

# India bank on Bolt

AFP, New Delhi

India's bid to deliver a world-class Commonwealth Games next year will rest not on swanky stadiums, but on persuading stars like Usain Bolt to compete in New Delhi.

The four-yearly sporting festival of nations that comprised the erstwhile British Empire is regarded by many as a "Community Games" that lack the aura of the Olympics.

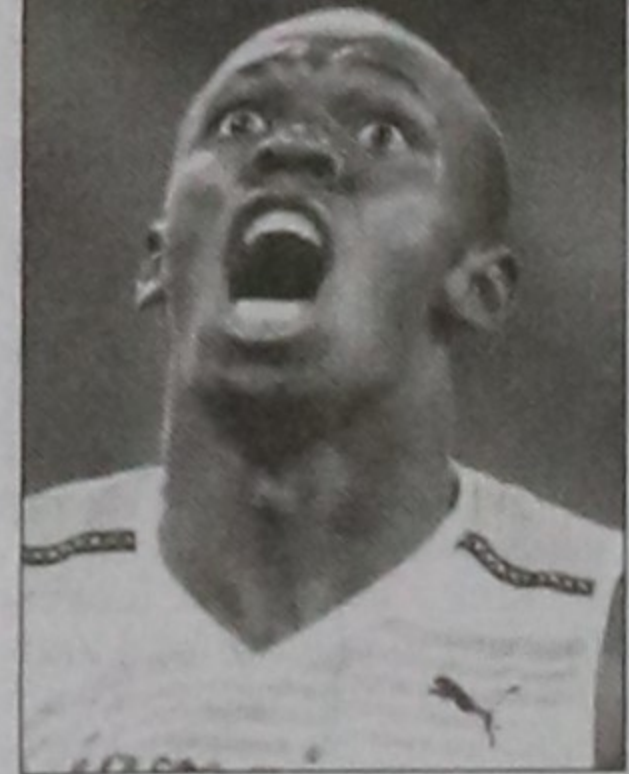
Indian officials realise they need Bolt to generate excitement in the cricket-crazy nation, and are even willing to tempt the Jamaican with big bucks to scorch the tracks at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

"We are looking for an Indian sponsor for Bolt," the chairman of the organising committee, Suresh Kalmadi, told a meeting with corporate honchos a year ahead of the October 3-14 Games.

"Any company in India would love to be associated with him. The organising committee is making an effort so that Indian industry gets global mileage."

Bolt, 23, who won the 100m and 200m double at both the Beijing Olympics and the world championships with world record timings, missed the previous Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006 due to injury.

The fastest man on the planet has not committed himself to racing in New Delhi, saying he will leave the decision to his coach Glen Mills.



USAIN BOLT

India can ill afford to let Bolt skip what, at 1.6 billion dollars, will be the most expensive Commonwealth Games ever, surpassing the 1.1 billion

dollars spent by Melbourne four years ago.

Eye brows have been raised in India at the cost of hosting a Games that many say have lost their stature.

"The Commonwealth Games are the most redundant and peculiar of sporting events," said Sharda Ugra, the sports editor of the respected news weekly India Today.

"In fact it seems like the only thing common to all participating countries is that Britain stole their wealth."

Bolt's Jamaican teammate Asafa Powell is uncertain about defending his 100m gold medal, and world heptathlon champion Jessica Ennis of Britain has hinted she may skip the Games in favour of the European championships that take place in Barcelona from July 26 to August 1 next year.

Kalmadi, a federal member of parliament who also heads the Indian Olympic Association, chided those who undermined the relevance of the Commonwealth Games and promised a world-class field.

However, the gap between the two events in terms of sporting excellence has only grown over the years.

Commonwealth athletes and teams won only 53 of the 302 gold medals on offer at the Beijing Olympics, with Britain - fielding a combined team from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland - taking home 19 of them.

Australia, which dominated the last Commonwealth Games in Melbourne with 84 gold medals, won just 14 titles in Beijing, half of them in swimming.

The next best Commonwealth performance at the Olympics was the six athletics golds by Jamaica, three of them by Bolt in the individual sprints and 4x100m relay.

When the 71 Commonwealth teams gather in New Delhi in a year's time, fans will hope the Games provide keen competition rather than just the chance to watch a sprinkling of stars in action.

"It will be great to see Bolt run in New Delhi, but for Bolt or the Australian swimmers to be at their best, we would need to have some serious competition," said Ugra.

"The Commonwealth Games are supposed to be a sporting contest, not a celebrity exhibition event."

## Duminy predicts Aus-Pak final

PTI, Johannesburg

His team out of the tournament after a 22-run defeat against England, South African middle order batsman JP Duminy has predicted that Pakistan would win ICC the Champions Trophy.

"With us now on our way to our respective homes, my tournament prediction for the final is: Australia vs Pakistan. They are looking like the form team of the tournament," he said.

Duminy said he was hugely disappointed at South Africa having failed to do well in the tournament at home.

"The disappointment levels are huge, especially coming so close on the back of the ICC World Twenty20 exit. I took that defeat very personally, but this one has really hit as a team. After all the hype of coming into the ICC Champions Trophy as the No. 1 team in the world, and then to end last in our group is hugely disappointing."

"We know we have let a lot of people down. The tournament is in our backyard and we really wanted to give the people of South Africa something to celebrate," he wrote in his column for 'Independent Online'.

## Pakistan

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four boundaries in his 88-ball knock.

Hussey fell in a bid to step up the run-rate, caught by Sachin Tendulkar at long-off Sharma in the 41st over after hitting five fours in his 65-ball knock.

India made two changes from the side that lost to Pakistan on Saturday, bringing in Mishra and seamer Praveen Kumar in place of Yusuf Pathan and Rudra Pratap Singh.

Australia retained the team that defeated the West Indies in the previous match.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Champions Trophy match between India and Australia in Centurion on Monday, which was abandoned because of heavy rain:

AUSTRALIA				
Watson b Harbhajan b Nehra	0			
Paine c Harbhajan b Mishra	56			
Ponting run out	65			
Hussey c Tendulkar b Sharma	67			
White not out	35			
Ferguson not out	2			
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-7)	9			
Total: (For four wickets in 42.3 overs)	234			
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-87, 3-175, 4-227				
Bowler O M R W				
Nehra	8	1	38	1
Kumar	8	0	34	0
Sharma	7.3	0	53	1
Mishra	9	0	45	1
Harbhajan	9	0	54	0
Raina	1	0	8	0

Result: Match abandoned due to rain.



## Did U Know?

In 1937, the US Volleyball Association - now USA Volleyball - was recognised as the sport's governing body. Ten years later, the International Volleyball Federation began.

## SA search answers

CRICINFO, undated



South Africa's "deeply disappointing" first-round exit from the Champions Trophy has left its board chief executive Gerald Majola seeking answers from the team's captain and coach. Majola confirmed that neither Graeme Smith's nor Mickey Arthur's jobs were in danger but has called for a meeting to find out the reason for another woe performance in a multi-team tournament.

"There are some hard questions to be answered," Majola said. "At no stage did the team look anything like a team who are the World No. 1 in both Tests and one-day internationals. They certainly were way off where they should be at this stage and I will be speaking to Mickey and the team management to find out what went wrong."

Arthur and Smith are not in line to be fired from their roles but Majola questioned the team's performance. "That (sacking them) is not going to happen but we definitely want answers," he said. "The team's performance in this tournament was just not good enough. I don't want to pick out individuals but there were problems with the bowling and the batting and the team's body language was not that of the world's best team."

Mike Procter, South Africa's chairman of selectors, has suggested that South Africa's composition was wrong. "The side looks so balanced on paper but in actual play maybe it's over-balanced," he said. "The guys had worked hard during the off-season and I was 100 per cent happy with their preparation. But it was extremely disappointing to go out the way we did."

With Majola set to inquire into the team's performance, Procter, Arthur and Smith have plenty to do with an eye on the 2011 World Cup. Procter has pinpointed the No. 6 position in the line-up as a focal point, mulling both Mark Boucher's and Albie Morkel's roles. He felt Boucher would be better used at No. 7 and that Morkel's credibility as a genuine all-rounder was in doubt.

"Maybe we could look at another batter at No. 6," he said. "That may mean dropping one of the spinners, and putting Boucher at No. 7, but both Roelof van der Merwe and Johan Botha have done a terrific job for us. It's a really difficult one. It can backfire on us, perhaps we are too overbalanced."

Morkel's 13 overs in the tournament cost 97 runs and he failed to pick up a wicket. "I think that Graeme still has confidence in Albie as a bowler but perhaps the question we need to ask is whether he is the all-rounder we need as the sixth bowler," said Procter. "There is JP Duminy who can also bowl. There is a sort of imbalance in the team at the moment."

Procter and the national selection panel will look at the options on the domestic circuit with England due to tour South Africa later this year. "Over the next few weeks all the selectors will be going to domestic matches," said Procter. "We'll chat to the coaches and see what is coming through. But we must keep in mind that the side performed well in the past 18 months, so it's a tough cookie."

"We've got to look at winning one of these ICC tournaments. We play well in between and get the No. 1 ranking, but we've got to justify that ranking by getting our hands on an ICC trophy."



Acting CEO of Bangladesh Cricket Board Nizam Uddin Chowdhury (R) shakes hands with Eldridge Mac Ewan III (L), general manager of the Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka during the agreement signing ceremony to mark the PPSD's becoming official hospitality partner of BCB at the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

## India Pak supporter!

FROM PAGE 17  
Regardless of the outcome today, Raja hopes for a resumption of the Pakistan-India bilateral series, which New Delhi called off after blaming Pakistan-based militants for the Mumbai attacks last November.

The attacks further strained tensions between the neighbours, and stalled a fragile four-year peace process between the South Asian foes.

"It is for the good of international cricket that Pakistan and India continue to play each other," said Raja.

India were due to play three Tests and five one-day matches in Pakistan this year.

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ijaz Butt said earlier this week that he was pushing for a revival of the India-Pakistan series, and said he had assurances from the International Cricket Council that it could be held on neutral ground.

The two countries, which gained independence from British rule and split in the 1947 partition, have fought three bitter territorial wars.

## India walking

FROM PAGE 17  
that we are not bowling that well," said Dhoni.

"But in the last game, I was happy with the performance. Of course, one or two bowlers will have an off-day, but overall it was much better compared to the first game."

INDIA (from): Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Suresh Raina, Virat Kohli, Yusuf Pathan, Harbhajan Singh, Praveen Kumar, Ishant Sharma, Ashish Nehra, Rudra Pratap Singh, Amit Mishra, Dinesh Karthik, Abhishek Nayar.

WEST INDIES (from): Floyd Reifer (captain), Darren Sammy, David Bernard, Tino Best, Royston Crandon, Travis Dowlin, Andre Fletcher, Nikita Miller, Kevin McLean, Kieran Powell, Dale Richards, Kemar Roach, Devon Smith, Gavin Tonge, Chadwick Walton.

Umpires: Simon Taufel (AUS) and Aleem Dar (PAK)

TV umpire: Daryl Harper (AUS)

Match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)

Match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)

Match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)

## Sonargaon BCB's hospitality partner

SPORTS REPORTER

Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka (PPSD) became the official hospitality partner of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) as they signed an agreement with the country's most affluent sports body yesterday.

The duration of the agreement will be valid till November 15, 2011, which will also cover the World Cup where Bangladesh is a co-host to arrange eight matches including two quarterfinals and the opening ceremony.

As per agreement the PPSD will provide a total of 660 free room-nights out of approximately required 6500 while for junior teams and age-group teams they will charge a special rate. There will be an additional 50 free room-nights for visiting foreign delegates of the BCB.

The two-year agreement details were disclosed at a press conference yesterday. The long form agreement will be signed within the next two months.

The PPSD will award an amount of 4,000 dollars as category sponsorship at the BCB Award Nights at the PPSD during the tenure of the agreement.

Free swimming pool and gym facilities will also be provided to the BCB and its teams during the tenure of the agreement and provide venue and food free of charge for 550 for two major events and apart from that they will also provide venue and food for five official functions of the BCB for 300 persons per function free of charge.

And for BCB media conferences, meetings, official functions venue will be free of charge and they will arrange the catering for the president's lounge at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur as per the board's requirement and also provide lunch-meal for teams.

The PPSD will use products of the official beverage supplier of BCB at all BCB events and BCB will give official hospitality partner status to them.

Aziz-Al Kaiser, chairman of BCB's marketing and commercial committee, BCB's acting CEO Nizam Uddin Chowdhury, Eldridge Mac Ewan III, general manager PPSD and Sammy Sasaki, director of marketing and special project of PPSD were present at the signing ceremony.

## B. League's

FROM PAGE 17  
how to make the October 2 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) congress a success and fixed the time to hold the draw for the sixth SAFF Championship as well as the congress.

The draw of eight teams will be held on October 3 at 3:30pm at the presence of celebrities and the congress will get underway at 7:00pm the same day at Hotel Sheraton. Jewel Rana, the winning captain of Bangladesh's 1999 SAFF Games and Rajani Kanta Barman, the winning captain of Bangladesh's 2003 SAFF Championship, will also be present at the draw event," informed Sadi.

The meeting also approved the names of officials of the Under-19 squad, who are scheduled to leave for Philippines early Thursday to take part in the AFC U-16 qualifiers.

It also approved the BFF Disciplinary Code and decided to defer the proposed National Football Championship in October by a few months.



Elena Dementieva of Russia hits a double-handed return against Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine during their second round match at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday.

## Maria survives massacre

### Tennis

AFP, Tokyo

Russian big-hitter Maria Sharapova Tuesday overwhelmed Samantha Stosur of Australia in a swift 6-0, 6-1 victory as other top players suffered early exits at the Pan Pacific Open.

Former world number one Sharapova fired seven aces and hit a first-serve percent-

age of 71, in addition to a barrage of sizzling shots that ended the match in 57 minutes at the Ariake Coliseum.

"So far, I feel like I have been serving really, really well," she said.

Sharapova, winner in 2005, said she has focused on serves as one of her practice priorities since her disappointing showing at the US Open earlier this month.

The 22-year-old is one of a few top-class players remain-

ing in this two-million-dollar event after a series of second-round upsets ousted top-ranking players.

The world number one Dinara Safina of Russia, number three Venus Williams of the United States and number four Elena Dementieva, also of Russia, were all ousted on Monday and Tuesday.

French Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova has also been eliminated.

"I think it just shows the competitiveness of women's tennis today, and how much everyone is improving," Sharapova said.

"You are seeing many three-setters. That's a real indication of the strength and depth of the game right now," she said.

Asked whether she felt pressure to take the tournament, Sharapova said her focus was just on her next match.

"I think it is just a matter of taking one match at a time, and really focusing on the task that's ahead, instead of thinking of too far ahead in the tournament," she said.

Sharapova returned to the top professional circuit in May after a nine-month injury layoff during which she underwent surgery on her right shoulder.

She said she hoped to end the season "on a good note and have a good off-season".

## The Rafa effect

### Tennis

INTERNET, undated

Rafael Nadal's stomach strain has put his season on lockdown for now, and his absence is having a similar effect on the men's tour.

Nadal will be out of action for a few weeks while he recovers from the abdominal issue he suffered before and during the U.S. Open.

Yet the ripple effect of his absence is having a serious impact on the remainder of the 2009 campaign. Multiple sources in Europe confirmed Nadal's layoff was a major factor behind Roger Federer's decision to skip two forthcoming events in Asia.

Furthermore, Federer is now expected to play only sparingly ahead of the World Tour finals in November. The

Swiss master still regards Nadal as his fiercest challenger, and doesn't want his rival to have an advantage of freshness over him heading into next year's Australian Open.

Federer already has received some criticism in Asia for his withdrawal, but it's hard to fault his logic. This approach means he still can have a clear lead as world No. 1 heading into 2010. He also will have plenty of gas in the tank as he tries to wrest away Nadal's Australian crown.

With their places at the Tour finals already assured, Andy Murray, Novak Djokovic and Juan Martin del Potro also are likely to pare down some of their tournament commitments over the next few weeks.

Players ranked from six through 12 still are slugging it out for Tour finals spots, but in reality, this season feels near completion.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		38 "Help!"	59 Scratch the surface	21 Sample of statuary
1 Make inquiries	40 Hawaiian garland			
4 Like old bread	41 Army vehicle			22 Diva's rendition
9 Tend the lawn	43 Not prone to bragging	DOWN	1 Intention	23 Bourbon recipe
12 Eisenhower	45 Eyepiece	2 Go schuss-ing	2 Go schuss-ing	27 Petrol
13 Apiary homes	47 — Baba	3 Barbie's cohort	3 Barbie's cohort	29 Brewery products
14 "— not choose to run"	48 Book— spine abbr.	4 1984 Cyndi Lauper hit	4 1984 Cyndi Lauper hit	30 Last writes?
15 Thanks-giving pie filling	49 Mesabi Range site	5 Break Rd.	5 Break Rd.	32 — over (faint)
17 Neither mate	54 Prior to pie filling	6 Rd.	6 Rd.	34 Bucharest's land
18 Lincoln	55 Cyber-mes-sages	7 Tether	7 Tether	37 Hole-making tool
19 Safe and sound	56 With it, once	8 Regard	8 Regard	39 Excluding all else
21 Panda's fodder	57 Knock debt	9 Tiny	9 Tiny	42 Beef rating
24 Towel marking	58 Settle a debt	10 Smell	10 Smell	44 Insult
25 Mentalist Geller		11 Had on	11 Had on	45 Finished
26 Boxer		16 "Cash —"	16 "Cash —"	46 Mrs. Julius Dithers
28 Chinese peninsula		20 Grouch	20 Grouch	50 Siesta
31 Go under				51 Resistance measure
33 Pitch				52 Afternoon social
35 Un-opened tulip				53 Spring mo.
36 Spud				

Solution time: 24 mins.

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## CRYPTOQUIP

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S R H N N Q R T J Q H V Q H D I  
R O J S B ' R Y X Q D D J X Q D J

Saturday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR BEATLES TUNE CONCERNING A WOMAN WHO PLAYS A BRITISH FORM OF FOOTBALL: "ELEANOR RUGBY."  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals T