

## V-Day b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Europa Youth, Gregarious and Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan won their respective matches of the Citycell Federation Cup Basketball Championship at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Europa Youth thrashed Bangladesh Police 76-29 after leading the first half 36-29 as Mithun led the rout scoring 35 points. Shahin caged 18 points for Police.

In the second match, Gregarious recorded a hard-fought 48-43 point win over Boarder Guard Bangladesh after taking a slim lead of 23-21 in the first half.

In the third match of the day, BKSP overwhelmed Old DOHS by 86-33 points after enjoying a comfortable 53-19 lead in the first half.

## Interpol help to fight corruption

AFP, New Delhi

Interpol said Friday it was looking at a possible tie-up with the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Indian board to help fight the growing menace of match-fixing and illegal betting.

The proposal was made by Interpol secretary general Ronald Noble during a two-day meeting in New Delhi with officials of India's Central Bureau of Investigation and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Speaking to reporters, Noble said Interpol already had an agreement with football's world governing body, FIFA, to promote integrity in the sport.

"We'd be happy if we can implement a similar agreement with the BCCI and the ICC," Noble said.

In May this year, FIFA agreed to provide \$20 million to Interpol over a 10-year period in an effort to tackle match-fixing and keep an eye on illegal betting syndicates spread all over the world.

Noble said Interpol could keep a check on cricket's "bad boys" from its research and development facility in Singapore where the FIFA anti-corruption unit is also based.

"Young players are easy targets for illegal gambling syndicates," said Noble, who has been heading the world's top organisation for police co-operation for 11 years.

"We can teach players all the ways by which they can be tripped into a betting ring. Basically, we want to prevent organised crime from getting into cricket."

Noble said he expected his proposal to get a final seal of approval when the ICC meets in Dubai on January 31.

"The ICC does a great job in fighting corruption through their anti-corruption unit. We want to draw on that experience," Noble added.

Cricket has most recently been rocked by a spot-fixing scandal that saw three Pakistan cricketers jailed in November, along with their agent.

## Just a phase

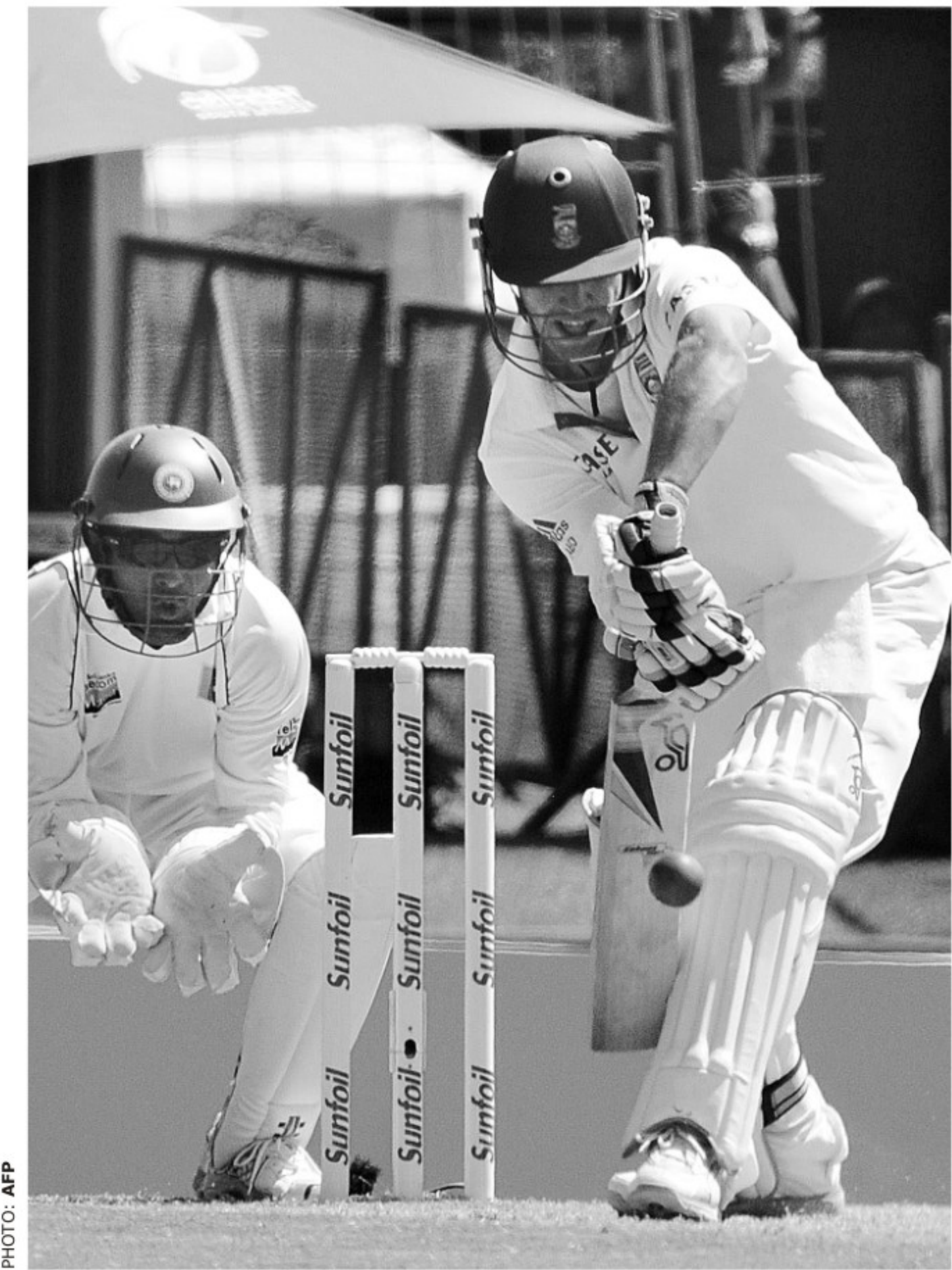
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about sticking to basics ahead of a game that would set them up for their next series against England in the United Arab Emirates.

"The target actually is very simple go in, play good cricket and do your basics right.

"We just want to put everything right specially our batting and also do well in the other departments.

"We want to improve our performances in all aspects of the game, that is what we are looking forward to," he said.

The routine press meet also saw the Pakistan management wishing Bangla-desh and the cricket team for Victory Day, although the greeting only came after Misbah was asked if he would take this opportunity to wish the hosts.



South Africa batsman AB de Villiers plays defensive stroke during the second day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the SuperSport Park in Centurion on Friday.

## 92 retired for Sachin

Cricket

AFP, Canberra

Sachin Tendulkar sacrificed a century to give his Indian teammates crucial batting time ahead of the Test series with Australia in their drawn tour match in Canberra on Friday.

Tendulkar, poised on 99 international centuries across Test and one-day matches, retired on 92 in the tourists' 320 for six on the final day of their two-day match against the Chairman's XI at Manuka Oval.

The greatest Test run scorer hammered 15 boundaries off 132 balls as India got in precious batting time ahead of the opening Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The Indians' total was in reply to the Chairman's XI 398 for six declared compiled on Thursday.

VVS Laxman also retired on 57 off 76 balls while Rohit Sharma remained unbeaten on 56 off 80 balls before bad weather intervened.

Tendulkar's last century was 111 against South Africa at the World Cup in Nagpur last March, with his last Test century coming against South Africa with 146 in Cape Town last January.

Sharma is hoping Tendulkar can score his 100th hundred sometime in Australia on this tour.

"I think it would be a great place to do it, but the only thing I will say is me and my team-mates, all of us and all the Indians, we don't want him to wait for too long now,"

Sharma said.

"It's been a while, but I hope he gets the 100th century in the first game.

"It was good to see him bat like that. He was batting fluently and I hope he carries the same form in the Test series as well."

Tendulkar has scored six Test centuries in Australia and averages 58.54 in his 16 Tests Down Under.

The Chairman's XI had an early scalp when the wicket of India opener Ajinkya Rahane for three in the second over.

Gautam Gambhir (35) and captain Rahul Dravid (45) put on 71 for the second wicket before Gambhir fell in the 21st over.

David was dismissed just before lunch, but Tendulkar and Laxman steadied the innings with a 133-run partnership and both retired just prior to tea.

Virat Kohli only lasted five balls before he was removed by Cameron Boyce for one shortly after tea.

Wriddhiman Saha 23 not out and Sharma added 74 before rain ended play early.

India will have another practice game against the Chairman's XI, a three-day match starting in Canberra on Monday.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**CHAIRMAN'S XI:** First innings 398 for 6 declared (Cooper 182 not out, Robinson 143; Yadav 3-39)

**INDIA:** First innings 320 for 6 (Gambhir 35, Dravid 45, Tendulkar retired out 92, Laxman retired out 57, Sharma 56 not out, Saha 23 not out; Boyce 2-74)

**Result:** Match drawn.

## SA build big lead

Cricket

AFP, Centurion

A half-century by AB de Villiers took South Africa into what could prove to be a valuable lead on the second day of the first Test at SuperSport Park here on Friday.

South Africa were 257 for five at tea, a lead of 77 after Sri Lanka were bowled out for 180 in the first innings.

On a day when batsmen continued to struggle on a difficult pitch, De Villiers made 56 not out. He shared an unbroken sixth wicket partnership of 84 with Ashwell Prince (38 not out).

Star South African batsman Jacques Kallis was the most notable victim of a pitch with uneven bounce.

Shortly before lunch he ducked into a bouncer from Dilhara Fernando, which barely rose above stump height, and took a heavy blow on the left earpiece of his batting helmet.

He collapsed next to the pitch but after receiving

treatment for seven minutes he carried on batting.

He was on 25 when he was hit, on 27 when he was

dropped by wicketkeeper Kaushal Silva off Fernando and was out for 31 shortly after lunch, caught at third slip off Chanaka Welegedera.

Silva also dropped Prince, on 26, when the batsman got a thick edge to an attempted cut off left-arm spinner Rangana

LATEST
South Africa were 389 for 9 at stumps on Day 2, taking a lead of 209 runs over Sri Lanka in the first innings.

Herath. Prince earlier survived a chance to Thisara Perera at backward point off the luckless Fernando when he was on 23.

Perera struck two important blows for the tourists in the morning, having Hashim Amla (18) and Jacques Rudolph (44) caught in the slips.

But he was struck for three fours in an over by

Kallis soon afterwards. Kallis looked South Africa's most accomplished batsman before his injury.

Rudolph, batting with a splint on his left little finger after suffering a dislocation while fielding on Thursday, battled for 229 minutes and 140 balls for his 44.

De Villiers was more watchful than usual but picked up the pace with a flurry of strokes which took him to his half-century off 91 balls.

### SCOREBOARD

<b>SRI LANKA:</b> First innings 180				
<b>SOUTH AFRICA:</b> First innings (overnight 88-1)				
Rudolph c Paranavitana b Perera	44			
Smith lbw b Fernando	61			
Steyn run out (Herath)	0			
Amla c Mathews b Perera	18			
Kallis c Mathews b Welegedera	31			
De Villiers not out	56			
Prince not out	38			
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-5, w-2)	9			
Total: (For 5 wickets in 85 overs)	257			
To bat: Boucher, Philander, Morkel, Tahir.				
Fall of wickets: 1-88, 2-90, 3-125, 4-136, 5-173.				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Welegedera	22	4	67	1
Perera	17	1	80	2
Mathews	7	4	7	0
Fernando	19	2	66	1
Dilshan	5	1	10	0
Herath	15	3	25	0

## Unbearable

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committee chairman Enayet Hossain Siraj however thought that the buck stopped with the selectors.

"No way should they [selectors] be upset because their team was approved finally. One can give them advice but it's ultimately their job to stick to their plan and work with pride because they are a sovereign committee. They should have their own confidence," said Siraj.

Many believe that this kind of incident would not have happened if the selectors had taken the tough stance from the very beginning.

So the onus now is on the three high-profile selectors whether they will keep their reputation intact or not.

## Soumya shines

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Saqlain Sajib was the most successful bowler with three for 47 while Alauddin Babu and Muktar Ali took two wickets each.

In reply, Shaheed Jewel XI were bundled out for 174 in 30.1 overs.

Number seven batsman Farhad Hossain made 53 off 55 deliveries with six fours and two sixes.

Mahamudul Hasan claimed three wickets while Tazin Ahmed and Sohag Gazi took two wickets each.

Cricket

AFP, Leeds

New Yorkshire coach Jason Gillespie believes it's part of his job to advise his players against the dangers of match-fixing.

Although more commonly associated with the international game -- the Pakistan trio of Mohammad Aamer, Mohammad Asif and Salman Butt jailed by a British court this year for their involvement in spot-fixing during the 2010 Lord's Test against England -- there are concerns corruption could take place at county level.

The England and Wales Cricket Board's anti-corruption chief Chris Watts, formerly a detective with London's Metropolitan Police, has suggested the domestic game may be more vulnerable to malpractice due to its lower profile.

Former Australia fast bowler Gillespie, speaking at Headingley on Thursday, said nothing in his previous county experience had led him to suspect foul play, but that everyone in the game had to remain vigilant.

"It's a huge issue at the moment and it really saddens me that things have gone on," he said.

"I've never seen anything in county cricket to suggest anything is going on and it certainly won't be tolerated at Yorkshire.

"It's all about education. We've seen what happens when guys make bad decisions or get sucked in to that sort of behav-

## Asia on the crest of a wave

Tennis

AFP, Singapore

Asian sporting fortunes reached new heights in 2011 as its growing riches drew a rising number of top events and China's Li Na made history as the region's first tennis Grand Slam winner.

Japan claimed a thrilling victory in January's Asian Cup, India were crowned cricket's one-day champions and in October, New Zealand ended a 24-year jinx to lift the Rugby World Cup in front of an ecstatic home nation.

India's debut Formula One race made it seven grands prix in the Asia-Pacific region, prompting the sport's supremo Bernie Ecclestone to declare Europe was "finished" in the sport.

And Asia's burgeoning golf scene became so crowded -- partly due to the advent of mega-rich Chinese exhibition events -- that tournaments clashed and were forced to compete for players.

Asia-Pacific tennis players starred this year, with Samantha Stosur downing Serena Williams in a stormy US Open final to become Australia's first female Grand Slam winner since 1980.

Earlier, Li's historic French Open victory had triggered a rapturous response from the Chinese public, a government cash prize and a bronze statue in her home city of Wuhan, and eager anticipation of further success.

But the straight-sets win over defending champion Francesca Schiavone proved a tough act to follow as Li won just one match at Wimbledon and crashed out in the US Open first round.

Japan had got the year off to a flying start as they edged Australia in the Asian Cup final in Doha thanks to a sublime extra-time volley from Tadanari Lee which settled it 1-0.

And the marathon cricket World Cup built to a memorable climax in April -- after starting in February -- when co-hosts India chased down Sri Lanka's 274 in Mumbai, sparking riotous celebrations.

England retained the Ashes with a 3-1 demolition of disbelieving Australia, their first away victory in the historic series in 24 years.

But cricket reeled from newspaper revelations of a spot-fixing scam which led to jail terms in Britain for disgraced Pakistan captain Salman Butt, bowlers Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer, and their agent Mazhar Majeed.

Asian football was also dragged through the mire when regional chief Mohamed bin Hammam was accused of handing out cash-stuffed envelopes and banned from the sport, after attempting to topple FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

South Korea's K-League was rocked by a wide-ranging match-fixing scandal which

was closely linked to two suicides and left dozens of people in the dock.

But China's much-maligned football scene celebrated a coup when Shanghai Shenhua landed the signature of Chelsea's Nicolas Anelka, the Super League's first legitimate star.

In October, India held a trouble-free maiden Formula One race near New Delhi, boosting its image after last year's shambolic and scandalous Commonwealth Games.

Juvic Pagunsan became the Philippines' first winner of golf's Asian order of merit, largely through his efforts in coming second in the rain-hit Singapore Open.

## Bolt wants to be a legend

AFP, New Delhi

Record-breaking sprinter Usain Bolt says he will not be regarded a legend of athletics unless he successfully defends his three Olympic titles in London next year.

"I want to be a legend in the sport and defending my Olympic titles will definitely help me in achieving this goal," the 25-year-old Jamaican was quoted as saying by the Times of India on Friday.

The Jamaican created history at the 2008 Beijing Olympics when he won the 100m, 200m and the 4x100 relay gold medals, all with world record timings.

Bolt, however, parried a question on whether he will improve on his timings in London.

"I never talk about world records," he told the newspaper. "My aim is to win first and foremost. If the weather is good in London, who knows."

Bolt, who was disqualified in the 100m at this year's world championships in Daegu, South Korea, said he preferred the old rule where a sprinter was given a second chance after a false start.