



US sprinter Tyson Gay celebrates after winning the men's 100m dash at the Diamond League athletics meet in Brussels on Friday. Gay reached the mark in 9.79 seconds. PHOTO: AFP

Gay flies, Semenya fails

Athletics

AFP, Brussels

US sprinter Tyson Gay overcame a false start to steam to victory in the 100m at the season's final Diamond League meet here on Friday, but Caster Semenya failed in her bid to win the women's 800m.

In a season which has seen Jamaican duo Usain Bolt and Asafa Powell sidelined through injury, Gay settled his nerves after a starter's error to clock 9.79sec to be crowned the season's top performer in the event, netting 40,000 dollars.

Jamaican duo Nesta Carter (9.85sec personal best) and Yohan Blake (9.91) completed the podium.

"I'm kind of pleased with the time but not with the race as I didn't execute my start," said Gay, whom many in the crowd thought had false-started -- something that would have led to him being disqualified, the organisers' nightmare.

"I didn't false start," he stressed. "I think someone's box slipped. But the cameras kept zooming in on me. It made

me nervous and threw me out a bit. "I'm pleased with my last 30 metres. My plan (this season) was to be victorious."

Semenya, South Africa's reigning 800m world champion, could only finish third in her debut in the Diamond League.

The 19-year-old was racing in only her fourth outing since returning from 11 months on the sidelines following a controversial investigation by IAAF, the sport's governing body, into her gender.

She dropped immediately into last spot in the field and still had six runners ahead of her at 200m.

Kenya's Janeth Jepkosgei dominated the race and won in 1min 58.82sec, with Russian Mariya Savinova coming home in second.

Semenya produced a spurt for third with a season's best of 1:59.65, a way off the 1:55.45 time that won her the world title last year.

"The race was very tactical but also very quick," Semenya said. "I was never up there with the leaders."

In a good night for Kenyan athletes, newly-crowned world record holder David Rudisha won the 800m title, win-

ning in 1:43.50 ahead of Sudan's Abubaker Kaki in a close sprint finish.

Rudisha's compatriot Asbel Kiprop won the 1500m in 3:32.18, American Leonel Manzano producing a fantastic sprint for second, with title contender Augustine Choge in third.

And Vivian Cheruiyot made it four Kenyan titles in one night when she outpaced Ethiopian Sentayehu Ejigu to win the 5000m in 14:34.14.

In the women's events, Canada's Priscilla Lopes-Schliep took victory in the 100m hurdles in 12.54sec, with closest rival Lolo Jones of the United States only managing fifth.

Yargelis Savigne claimed the triple jump title despite finishing second to Kazakh Olga Rypakova and level in the overall standings, the Cuban getting the nod for the title because of her superior number of victories throughout the season.

And France's world indoor champ Teddy Tamgho produced the goods on his fourth and final effort (17.52m) to win the men's triple jump ahead of Cuba's Alexis Copello and Swedish veteran Christian Olsson.

Pakistan manager to quit

ANI, Karachi

Pakistan cricket team manager Yawar Saeed has decided to quit from the post after the ongoing series against England.

Saeed said he has served the team for a long period, and now wants to do something different.

"I think after 26 years in this field and managing so many teams and undertaking so many tours, I need to do something different. I would want to step down as manager after the England tour," The Daily Times quoted Saeed, as saying.

Saeed said he would be informing Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt regarding his decision.

"When this tour ends I will convey my desire to the board chairman as I want to do something different and spend more time with my family," Saeed said.

"If Ijaz wants me to continue I can't say no to him he is an old friend and if he says I must continue in interest of Pakistan cricket, I will listen. But I will definitely try to convince him the time is right for me to step down," he added.

Commenting on allegations of being involved in politics in the team to conspire against former captain Younus Khan resulting in the veteran batsman's ouster from the squad, Saeed said he has nothing personal against the former skipper.

"I have nothing personal against Younus we got along well. I don't know from where these allegations have come up," he said during an interview.

Saeed said he has no reservations over Younus' inclusion the national team, adding he would welcome selectors decision to recall the middle order batsman.

Broad all

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Broad went to 150 with a superb cover-driven boundary off Asif, having then faced 273 balls with a six and 14 fours.

But his magnificent six-and-a-half hour innings finished when he missed a sweep against off-spinner Saeed Ajmal and was given out lbw on referral.

Broad was just shy of the world record score by a Test No 9 of 173 made by New Zealand's Ian Smith against India in Auckland in 1990.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First innings 446 (Trott 184, Broad 169, Prior 22; Aamer 6-84, Ajmal 2-126)

PAKISTAN: First innings 74 (Butt 26, Kamran 13, Ali 10; Swann 4-12, Finn 3-38, Broad 2-10) and second innings 41 for 4 (Butt 21, Yousof 10, Ali 0 not out, Umar 0 not out; Anderson 1-6, Swann 1-6, Broad 1-9)

Match heading

FROM PAGE 17
second innings.

But the visitors were pegged back with regular wickets, with only Moin Ali and Alexei Kervezee hitting half-centuries.

Shakib's main contribution to the match remained his three wickets and that made sure he became the top wicket-taker for his county with 30 wickets so far.

Cairns's diamond life

Cricket

ANI, Dubai

Former New Zealand cricket all-rounder Chris Cairns has spent the last two years reinventing himself in the United Arab Emirates.

Now, playing a social form of cricket for a team in Dubai, Cairns, 40, has relaunched himself as a diamond dealer and trader.

He is also on his third marriage, to Mel Croser, a former Australian basketball star turned marketing executive. His sons, aged six and eight, now live with their mother, Carin, in South Africa.

"When you've committed so many years to sport, it's often the easy track to coach or go into sports administration. It's been really tough starting from zero. I spent half my life playing cricket. But I had to retrain myself to life after cricket. I still have a strong tie back to New Zealand," the Dominion Post quoted Cairns, as saying.

Cairns has struggled with aspects of his personal life. His first marriage to his childhood sweetheart, Ruth Leslie, failed early on; his four-year marriage to Carin ended shortly before he met Croser in January 2008.

Cairns is hopeful about his third marriage being an enduring one.

"Mel is a wonderfully motivated woman -- beautiful, spirited and with a minimal toler-

ance for the mundane," the former cricketer said.

However, he refuses to reveal the reason for quitting professional cricket, but adds that Indian Premier League Commissioner Lalit Modi's charge that he was involved in match fixing completely destroyed him in the cricket environment.

He says he needs to keep comments to a minimum.

Cairns and Croser shifted to Dubai about two years ago after he was offered a job through contacts who worked at Vijaydimon, a diamond trading company with offices around the world.

The couple chose Dubai because they wanted to be near Britain, where Cairns played most of his games and has friends, and also because Dubai was a neutral place where they could start again.

"There are fantastic restaurants and hotels. There's a real glitz to the place because everything is brand new," he says.

"Diamond trading is a very tough market to get into, but it's a strong trade to learn. I looked at the opportunity and the market too. It's a rare commodity."

Cairns played 62 tests and 215 one-day internationals. His last match for the Black Caps was against the West Indies in 2006.

For now, he doesn't know how long he and his wife will live in Dubai, but his sights are on England as their next home.

BCCI sides with secy

Cricket

AGENCIES

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Saturday threw its weight behind secretary N Srinivasan and rejected suspended Indian Premier League (IPL) chairman Lalit Modi's allegations that the senior official fixed the 2009 players' auction.

BCCI President Shashank Manohar told reporters after the Working Committee meeting that Modi's accusations against Srinivasan, who owns the Chennai Super Kings team, were "blatant lies".

"I can produce papers which prove that the charges levelled by Mr Modi against Mr Srinivasan are blatant lies," Manohar said.

Asked whether these papers were tabled at Saturday's meet and accepted by the committee members, Manohar merely said, "yes".

Two days ago Srinivasan, had rubbished reports that he tried to 'fix' the players' auction and insisted he won the bid for star England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff "fair and square".

ATV channel had claimed that Srinivasan, in conversation with Modi, tried to fix the bid for Flintoff in the Super Kings' favour.

The channel had quoted an email purportedly written by Modi to Srinivasan, which read "what a nightmare to convince them not to terminate [Sohail] Tanvir and also not to take Flintoff. [Shane] Warne went off the handle. But have managed it by using stick and carrot strategy. Thus they have 1.875 million dollars. Much

love Lalit".

Warne is the captain-cum-coach of Rajasthan Royals.

Srinivasan, refuting the charges while talking to another TV channel, had said he didn't do anything wrong and his franchise outbid Rajasthan Royals as only they had the full purse of 2 million dollars.

"I didn't need anybody's favour. Rajasthan Royals bid for 1.5 million dollars for Flintoff, I beat them at 1.55 million dollars. So where is the deal? How can I have any deal? How can Modi have control of Shane Warne unless he is the owner of the Rajasthan Royals," he had said.

"Hundred per cent I'm telling you, we did nothing wrong. We won fair and square. We were the only one who could have bought new players because I had the full purse. I didn't need anybody's favour," the BCCI Secretary had said.

"The Chennai Super Kings is the only team which had the two million dollars in the purse. Everybody else had less, so we didn't need anybody's favour to buy Flintoff."

Incidentally this is not the first time that Srinivasan has found himself in a controversy. A few days back, the BCCI secretary was accused of 'fixing' umpires for Super Kings matches during the IPL.

The video of the players' auction was shown to the Working Committee members at the meeting, said former India captain Dilip Vengsarkar, who is Vice-President of Mumbai Cricket Association.

BCCI chief Manohar also said he was yet to decide when to press criminal charges against Modi as authorised by the board's EGM on July 3.

Div I football

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Manikganj

Palli Mangal Samity defeated Sonali Atit Club 4-1 in the Hafijul Islam Khan Uttu Smriti First Division Football League at the Shaheed Miraz-Tapan Stadium yesterday.

Liton struck twice while Masum and Rafiq scored one each for the winners. Sekandar netted a consolation goal for Sonali Atit.

With the outcome, Palli Mangal Samity raised their tally to ten points from five matches while Sonali Atit Club remained at two points from the same number of outings.

Nabajagarn Sangsad take on Dautia Bulbul Club in the today's encounter.

Rudi's dig at Aussie trio

AGENCIES

In a scathing criticism of former Australian players, retired umpire Rudi Koertzen on Saturday said Glenn McGrath always 'moaned and whinged' while Andrew Symonds and Matthew Hayden had to be policed closely in their playing days.

The South African umpire, who stood in 108 Tests between 1992 and 2010, said the trio was the most difficult to deal with in international cricket.

Asked by website 'Cricket 365', who was the toughest bowler he had to umpire, Koertzen said, "Glenn McGrath, because of the way he acted on the field. He wasn't one of the happiest guys. He always moaned and whinged. If he wasn't getting wickets and the batsmen were hitting him for a few fours, he got a bit personal and upset."

Koertzen thought said he was "very fortunate to get on with probably 99 per cent of the players in world cricket," but not all.

"There was always the odd individual who had to be babied all the time. You had to be like a policeman to them. A fielder like Matthew Hayden or Andrew Symonds, you always had to be alert when they were on the field because something was going to happen.

"If you didn't pick it up as soon as possible things were going to get out of hand," Koertzen was quoted as saying by the 'Australian'.

Wozniacki in final

Tennis

AFP, New Haven

Caroline Wozniacki, the top women's seed at the US Open, has a little more work to do before the last Grand Slam of the year starts on Monday.

The Dane rallied from a break down in the third set to beat Russian Elena Dementieva 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 on Friday to book a spot in the final of the Pilot Pen hardcourt tennis tournament.

Wozniacki, the tournament's two-time defending champion, improved to 12-0 in her three trips to New Haven.

Dementieva looked to be cruising as she broke Wozniacki in her first two service games of the match and again to close out the first set.

But Wozniacki responded with a service break of her own to open the second set won the frame when neither player could hold serve during the final four games.

Dementieva took an early lead in the third set and served for the match at 5-4.

"I just told myself, 'Keep fighting'," Wozniacki said. "She still has to win four more points to win the match so you're still in there."

Wozniacki took that game, then went up 6-5. But she

couldn't finish off Dementieva, who fought off three match points and went up 3-0 in the tiebreaker before Wozniacki rallied again.

Wozniacki, who won last week in Montreal, insisted she doesn't feel any pressure as the top seed at the US Open.

"Pressure is when you're put in a spot and you don't really feel like you belong there," she said. "When you really believe that you belong there, that you can do the things you have to do, there's no pressure. You just go out there and play."

But before she tackles Flushing Meadows, Wozniacki will take on Russian Nadia Petrova in Saturday's final here.

Petrova is making the most of her last-minute wild-card entry, and reached the final with a three-set win over ailing Maria Kirilenko.

After dropping her serve twice in the first set, Petrova bounced back to beat her fellow Russian 2-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Kirilenko was hindered after the first set by a sore back, which she first felt after lunging for a ball. She took a medical timeout in the second set but said she couldn't move as well in the later stages.

"I made a very fast move-

ment and then I start to feel it even more," she said. "Then I couldn't even bend at all. Then it went a little bit better when the [trainer] came out."

"But still I decided to continue ... even if you have a pain, you have to try."

Kirilenko said she would see a doctor before deciding her status for the US Open.

"I saw she had difficulties moving," Petrova said. "So that was my first goal, keep her on the run, make her stretch, use my serve as a weapon, try to win as many free shots as possible."

On the men's side, Sergiy Stakhovsky reached the final with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Thiemo de Bakker of the Netherlands.

The ninth-seeded Ukrainian took advantage of the only break point in the first set and broke de Bakker again in the seventh game of the second set.

"I was really lucky to catch that return," he said of his first break. "I mean, I guess I just decided where he was serving, so I went for it. It went in. It was a really important point for me. I close out the set with my serve and started fresh from the second."

Stakhovsky will play Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan in the final. Istomin defeated Serbia's Viktor Troicki 7-6, 3-6, 6-2.

Stuart savours ton

FROM PAGE 17

"It is a special effort, and we all know what a great temperament he has."

However, Broad insisted the result of this match was far from certain.

"We're certainly not ahead in this game just yet. We need to make sure we get some good runs tomorrow [Saturday]."

England saw their middle-order trio of Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood and Eoin Morgan all dismissed for naught by Aamer and Broad said: "There have been moments of magical bowling in this series.

"Aamer this morning was splendid. Some of those deliveries he bowled to the left-handers were brilliant."

And Broad insisted this collapse would have no bearing

on England's defence of the Ashes in Australia, which starts in November.

"I don't think anyone in the England camp is particularly worried about the lack of runs in the middle order, because we know they're all world-class players -- and it doesn't affect anything for the Ashes."

Meanwhile Aamer said he felt mixed emotions.

"They were the best figures of my career, that's why I am happy but I am a little bit sad."

"They [England] are in a good position -- we were in a good position but now we are on the back foot."

"They are playing very well, especially Broad. He's not a batsman but today he looked like a batsman while Trott is technically very strong and very calm."

Dilshan does

FROM PAGE 17

Dilshan, who also added 85 for the third wicket with Sangakkara, fell in the 40th over when he pulled pacesman Praveen Kumar to Ishant Sharma at deep square-leg.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: 299 for 8 in 50 overs (Dilshan 110, Sangakkara 71, Jayawardene 39, Silva 26; Patel 2-43, Ishant 2-54)

INDIA: 225 all out in 46.5 overs (Dhoni 67, Kohli 37, Raina 29, Sehwaag 28, Yuvraj 26, Praveen 14; Perera 3-36, Randiv 3-40, Malinga 2-49)

Result: Sri Lanka win by 74 runs and lift the Micromax Cup.

Man-of-the-match: Tillakaratne Dilshan.

Man-of-the-series: Virender Sehwag.

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Umpires: Asad Rauf and Asoka de Silva.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	44 Meadow	DOWN	23 Florida city
1 Taxi	46 Milk dispenser?	1 Gordon Ramsay, e.g.	25 Barber-shop prop
4 Recedes	50 Mecca for fans, maybe	2 Emanation	26 Vicinity
8 Quick cut	55 Water (French)	3 Suitor	27 Den
12 Coloration	56 Language of	4 Gasoline alternative	28 One of the tenses
13 Small combo	57 See 58-Across	5 Support of a sort	29 Capri, for one
14 Telegram	58 With 57-life	6 Crib	30 Pinnacle
15 Historic time	59 Agrees silently	7 Pop	31 Horse of a different color?
16 Mustache	60 Eyelid woe	8 Stockholm's land	35 Cause of great affliction
18 Animal	61 Inseparable	9 Pen point	38 Seal's cousin
20 Help		10 Writer Levin	40 Conclusion
21 One		11 Apiece	42 Collection
24 Transfer		17 Cover	45 Shows
28 Nightspot of a sort		19 Sister	47 Show-room sample
32 "Thin Man" role		22 Wading bird	48 Deserve
33 Venomous viper			49 Bit of trickery
34 Wheels of fortune?			50 Baltimore newspaper
36 Soong			51 Expert
37 Passel			52 Peculiar
39 Keyboard feature			53 Nipped
41 Largest of the lower 48			54 Whatever amount
43 In due time			

Solution time: 21 mins.

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