other amputees and think 'her leg is off higher than mine, so I'll swim slower'. You train hard and give it everything."

Her fellow competitors said they were humbled by du Toit.

"The respect I have for her is phenomenal," said women's 10km marathon swim silver medalist Kerri-Anne Payne.

"I find it hard swimming this event and I am able-bodied."

"She is incredibly strong and she is an amazing role model."

And Britain's Cassandra Patten summed up du Toit's spirit when she said: "It just shows what you can do if you put your mind to it."



DETERMINATION PERSONIFIED: South Africa's Natalie du Toit has her prosthetic limb removed before the women's 10km swimming competition in the Beijing 2008 Olympics at the Shunyi Rowing and Canoeing Park in Beijing yesterday. She finished 16th in the event.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Desertlike
- Mid-March date
- Frat-party need
- Humdinger
- Small salamander
- Aye opponent
- Quasi-modern place
- Blunder
- Big Apple sch.
- Not merely plump
- Square dance group
- In the Valley of --
- Shopping center
- Hotel staffers
- Garshwin
- Geometry finds
- Legislation
- Think outside the bun restaurant

DOWN

- Priestly expletive
- Garment
- Regret singer
- Sick Irene
- Pleasing, as tones
- Part of the loop
- Like the morning lawn
- Ram's male
- Amble
- Open spaces
- Soaks up
- Princess
- Band of baseball
- Weeps loudly
- Scratches (out)
- Boy king of Egypt
- Scrooge's expletive
- Leave out
- "Fame" singer
- Mouse part
- Airline of Israel
- Author Harle
- Silvery one
- Margarine servings
- Vacillate
- Soaks up
- Lubricant
- Shortcoming
- Shape shifter?
- Nerd-pack contents
- Met melody
- Ignore
- A very long time
- Worldwide workers' org.
- "A mouse!"
- False story
- Opener at Vegas?

Solution time: 21 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP

MNJW CDGJPDYA CFAC "VNEC

IJWOEU IDEWV EC GTON VDD

CNFKI, " MDTUY VNFV PJ

F IDEWVJY OKEVEOECG?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COALITION FORMED BY A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO HAD BECOME WEARY OF LEARNING: BORED OF EDUCATION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals O

