

Gay opts out of 200m

AFP, Berlin

Defending champion Tyson Gay of the United States has pulled out of the men's 200m at the world athletics championships here because of a nagging groin injury.

Gay will instead focus on preparing for a possible appearance in the US 4x100m relay, the US team said in a statement.

Gay's efforts in Sunday's 100m final, when he won silver in an American record of 9.71sec behind Usain Bolt's world record of 9.58, took enough of a toll on Gay that he decided "resting would better serve the interests of Team USA and himself", it said.

"Rather than risk further injury, I've decided that I will not compete in tomorrow's (Tuesday) first round of the 200m," Gay said Monday.

"I would like to be a part of Team USA's 4x100m and believe this decision will give me the best chance to be ready for the relay. I want to help our relay as best I can."

The US team will name its first-round relay line-up after the men's 200m final on Thursday. The first round of the relay is on Friday, with the final on Saturday.

Super League

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"I personally believe only in sporting merit, so if one league is created there has to be promotion up and down. But that would be, practically, very difficult to resolve."

"I do not want to kill the national leagues so each team should have to play in the national league and in Europe."

"That means the Euro league taking place in mid-week and the national league over the weekend. All this would mean having two teams, basically."

Wenger went on to warn Celtic that his side, who kicked off their season with a stunning 6-1 win over Everton, have the potential to do even better.

"We go into the game maybe a little bit lifted and with belief and confidence because we had a good result away from home at a difficult place," he said.

"But you can't come to any conclusions after one game. There is room for improvement in every aspect of the game on Saturday, offensively and defensively."

"With every opportunity we created we scored in that game and that shows that the team is highly focussed. But our targets have not been reached yet."

"I want to do what is right for the team and the club and to help this team achieve success. I believe we have the potential to do it, but I am long enough in the job to know that one game is only one game."

BCB expects

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of the domestic leagues and tournaments, but the fact is that the commercial and marketing hardly got any sponsor for the domestic tournaments or leagues.

The 9th meeting of the board of directors approved the 2009-2010 domestic calendar that will see the National Cricket League in the changed format as well as less matches than in the last year's 30 matches.

The amount in administration has been increased to Tk 18.73 crore, Tk 13.73 crore more than last year's Tk 5.73 crore.

"The coaches' salaries of different committee and the expenditure of sports gears have brought under the administration that's why it has increased this fiscal," said BCB acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury.

C'Ron to rival

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"They want to be seen as young, good looking, funky, successful brands so therefore they want to have young, good looking, funky, successful icons promoting their name," said veteran football agent Jon Holmes, who managed former England international striker Gary Lineker.

"He is a good looking guy and I would say his level of articulateness is about the same as Beckham's. I don't know about his intelligence or anything like that but he is not dissimilar in some ways," he told AFP.

"He is probably a better player than Beckham in that he is more versatile. Beckham is a workhorse of a player, Ronaldo seems to be a more natural player."



PHOTO AFP
Russian pole vault queen Yelena Isinbayeva reacts after missing her last attempt in the women's pole vault final of Athletics World Championships in Berlin on Monday.

Isinbayeva dethroned

AFP, Berlin



Russian pole vault queen Yelena Isinbayeva was dethroned in spectacular fashion on Monday after failing with all three attempts as arch-rival Anna Rogowska claimed gold at the world athletics championships.

Isinbayeva, the double Olympic champion and world record holder, was a shadow of her usual self in her bid to win a third consecutive world title as she failed at 4.75m and then twice at 4.80m to finish out of the medals.

The 27-year-old -- who set the world record of 5.05m at the Beijing Olympic Games on her way to the gold last year -- slumped with her head in her hands after her third failure, while her Polish conqueror failed to contain her joy.

"I have no proper explanation for what happened today," said the Russian.

"Everything was perfect, I was confident and I cleared 4.70m during the warm-up."

"When I was lying on the ground and concentrating, I imagined my victory and not defeat."

"Something like this happened nine years ago. I did not expect it."

"I hope I will recover from this."

Rogowska for her part could scarcely believe it either.

She said: "If somebody told me this morning (Monday) that I would win the gold medal, I would have just smiled."

"Everybody was so surprised when Isinbayeva hit the bar. I still do not believe I won. Maybe tomorrow I will realise it."

"Who would have believed Yelena would not get a medal? She is the only woman in the world to have jumped over five metres."

Icing tastes sweet

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when he scored a magnificent 154. He lasted for some time but never looked at ease. Tamim lost his stumps to the spin of Raymond Price after scoring only four runs playing 23 balls. Mohammad Ashraful also fell for four, he was unfortunate though as his powerfully struck shot was plucked superbly out of thin air at point by Vusi Sibanda off the bowling of Elton Chigumbura. Mushfiqur struck up good partnerships with Rokibul, Shakib and Mahmudullah to always have their noses in front in the game. Rokibul's painstaking knock of 24 came in twice as many deliveries.

Shakib played a cameo of 30 before perishing trying to go big over long-on. But Mushfiqur stayed there till the victory was almost confirmed. He struck 11 fours in his 121-ball knock.

Earlier, in the morning winning the toss, Zimbabwe captain might not have expected Bangladesh pacers to dominate proceedings on this batting paradise called Queens Park, specially with the knowledge that the Bangladesh pace attack has been severely decimated due to injury of key bowlers. So it came as a pleasant surprise for the spectators when the first hour of cricket saw an unknown seamer aptly named Dollar Mahmood making all the inroads to leave the Zimbabwean batting in tatters.

Dollar's third dismissal was a classic one, a superb inswinger pitched on the off-stump and darting back in to break through the defences of Waller and crash into the stumps. His fourth one was hard-hitter Chigumbura, who went forward to inswing delivery, came half-forward but couldn't negotiate and was struck plumb in front to be adjudged lbw. A hopeless situation at 69 for 6 was resurrected courtesy of two good partnerships involving lower-order batsmen Brendan Taylor, Prosper Utsey and Raymond Price who took Zimbabwe's total past 200 to have something for the bowlers to bowl at. Syed Rasel chipped in with three wickets for Bangladesh while the three part-time spinners shared one each. Shakib Al Hasan

overs. Bettering his one-day career wicket haul in this only his fifth game, much can be expected of this 20-year-old tall swing bowler in future.

The first wicket that he took was an unusual one, and he perhaps enjoyed it most. Sibanda, handed a second opportunity after his duck in the third ODI, couldn't justify the selectors' decision as he fell for only two this time leaving the team score on five.

Sibanda left his leg stump as he made a huge shuffle towards middle and the ball pitched on leg stump found no hurdle in rattling the timber.

Zimbabwe's hero of last game, Charles Coventry couldn't repeat his heroics this time as an outswinger from Dollar undid him.

Pitched outside off-stump, it moved away to kiss the outside edge and Mushfiqur Rahim behind the wicket took an acrobatic catch. The third one to fall was in-form batsman Hamilton Masakadza, who looked comfortable dealing with the bowling, had run to 25 but paid the price for poor running between the wickets.

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as a pleasant surprise for the spectators when the first hour of cricket saw an unknown seamer aptly named Dollar Mahmood making all the inroads to leave the Zimbabwean batting in tatters.

Dollar was adjudged man-of-the-match for his four-wicket burst with opener Tamim lifting the man-of-the-series award for his 300 runs in five games including two fifties and a hundred.

Dollar, who has only flown as a replacement for the injured Rubel Hossain, came in at the expense of Mahbubul Alam who had taken five wickets in the two games he played, albeit conceding a few runs. He grasped the opportunity with both hands to finish with figures of 28-4 from eight

wickets and clinched 5-match series 4-1.

Man-of-the-match: Dollar Mahmud.

Man-of-the-series: Tamim Iqbal.

overs. Remaining wicketless but was as miserly as ever conceding only 22 runs off his eight overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the fifth and final one-day international between Zimbabwe and Bangladesh at the Queens Sports Club on Tuesday:

ZIMBABWE

Sibanda b Mahmud 2

Masakadza run out 25

Coventry b Mahmud 0

Waller c Mahmud 10

Williams lbw b Rasel 12

Chigumbura lbw b Mahmud 12

Taylor lbw b Mehrab 61

Utsey b Mahmudullah 21

Price lbw b Rasel 46

Cremer st Mashfiqur b Nayem 10

Rainsford not out 1

Extras: (lb-6, w-3) 9

Total: (All out in 46.4 overs) 209

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-9, 3-43,

4-47, 5-65, 6-69, 7-123, 8-176,

9-203.

Bowler O M R W

Rasel 8.4 0 45 2

Mahmud 8 1 28 4

Shakib 8 2 22 0

Mehrab 7 0 43 1

Mahmudullah 10 0 40 1

Nayem 5 0 25 1

Tamim b Price 4

Mashfiqur st Coventry b Price 98

Ashraf c Sibanda b Chigumbura 4

Rokibul c Waller b Utsey 24

Shakib c Masakadza b Cremer 30

Mahmudullah not out 27

Nayem not out 4

Extras: (b-4, lb-1, w-16) 21

Total: (For 5 wkt in 47.5 overs) 212

Not out: Zunaed, Mehrab,

Mahmud, Rasel.

Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-48, 3-

99, 4-169, 5-199.

Bowler O M R W

Rainsford 8 1 39 0

Chigumbura 8 0 33 1

Price 10 2 21 2

Cremer 10 0 52 1

Utsey 7 0 37 1

Masakadza 1 0 10 0

Williams 3.5 0 15 0

Result: Bangladesh won by 5

wickets and clinched 5-match

series 4-1.

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SCORE