

Newscasters can't wait for the action to start in Beijing

By Y.P. SIVAM

RAYMOND GOH is looking forward to his third Olympics. No, the popular newsreader is not going to flex his muscles and sweat for glory in the Beijing Olympics.

Goh, described by Malaysia Tatler as 'the man with the golden voice', will be one of the seven presenters delivering Olympic updates on Astro's 11 interactive channels (816-826).



All set: (From left): Goh, Ben, Chay and Selina getting ready for the big challenge.

"This is my third Olympics and I am looking forward to delivering the goods. Naturally, I am excited as it comes only once in four years," said Goh.

The other presenters on duty from tomorrow are Chay Ming Winstanley, Ben Ibrahim, **Melvin Rudy Aeria**, Selina Abdul Aziz, Zainal Abas and Cleo Tay.

Tay will be in Beijing and will be the presenter for the TVB (Hong Kong) Olympic channel in Cantonese. Astro has leverage on its partnership with TVB (Hong Kong) to co-produce live telecast of the Beijing Olympics in Cantonese for the benefit of Astro Dynasty viewers.

The other six will be based at the Astro headquarters and take turns to present the 24 hours coverage on the Astro Supersport in English.

Goh, who had previously been a part of the 2000 Sydney and 2004 Athens Olympics, said the assignment promises to be a challenge.



Tay: Will be in Beijing for three weeks.

"We are on the same time zone compared to the previous Olympics in Sydney and Athens. As such we hope to have the best and widest coverage of the Olympics.

"I will be very much attached to weightlifting. As a youngster, I was into weightlifting but gave up later," said Goh.

If Goh is a veteran of two Olympics, Ben, Chay and Selina will only be making their debut.

The lanky Chay, an ardent basketball and athletics fan, said he had already done a lot of homework to prepare himself for the Olympics.

"We have received the timetable for the Olympic programme. Personally I have gone into the Net to get more information on the participants as well as previous results.

"All these details are certainly going to help us in providing valuable information to the viewers," said Chay.

Ben, who had the distinction of chatting with Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Pete Sampras and Richard Gasquet when they were in Malaysia last year, is a rowing fan.

Selina is a sports fan and hosted the Nokia Defend Your Turf (Boys from Brazil) futsal grand finals in ESPN.

"I am just as excited as the others. I love sports and follow the latest in football, tennis, taekwondo and athletics," said Selina.

The ever-smiling Tay left for Beijing on Monday. She will be there for about three weeks.

"I have the privilege of watching the Malaysian athletes in action. My priority is update the home viewers on the Malaysian athletes' progress in the Games," said Tay.

Tay has already got acquainted with the Malaysian athletes during their training sessions.

"I had the chance to get to know them better and it will help me in my job in Beijing," said Tay.

Goh said they have to be on their toes for any eventuality during the live telecast of the Games.

“Our responsibilities are before the event. We provide important information as run-up to a particular event. Then the commentators take over. But we have to be prepared to take over the commentators role if there are any shortcomings during the live telecast from Beijing.

“It happened when I was on duty for the Athens Olympics. There was footage but no sound. We have to come out with some explanations to keep the viewers connected to us,” said Goh.

Astro is the sponsor of the Malaysian Olympic contingent. The live coverage will be on Channels 816 to 826 as well as in Cantonese (318).

There will also be news updates, latest Olympic sports statistics and interactive applications on channel 826.
