



DEAD HEAT: Justin Gatlin of the USA (L) and Jamaica's Asafa Powell compete in the men's 100m at the IAAF Diamond League in Doha on Friday. Gatlin won the event in 9.87 seconds while Powell was just one-hundredth of a second behind.

# Gatlin is back!

Athletics

AFP, Doha

Justin Gatlin, dead and buried after a four-year doping ban that saw him, in desperation, mull a potential career in American football?

Not likely, the American insisted after scorching to a blistering 9.87 seconds to win the 100m at the opening leg of the 14-meet Diamond League here.

Gatlin's time, his fastest outdoor season opener since he started professional sprinting at the age of 19, places him firmly in the same bracket as absent Jamaican arch-rivals Usain Bolt and Yohan Blake.

Bolt and Blake skipped this meet, preferring to open their seasons on home soil and clocking 9.82 and 9.84sec respectively.

Fellow Jamaican Asafa Powell finished just one-hundredth behind Gatlin in Doha, setting up the prospect of a battle royale between the US and the Caribbean island's finest sprinters come this summer's London Olympic Games.

"I want everyone to know Justin

Gatlin is back and I want the Olympic title," insisted Gatlin.

It would be an unlikely tale for the athlete who claimed 100m gold at the Olympics in Athens in 2004, but then fell foul of drugs and served a four-year ban, coming back in late 2010.

His path back to form, and acceptance by meet directors and fans, saw him win a second world indoor 60m title in Istanbul in March, after a first success way back in 2003.

"You've got to take track and field as a soap opera with spikes on," Gatlin said of the global athletics circuit.

Wherever he goes, there is always a question on doping lurking, something he never shies away from.

"I feel that whatever time we've served, innocent or guilty, we've served that time. Taking that privilege [of competing] away from us, after being tested again and again, is unjust," is how Gatlin's measured reply goes.

He even went to pains to stress that he had only happy memories of competing in Doha, where he ran 9.77sec in 2006 to match Powell's then world record, only for it to be rescinded after the doping violation came to light.

On Friday, Powell got away to his

usual blistering start, only to seize up at the vital moment in the run-in to the line, Gatlin producing his trade-mark final surge to win by a head.

"I was feeling a little sluggish, but that felt great," said Gatlin.

"Everybody wants to see great competition. They've watched the Usain Bolt show for a couple of years, they want to see someone else in the mix and I'm happy to step up and be in the mix as well.

"The Jamaicans have got their team together well, so we have to do that as well. But the US has always had good racers, we have Tyson Gay, Walter Dix and me. I'm back!"

Remarkably for the 30-year-old Gatlin, who looks in incredibly lithe shape with a lot less muscle mass around the shoulders and pectorals than in previous seasons, his 9.87sec was the "fastest I've ever opened up my whole career".

"It shows I have a lot of grit and a lot of competition still left in these old legs. I just want to come back and run with the best of them," he said.

Jamaican sprinters, he said, "you have been warned. I'm back!"

## Groth fires fastest serve

AFP, Paris

Australian Samuel Groth, the world number 340, has broken the record for the fastest serve in tennis with a serve of 263km/h during a Challenger Tournament in Busan, South Korea, the ATP announced on Saturday.

The record had been held by giant Croat Ivo Karlovic, who fired down a 251km/h serve during a Davis Cup match against Germany in March 2011.

Groth, 24, broke the record during a defeat by Belarusian Uladzimir Ignatik in the second round of the tournament.

During the match, he also produced serves timed at 253.5km/h and 255.7km/h.

## Cameron's sacrifice

ANI, London

British Prime Minister David Cameron has auctioned a cricket bat signed by cricket maestro Sachin Tendulkar, and his "most valuable" possession fetched 3,400 pounds to raise money for the Rwanda Cricket Stadium Foundation.

Cameron raised a few laughs at a gathering of Conservative Friends of India when he talked about his shock at finding his wife, Samantha, playing French cricket in the grounds of Chequers with a bat that had been signed for him by Tendulkar.

"I said, 'No, darling, put it down, this is probably the most valuable possession I have'," the Telegraph quoted Cameron, as saying.

The auction dinner, in the Long Room at Lord's, was to remember the life of Christopher Shale, Cameron's constituency chairman, who was found dead at the Glastonbury festival last summer.

## Nat'l School Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Katirhat High School became the first team from the Chittagong Division to receive the ticket for the National School Football tournament when they defeated Cox's Bazar's Pekua GMC Institute 1-0 in the divisional final at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday. Sabbir was the lone scorer in the match.

Previously, in the semifinals from the Chittagong Division, Katirhat defeated Khagrachori's Shantipur School 7-1 and Pekua GMC defeated Bandarban's Lama High School 1-0.

# BCCI invites Pak team to Champions League

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India on Saturday invited Pakistan to take part in the Champions League Twenty20 tournament this year, breaking new ground in the stalled cricket ties between the arch-rivals.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which met in Chennai on Saturday, gave the go-ahead to Pakistan's participation in the tournament which features leading domestic Twenty20 teams from around the world.

"The BCCI has decided to invite a team from Pakistan to play in the Champions League to be held in India in October," BCCI chief Narayan Daswami Srinivasan told reporters after the meeting.

The BCCI's recommendation will be forwarded to the governing council of the Champions League which is owned by the cricket boards of India, Australia and South Africa, Srinivasan added.

India and Pakistan met in the Asia Cup in

Bangladesh in March and the World Cup semifinal in India last year, but regular tours have been frozen since the 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai, blamed on Pakistan-based militants.

India postponed a tour to Pakistan scheduled for January 2009 in the wake of the Mumbai carnage, which left 166 people dead and many hundreds injured.

The latest move by the BCCI comes a month after Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, who was on a private visit to New Delhi, urged Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to consider reviving cricket ties.

Srinivasan, asked if this was the first step towards reviving relations with Pakistan, said: "Today, the decision is limited to the Champions League. I don't want to say anything beyond it."

Pakistani teams did not feature in the first three editions of the Champions League, an off-shoot of the hugely popular Indian Premier League (IPL), which began in 2009.

Pakistani players have also been left out of the IPL after taking part in the inaugural

# Chennai thrash Delhi

SPORT DESK



An insipid batting display from table-toppers Delhi Daredevils in the face of superb new-ball bowling from Ben Hilfenhaus

condemned them to a nine-wicket loss to Chennai Super Kings in their Indian Premier League match at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai yesterday.

Chasing a paltry 115 for victory, Chennai were never in trouble, with their opening partnership of Mike Hussey and Murali Vijay putting on 75 in ten overs. Hussey's departure, caught by Mahela Jayawardene off Irfan Pathan for a 32-ball 38, was the only bit of success for Delhi in a forgettable performance from the team occupying top position in the league.

Suresh Raina then joined Vijay and went on to dominate the unbeaten 40-run stand with the opener. Vijay top-scored with 48 from 40 balls with the help of five fours and a six to lead Chennai home with 4.4 overs to spare.

Despite the loss, Delhi stay in top position while the thumping win elevates Chennai to fourth position in the table.

Earlier, after being inserted by Chennai skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Delhi were demoralised by a brilliant bowling display by Chennai's Australian recruit Hilfenhaus.

Hilfenhaus prized out the top three batsmen Virender Sehwag, David Warner and Naman Ojha for scores of 4, 8 and 3 respectively in his opening spell. Sehwag's wicket was particularly exceptional -- bowled by an away swinger that took out off stump. Jayawardene followed soon after, caught at mid-on off Albie Morkel to leave Delhi teetering at 24 for four.

It was a start that Delhi could not recover from, and the run-a-ball 48-run fifth wicket partnership between Venugopal Rao and Yogesh Nagar was more an attempt at respectability than a match-turning association. Rao fell to Ravichandran Ashwin for a 24-ball 27 in the fourteenth over with the score on 72, and thereafter Pathan and Nagar continued on their quest to get as near 120 as possible, scoring 42 runs off the last 6.4 overs. Hilfenhaus bagged impressive figures of 3 for 27 from four overs while Nagar was Delhi's highest scorer with a 47-ball 43 that featured one four and a six.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

DELHI DAREDEVILS: 114 for 5 (Nagar 43 not out, Rao 27; Hilfenhaus 3-27; Morkel 1-15)

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 115 for 1 in 15.2 overs (Vijay 48 not out, Hussey 32, Raina 28 not out; Pathan 1-15)

Result: Chennai Super Kings won by nine wickets.

## GYC Tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

Officers' Club defeated Customs Club in a best of three match 2-1 in their Group A encounter of the GYC Northern Hatcheries Premier Tennis Tournament at the Gulshan Youth Club yesterday. In the first match of the 35+ age group, the team of Officers' Club's Mohammad Moasir and Sarwar defeated Customs Club's Jahidul Islam and Altaf Hossain in straight sets 7-5, 6-2. In the second match of the 54+ age group, Officers Club's Mohammad Abdullah and Aliul Reza defeated Customs Club's Mohammad Nasir Uddin and Sheikh Mohammad Aslam 6-3, 6-2.

In the third match of the 35+ age group, the Customs Club's Ilias Foyzullah and Kajol eventually got one back by defeating Officers Club's Atikul and Anwar 6-0, 6-1.

### Victoria, Serena

FROM PAGE 16

good matches this week. "I'm glad to be back in the final. I'm looking forward to it." Azarenka will be out to prove herself after losing the 2011 final here to Petra Kvitova, two months before the Czech made her major breakthrough by winning Wimbledon.

She has four trophies this season, but will be aiming for her first of the year on clay, having last triumphed on hardcourt at Indian Wells in March.

The Belarusian, who began the season with 26 consecutive wins, stands 34-2 for the season, with her only defeats coming against Marion Bartoli in Miami and against Maria Sharapova in the Stuttgart clay final last month. Radwanska was playing with her new world ranking of third as she competed in her sixth semifinal of 2012.

Williams advanced to the final without facing a break point against Hradecka, sweeping the last set to end with 19 winners.

## Tithy's three sinks Dipali

SPORTS REPORTER

Tithy Rani took three quick wickets as Gulshan Youth sunk Dipali Jubo Shangha by nine wickets in the 4th Women's Club Cricket League at the BKSP in Savary yesterday.

She removed Sanjana, Nigar and Mina as Dipali were shot out for just 59 runs in 38 overs. Subarna took two wickets.

In reply, Gulshan Youth lost one wicket before reaching the target of 60 runs in 15.4 overs. Sanjida was unbeaten on 27 off 51 balls.

## BU prevail

FROM PAGE 16

way. Deedarul coolly finished it with an angular shot.

Chigozie made it 3-3 in the 55th minute, heading in a Kabir Hossain cross from the right flank Chigozie scored his third of the match on the hour mark as he placed the ball over the head of Arambagh keeper Mohammad Salim. That proved to be the winning goal as Arambagh failed to find an equaliser despite getting scoring chances.

## Shane Tigers' interim

FROM PAGE 16

May 20 to prepare for a tri-series against Zimbabwe and South Africa that starts in Harare on June 24 while at the end of July, Bangladesh are set to travel to Ireland and Scotland to play some limited-over matches before their assignment to the ICC Twenty20 World Cup to be held in September in Sri Lanka.

It however looks like Shane Jurgensen will be doing the duty for a short period of time as BCB is very much hopeful about the appointment of Richard Pybus, who was returned to

## Afridi to support Hafeez

ANI, Karachi

Pakistan cricketer Shahid Afridi says he is not upset after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) selected Misbahul Haq for the 50-over format instead of him, and handed Mohammad Hafeez the captain's armband for the Twenty20 format.

Former captain Afridi was a leading candidate to replace Misbah but has vowed to back Hafeez after the snub.

## Rohit century

FROM PAGE 16

the imposing target. For Mumbai, Patel, Prayagn Ojha, Dwayne Smith and Kieron Pollard took one wicket each.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

MUMBAI INDIANS: 182 for 1 (Sharma 109 not out, Gibbs 66 not out; Shakib 1-27)

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 155 for 4 (Kallis 79, Pathan 40, Tiwary 27; Ojha 1-26, Pollard 1-29, Patel 1-32)

Result: Mumbai Indians won by 27 runs.

## Tough win for Kulfa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Kulfa Goshthi registered their second win in the Col Malek Smriti Premier Cricket League with a three-wicket victory over Dashora Nabajagaran Sangsad at the Shahid-Miraz Tapan Stadium in Manikganj yesterday.

Upon winning the toss, Dashora batted first and were all out for 181 runs in 29.3 overs with Arun top-scoring with a quickfire 50 off 38 balls. Plaban made 26.

Sohan picked up three wickets while Mazed and Shafiq took two wickets each.

In reply, Kulfa Goshthi reached 182 in 37 overs losing seven wickets. Sohan struck 57 while Ishan remained not out on 25 runs.

Sohan and Plaban took two wickets each.

## Nabil gets

FROM PAGE 16

disclosed these appointments to the media after emerging from a three-hour meeting, the first under the new committee, at the BFF House.

Among the other committees that have been decided, Murshedy will head the Professional Football League Committee as well as the Finance Committee and Logistic Committee, Sheikh Mohammed Maruf Hasan will head the Dhaka Mohanagari Football League Committee, Sirajul Islam Bachchu and Fazlur Rahman Babul will remain in charge of the Women's Football Committee and Grounds Committee respectively while newly-elected vice-presidents Tabith and Joy will head the Competition Committee and Champions Club Cup Football Committee respectively. The remaining committees will be distributed later it was also revealed.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

### ACROSS

1 Tire-changing aid  
5 Spring mo.  
8 Got bigger  
12 Shaving cream additive  
13 Fish eggs  
14 Greek vowel  
15 Fund-raising events  
17 Toe woe  
18 Shell game item  
19 Make money (from)  
21 Ill-tempered one  
24 "Groovy!"  
25 Go sight-seeing  
26 Try to touch your toes, maybe

33 Sodium — (food preservative)  
35 Tarzan's transport  
36 Not all mine  
37 "America's Next Top —"  
38 Man's hat style  
41 It's between jay and el  
42 Egg  
43 C-note  
48 Toll road  
49 CSA leader  
50 Fence opening  
51 Coaster  
52 — out a living

53 Formerly, formerly  
20 Took the train  
1 Poke  
2 Brewery product  
3 Opposed to change  
4 Big enough fish, maybe  
5 Met melody  
6 Cauldron  
7 Answer  
8 Male escort  
9 Santa's runaway  
10 Needle case  
11 1/746 horsepower  
Solution time: 21 mins.

16 Not many  
21 Impale  
22 Sharpen product  
23 Destroy  
24 Small change  
26 Not too bad  
27 Null partner  
28 Sea eagle  
29 Spool  
31 Tart to the taste  
34 Sped  
35 Trip  
37 Army rank (Abbr.)  
38 Dandies  
39 Satanic  
40 Carolina campus  
41 Dangling site  
44 "A mouse!"  
45 Scratch the surface  
46 "Impossible"  
47 Butterfly catcher

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| REDO      | BUNGEE    |       |
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| OVA       | THERE     | EVA   |
| PAS       | SATYR     | DEB   |

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### CRYPTOQUIP

Y D N Y I K Y C I R I W O M C I M N C H A T B

M T O Y I G P B Y A B J C A T G M I

N W A Y . H D I N C D I J N W W B

H Y R H K H G M N G P R A A J D H G M .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NAME OF A COUNTRY WHERE PEOPLE ALWAYS FEEL COMPELLED TO ACT ON THINGS IMMEDIATELY: URGENT-INA. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals T