

## Bolt sets 2010 target

AFP, Kingston

Usain Bolt, the 100-meter world record-holder from Jamaica, will run seven races next year in the new IAAF Diamond League, the sprint star's coach revealed on Thursday.

Glen Mills expects the treble Olympic and world sprint champion to return from a trip to Kenya next week to resume training in Jamaica and begin preparing for the 2010 season, which Mills said will look to the future.

"We are expecting Usain to start training when he returns from Kenya in the first week of November," Mills said.

"The Diamond League is our main project next year, in which he will have seven races between the 100m and the 200m.

"He is going to focus on the Diamond League because that is our number one priority and then we will see how the rest of the season develops and take it from there."

Bolt's management team said that it is not yet certain exactly which of the 14 Diamond League events Bolt will run. The nearest to Jamaica would be in New York, where Bolt first broke the world 100m record.

Bolt will use the 2010 campaign to prepare to defend his world titles in 2011, which is the stepping stone to defending his Olympic titles from Beijing in 2012 at London.

"What we do in 2010 is going to have a direct bearing on the future," Mills said.

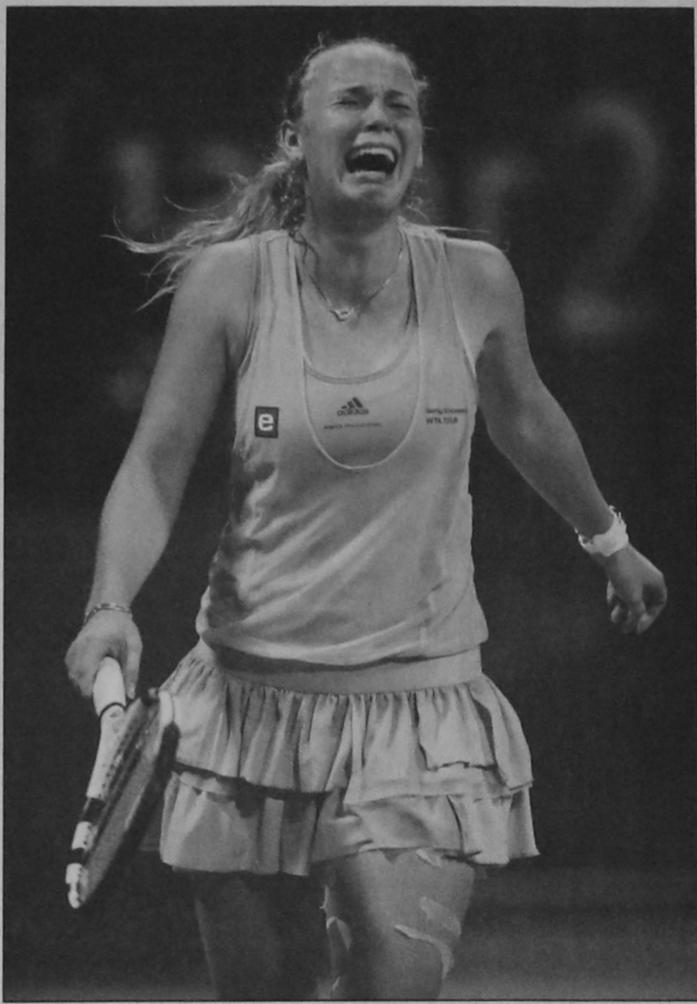


PHOTO: AFP

Danish teenager Caroline Wozniacki breaks into tears after winning her pain-stricken match against Vera Zvonareva of Russia in the WTA Championship in Doha on Thursday.

## Wozniacki defies pain

Tennis

AFP, Doha

Danish teenager Caroline Wozniacki wept and hobbled into WTA Championships folklore on Thursday, relegating Serena and Venus Williams to supporting roles.

World number nine Zvonareva, the runner-up in 2008 and who was summoned to replace the injured Dinara Safina on Wednesday, failed to take advantage of her opponent's plight.

Wozniacki had led by a set and 5-2 before wasting two match points in the 12th game of the second set.

The 25-year-old Zvonareva battled impressively, even overcoming a nasty court-side nosebleed in the second set.

Wozniacki led 3-1 in the decider, but was again pinned back to 3-3 before needing treatment on her bandaged thigh.

With the tie seemingly slipping away, she bravely broke again to lead 5-4 before claiming victory when Zvonareva netted a forehand.

Serena Williams, who made sure of claiming the year-end world number one spot when Safina withdrew through injury, cruised past Dementieva in the pair's sixth meeting of 2009.

"I haven't done really well traditionally at this tournament, especially the last couple of years," said Serena, who was beaten in the round-robin stage in 2008.

"I was kind of used to the elimination thing. But I was just trying to do better than I did last year really and compete in all my matches, which sometimes is very hard."

which muscle I was moving, I was cramping," said the blonde teenager who picked herself up to clinch a famous win.

"I wanted to reach the hands of someone. But I wasn't allowed to find my way up. I have absolutely no idea how I won."

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## 'Agassi confession a wake-up call'

Tennis

AFP, Los Angeles

Andre Agassi's admission he used a banned drug in 1997 should serve as a wake-up call to the ATP that they need to act now before they are shamed into it as a result of a scandal, says Dick Pound.

"It has got to the point where either these sports organizations enforce the rules or someone like congress is going to say 'we gave you a chance to manage your affairs properly and now we are going to take it over,'" said Pound, the former president of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Eight-time grand slam champion Agassi admitted in his autobiography, called Open, that he'd taken the highly-addictive drug crystal methamphetamine and then lied to the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) to escape a ban.

On being told he had tested positive for the banned stimulant, Agassi said he wrote a letter

## Lee blow

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expected to reach Delhi in time for the game as a replacement for Tim Paine, who broke his finger during the second ODI in Nagpur. "Graham (Manou) will arrive this afternoon. He has some international experience having played a few Test matches and also in Ashes," Ponting said.

While Australia have a replacement opener in Shaun Marsh to fill in for Paine, the absence of Lee is a major blow to a bowling attack that has struggled to contain the Indian batsman, especially during the final overs. In the first ODI in Vadodra, Harbhajan Singh and Praveen Kumar added 84 runs in 9.3 overs for the eighth wicket and, in Nagpur, India plundered 108 off the last ten overs to post 354, the highest total by any team batting first against Australia in an ODI.

Left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Johnson, who was also in doubt for the Nagpur ODI with an ankle strain, will play despite discomfort to bolster the attack in the remaining ODIs.

## Pak leave

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Younus Khan leads the one-day squad, while all-rounder Shahid Afridi will take over for the Twenty20 internationals.

After the UAE series, Pakistan will fly to New Zealand for three Tests. The series was also originally scheduled to be held in Pakistan but relocated after their rivals refused to tour owing to the security fears.

Younus will return to lead the Test squad.

## ONE-DAY SQUAD

Younus Khan (captain), Salman Butt, Imran Farhat, Khalid Latif, Mohammad Yousof, Shoaib Malik, Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razzaq, Umar Akmal, Kamran Akmal, Rana Naved-ul-Hasan, Saeed Ajmal, Umar Gul, Mohammad Aamir, Rao Iftikhar, Wahab Riaz

## Sanath loses opening spot

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

Sanath Jayasuriya's cricketing future has been put in the balance with Sri Lanka's selectors saying yesterday that his days as an opener are effectively over and that following the upcoming tour of India he will be picked on performance alone.

Jayasuriya, 40, has been picked in the one-day squad as an all-rounder who can bat down the order and bowl left-arm spin.

"What we expect from Sanath is that he should win one in three games for Sri Lanka, which he was doing in the past," Ashantha de Mel, Sri Lanka's chairman of selectors, said in Colombo.

"But now that has reduced and we are a little concerned about it."

In the Champions Trophy in South Africa his performance was below par.

That's the reason why we have gone in with the option of playing him as an all-rounder," Jayasuriya scored freely during the World Twenty20 in England this summer, where Sri Lanka finished runners-up, and ended as their joint second-highest run-getter with 177 at 25.28.

However, he underperformed in the limited-overs fixtures against New Zealand and India at home and in the Champions Trophy.

Sri Lanka's selectors have Upul Tharanga and Tillakaratne Dilshan in mind as the opening pair for the future and Jayasuriya's selection will depend on the requirements of the team depending on where they will play.

"We have spoken to Sanath on the role he has to play," de Mel said.

"He has the option to play as an all-rounder."

We have considered him for this tour only, after that his selection will depend on his performance.

He has to perform to hold his place in the team for the World Cup," de Mel said the selectors did not have a settled position for Jayasuriya, who was impressive as an all-rounder during Sri Lanka's victorious World Cup campaign in 1996, and that his flexibility worked in his favour.

"Especially in the batting powerplay having a spinning all-rounder like Sanath is useful in the subcontinent because he can hit the ball."

He might bat in the middle or in the top order depending on the situation," he said.

"Also, the World Cup will be held in the subcontinent where his left-arm spin can become useful."

He can perform that role because in South Africa in the game against New Zealand when they scored 300 runs he was the one who bowled ten overs for three wickets and 30 runs.

He has done well in the subcontinent especially with his bowling," Jayasuriya is the second batsman after India's Sachin Tendulkar to pass 13,000 runs in ODIs and also holds the record for being the oldest batsman to score a one-day century, at 39 years and 212 days against India in Colombo.

Of the 13,377 runs he has scored in 441 ODIs, 2841 have come in 86 ODIs against India including seven hundreds at a strike-rate of 97.

Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara felt the main factor in Sri Lanka's poor ODI performances over the past two years has been an inconsistent batting line up.

"The biggest let-down we had is our

batting.

We suffered because we had lots of batting position changes up and down the order," he said.

"For the batting to improve you must give the players the confidence."

They must know what role they are supposed to play.

Role identification has been a big problem.

Except for the openers no one knew what their role was in the side.

"We have never clicked in all departments those are things the team ignored for a while."

The players have now started to realise that they take a lot of pride not just representing the country but to be up to the task that is required of them by the team." Fielding was one of the key areas where Sri Lanka suffered during the Champions Trophy and to address the poor standards and improve them Sri Lanka Cricket acquired the services of Gavin Fingleson, a former Olympic baseball player.

"He didn't come and change but showed us how do things right."

He showed us little points that will make us better and quick fielders, at the same time we also realized to be quicker on the field you've got to be fitter as a side," Sangakkara said.

"We started doing a lot of work on fitness running."

Gavin showed us a lot of drills and how you can gain that extra second advantage when going for a catch or trying to stop the ball."

At the same time the most important point was to make sure at practice you do everything as perfectly, those are the habits we have to build on."

## Magura football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Magura district eleven blanked Jhenidah Abahani Kriya Chakra 3-0 in the opening match of Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup Tournament (inter-district) at the Magura stadium yesterday.

Nigerian player Petteer scored two goals in the first half while compatriot Stephen netted the other goal in the second half for the winners.

Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and also the local lawmaker Dr. Professor Mohammad Serajul Akbar formally inaugurated the tournament.

Jessore Sonali Autit will take on Bagerhat district eleven today at the same venue.

## Old DOHS

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batting lineup to their knees. Left-hander Shahriar Nafees got 26 off 26 deliveries while Nazimuddin got 19. Gazi's Indian all-rounder Hemang Badani scored a duck as he got out to Pakistani spinner Waseem Nayeem. Gazi all-rounders Forhad Hossain scored 24 while Sohrwardi Shuvo scored 31 runs in the middle order to give their side hope, but as soon as they were dismissed, Gazi's innings fell apart and eventually crumbled to 127 within 45 overs.

In the other match of the day at Fatullah, Biman scored a convincing seven-wicket win over BKSP. Batting first, BKSP scored 188 losing nine wickets in their fifty overs, with highest 69 coming from the bat of opener Ashiquil Alam and 48 coming from middle-order batsman Jasimuddin. The 189-run target never looked too much as Biman opener Mehrab Hossain Jr. played an enthralling knock of 88 not out from 134 balls, while his opening partner Zahurul Islam got 30.

Biman's Sri Lankan recruit Jehan Mubarak (47\*) then provided support to Mehrab to overtake the target in 45.2 overs and 7 wickets in hand.

## Bangladesh

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government and the Ministry of Youth and Sports have arranged the tournament to create awareness about Special Olympics as well as to generate public interest.

The event will provide an international platform for players with international disability to display their talent and compete in an excellent tournament.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Tariq A Karim congratulated the players and officials of Bangladesh Special Olympics Cricket Team on their heroic victory and wished them to keep up the same spirit throughout the tournament.

## Tigers vow

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middle. Hope things will be better from the next match," said assistant coach and former national skipper Khaled Mahmud.

If as promised the home team can settle on the above issues then definitely Shakib's men will be able to keep the momentum.

## 'Sachin should play fewer ODIs'

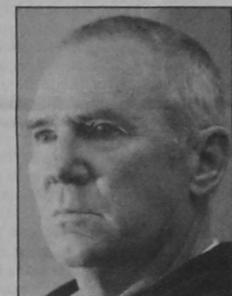
Cricket

INTERNET, undated

Former Australian captain Allan Border has said Sachin Tendulkar should play fewer ODIs to prolong his Test career. Tendulkar, who is a few weeks away from completing 20 years as an India player, is one of the senior-most players on the international circuit. Sri Lanka's Sanath Jayasuriya is the only other current international who began his career in the 1980s.

Tendulkar has played 432 ODIs - second behind Jayasuriya's 441 - and 159 Tests since 1989. Over the last couple of years, he opted out of Twenty20 internationals to focus on the game's longer formats. He has, however, participated in both seasons of the IPL, as captain of the Mumbai Indians franchise.

"I have high esteem for Tendulkar and his achievements in international cricket," Border told PTI. "But I think it would be better for him to appear in fewer limited-over matches, including



ALLAN BORDER

one-dayers. It would help him to prolong his Test career." Border said it was a remark-

able feat for anyone to sustain a 20-year career with injuries on the rise. Tendulkar's career has been plagued by injuries, the most notable being his troublesome tennis elbow. Recently, he had to miss the four-match ODI series in the West Indies due to a finger injury he picked up during the IPL.

"Representing your country for 20 years in international arena is not a small achievement," Border said. "There is always a lot of pressure on an international cricketer and I must say he (Tendulkar) has managed it beautifully. Like many others, his career was also disturbed by injuries. But even after many ups and downs, Tendulkar still has the same passion and love for the game."

Border himself lasted 16 years as an international player before retiring in 1994. His 156 Test appearances was a world record before Steve Waugh overtook him.

## Gayle's fate to be decided

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

Chris Gayle's future as West Indies captain will be determined in the next week, with selectors set to recommend to the board their choice of leader for the forthcoming tour of Australia.

Daren Ganga, who skippered Trinidad & Tobago to the final of the Champions League Twenty20, is being touted as a potential leadership challenger to Gayle, but Ernest Hilaire, the WICB chief executive, insisted no decision on the West Indian captaincy had yet been made.

Gayle was due to captain against Ganga in a limited-overs President's Cup match in Guyana on Wednesday, but withdrew from the match due to illness.

T&T posted a thumping 90-run victory over the Carlton Baugh-captained Jamaicans in a rain-affected match, continuing a triumphant month which began with their charge to the final of the Champions League in India.

Despite previous suggestions he was unwilling to continue as West Indies captain, Gayle confirmed last week he would be happy to lead the touring party to Australia.

Hilaire, though, would not confirm whether Gayle would be reinstated to the captaincy following his strike-related absence, leaving the door open for a leadership change.

"The selectors will meet over the next few days and will make a recommendation to the board," said Hilaire, who added that all players who took strike action the board would be considered for the tour of Australia.

"I am also aware that the players have announced that they are available and, more importantly, want to play if selected."

WICB has always expressed the view that players must be both available for selection and available to play.

In this regard, I think we have made considerable progress." The President's Cup represents an important step in the normalisation of relations between the WICB and the player's union (WIPA) after the bitter and protracted industrial dispute.

The six-day tournament is doubling as a selection trial for the tour of Australia, and with all players available for their respective teams, the prospect of an understrength team representing the Caribbean in Australia appears to have been averted.

"Our discussions with WIPA have been excellent and we are looking forward to building on our progress in resolving all outstanding issues by designing a new partnership," Hilaire said.

"There have been attempts in the past but we are sincere in developing that partnership based on mutual trust and co-operation."

We accept that there will be differences but we must never allow our differences to destroy our relationship."

## Narrow wins for giants

FROM PAGE 17

to clear the ball," said Feni coach Zahidur Rahman Milon, who, however, said that his side played better football compared to the first match against Mohammedan.

Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu said that Abahani should have won the game by at least a 4-0 margin, but Sheriff, Zahid Parvez Chowdhury and Abul Hossain, playing his season's first match, squandered easy chances to keep Abahani waiting till the last moment.

The former national player also said that Abahani controlled the game from the beginning and it was a bit hard to control the ball on the pitch, which was prepared in three days.

Over in Narayanganj, Federation Cup champions Mohammedan dominated the

first half before the visitors spent some worried time in the second half against the Narayanganj outfit, who were defeated 2-0 by Sheikh Russel KC in their first appearance in the league.

Emily, however, made no mistake to put the Black and Whites ahead in the 24th minute when he was presented a Nassir cross from right and the national striker kept his cool inside the box to send the ball home over onrushing goalkeeper Al Amin, who denied a curling shot outside the box taken by winger Zahid Hossain in the starting moments.

With four minutes left of the first half, Emily was denied by the woodwork when he headed a right-side lob from Zahid.

Shuktara seemed more energetic with their better movements after the break and

al but controlled the midfield to yield two scoring opportunities inside three minutes, but Mohammedan second-choice goalkeeper MN Shakil foiled one of those.

Shakil brilliantly gripped a Khokon header following a scramble in front of goal mouth in the 67th minute while three minutes later Tapu hammered a powerful drive outside the box that narrowly went over the Mohammedan crosspiece much to relief of the visitors.

Mohammedan, however, could have got another goal in the dying moments, but the visitors were not lucky enough as the ball seemingly crossed the goal line with a deflection from Emily following a Mamunul Islam corner, but it was not viewed by the assistant referee and Emily was deprived of his season's 10th goal.