

Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY AUGUST 11, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Conte banned for 10 months

Juventus on Friday announced their "full support" for coach Antonio Conte and said they were preparing an appeal, after the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) banned him for 10 months as part of a match-fixing investigation.

Conte and his assistant Angelo Alessio, who was suspended for eight months, were sanctioned for failing to disclose knowledge of two fixed matches while they worked at Siena during the 2010-11 season.

Juventus defender Leonardo Bonucci, however, was cleared of wrong-doing in relation to a match against Udinese in May 2010 when he was playing for Bari. Teammate Simone Pepe was also cleared.



Jamaica's sprint superstar Usain Bolt gestures to his fans upon becoming the first athlete to defend a sprint double in the Olympics following his men's 200m final victory at the Olympic Stadium in London on Thursday night. Having earlier won the men's 100m final, this 200m win gave Bolt the sprint double which he also achieved in Beijing 2008.

PHOTO: AFP

Bolt's burst into immortality

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM from London



If there had been any lingering doubts as to the greatness of Usain Bolt, the Jamaican silenced them on Thursday night; literally.

Bolt sauntered over the finish line in the 200-metre final at London's Olympic Stadium ahead of his great friend and rival Yohan Blake and he did so with a sly look at the cameras and a finger placed emphatically on his lips.

That gesture needed no translation but yet, Bolt provided one.

"That was for all the doubters," he said after becoming the first man in history to defend both the 100 and 200 metre double. "That was to tell them to stop talking, because I am a legend."

Indeed, with this unique and unprecedented double, Bolt has just stepped into athletic stratosphere. It was also one of the few times on Thursday that Bolt's uber-cool demeanour dissipated enough to provide a shallow glimpse at the fire that burns inside him. It is this burning desire that has taken him where no sprinter has ever gone before.

Four years ago, in Beijing, Bolt bothered to tie his shoelaces for the 200-metre final. Here too, he took it seriously. He had to. Blake, who Bolt himself has anointed as his successor, was breathing down his back all the way. Bolt could not afford to let up.

"I know I run the corners better than him [Blake] so I just went around it really fast. I felt a slight strain in my side, so I kept looking at him to see if I was ahead."

And he was, by just enough. Perhaps it was the strain that

prevented him breaking the world record, or perhaps those days are behind Bolt. But 19.32sec is still equal to Michael Johnson's one-time record that was predicted to stand for decades. And Bolt wasn't even at a hundred percent. "I would like to think so [I am 100 percent] but I definitely don't feel it," said Bolt. "I am not 90 percent, but not 100 percent either," he admitted.

Even at 90 percent though, Bolt-mania is alive and kicking in London. There may have been no world records but not one of the 80,000 people lucky enough to have been at the stadium on Thursday night will have gone home with anything other than a feeling of profound fulfilment.

This is because there is something childishly electrifying about watching Bolt, a feeling of pulsating excitement and thrill that you get only with certain sportsmen. For some that is Muhammad Ali, for others it is Diego Maradona or Michael Jordan. All the names were mentioned in the same breath as Bolt but he brushed aside the comparisons.

"That's for other people to decide," he said. "But I am the best in my sport and they were the best in theirs," he concluded.

It's not just that Bolt's sprints have managed to put the pane of man's physical achievement on a different scale. Bolt's records are quantum leaps in human achievement, in the truest sense of the word. Just consider that it took 40 years to go from Jimmy Hines' 9.94 to Asafa Powell's 9.74. And then Bolt somehow, somehow managed to fast-forward it down to the 9.58 it stands at now.

But even that is not the whole story. For with Bolt, there is the feeling of song and dance be it in the bunny ears that he

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

U-19s start campaign with SL test

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Under-19s launch their campaign in the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup today when they face off with Sri Lanka Under-19s at the Allan Border Field in Brisbane.

They will seek to avenge their Asia Cup defeat against their Sri Lankan counterparts when they meet in one of the four opening day fixtures of the 16-team biennial competition.

Bangladesh had a disappointing performance in the Asia Cup in Malaysia where they were eliminated by Afghanistan and Sri Lanka during the group stage, the consequence of the failure being major changes made by the board in the aftermath. New captain Anamul Haque and head coach Sarwar Imran have pointed out that it was not a full strength team which played in the Asia Cup and were optimistic of a good performance in the World Cup after the return of some key players who had missed the Asia Cup due to injuries.

And the encouraging fact is that the Bangladesh team have had enough opportunities to acclimatise to the condition as they reached Australia early to play two unofficial practice matches against the West Indies Under-19s and Papua New Guinea (PNG) Under-19s, besides the two official practice matches against their Scottish and South African counterparts.

Anamul's side lost against West Indies and South Africa in the warm-ups, in which their batting appeared to be unsatisfactory, though they won against PNG and Scotland and their loss against group rivals South Africa was a close affair.

Captain Anamul Haque said his side will be aiming for consistency.

"The objective is to settle down quickly. I am putting emphasis on focus as many of our boys haven't toured that much and I have seen that some may actually get overawed by the experience. We are also looking for consistency which is still not there in our performance. We have been making the odd contribution but not doing it as a group on a regular basis.

"I am sure everyone has set personal goals but we all have the common desire of seeing ourselves in the final," Anamul said.

The Bangladesh captain and coach expressed their desire prior to departure to play in the Super League and for that they have to win at least two group games.

Bangladesh have been placed in Group D along with Sri Lanka, South Africa and Namibia.

The two top sides from each group will qualify for the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Russia retain synchro title

AFP, London

Hot favourites Russia won synchronised swimming team gold on Friday to maintain their total domination of the sport stretching back to the Sydney Games in 2000.

The Russians, with a total score of 197.030, were completing their fourth consecutive Games clean sweep after lifting the duet title on Tuesday.

China came in second, with Spain taking the bronze medal.

Russia's triumphant team comprised Anastasia Davydova, winning her fifth Olympic gold, Maria Gromova, Natalia Ishchenko, Elvira Khayanova, Daria Korobova, Alexandra Patskevich, Svetlana Romashina and Anzhelika Timanina.

They were in pole for this latest title after going into the freestyle programme leading after Thursday's technical routine.

Despite another polished performance, the Chinese, lying second overnight, were not able to dislodge their Russian rivals from the top of the podium, coming in with a score of 194.010.

Spain, silver medallists in Beijing four years ago, ended with a score of 193.120.

The last time Russia failed to win the gold at a major championship was at the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games when they finished fourth to the United States, not represented in this final.

Friday's free routine placed the emphasis on artistic impression, with Davydova and company seducing the capacity crowd at the Aquatics Centre and more importantly the 14



MEDALLIST

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
United States	39	25	26
China	37	25	19
Russia	13	21	24
Great Britain	25	15	15
Germany	10	17	11
Japan	5	14	15
Australia	7	14	10
France	8	9	12
South Korea	12	7	6
Italy	7	6	7
Netherlands	5	5	8
Canada	1	5	11
Hungary	8	4	3
New Zealand	4	3	5
Spain	2	7	3
Brazil	2	2	7
Belarus	3	3	4
Ukraine	3	1	6
Kazakhstan	6	0	3
Iran	4	4	1
Cuba	3	3	3
Jamaica	3	3	3
Romania	2	5	2
Denmark	2	4	3

For some that is Muhammad Ali, for others it is Diego Maradona or Michael Jordan. All the names were mentioned in the same breath as Bolt but he brushed aside the comparisons.

"That's for other people to decide," he said. "But I am the best in my sport and they were the best in theirs," he concluded.

It's not just that Bolt's sprints have managed to put the pane of man's physical achievement on a different scale. Bolt's records are quantum leaps in human achievement, in the truest sense of the word. Just consider that it took 40 years to go from Jimmy Hines' 9.94 to Asafa Powell's 9.74. And then Bolt somehow, somehow managed to fast-forward it down to the 9.58 it stands at now.

But even that is not the whole story. For with Bolt, there is the feeling of song and dance be it in the bunny ears that he

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

'Eaton's the greatest'

AFP, London

Usain Bolt admitted Thursday that despite streaking to a unique second successive Olympic sprint double, decathlon champion Ashton Eaton was the best athlete in the world.

Bolt declared himself the "greatest athlete to live" after successfully defending his 200m title in 19.32sec. He had earlier retained his 100m title.

On Thursday Eaton, the world record-holder from the United States, wrapped up the decathlon, the grueling 10-discipline event spread over two days.

And when questioned directly, Bolt backed down from his declaration.

"I'm a great athlete, but to do 10 events, especially the 1500m, I have got to give it to him!" Bolt said.

Decathlon silver medallist Trey Hardee had earlier, and rather more pointedly,

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Extending our assurance... like never before. Enjoy 2 years' warranty like no other.

Samsung Mobile After Sales Service

Collection Points: 12 | Service Centers: 12
For details, call: 01199779999 (9 am to 9 pm)

Check out the hologram sticker

SAMSUNG

কী নিচ্ছে ঈদে?

একটি দু'টি নয় এবারের ঈদে তুমি পাচ্ছে ৭টি চাঁদ রাত! সাত থেকে তেরো আগস্ট এই ৭ দিনে মনমতো ঈদ শপিং করতে প্রাণ জুনিয়র জুস তোমাকে দিচ্ছে ৫,০০০ টাকার শপিং ভাউচার। আর দেরি নয়, এবার শপিং লিস্টটা রেডি করে ফেলো জলদি!

অংশগ্রহণ করতে JUNIOR লিখে SMS করে 2345 নম্বরে। ফিরতি এসএমএস-এ একটি সহজ প্রশ্নের উত্তরে a, b, c অথবা d অপশন থেকে তোমার সঠিক উত্তরটি পাঠিয়ে পেতে পারো ৫,০০০ টাকার শপিং ভাউচার। পটারির মাধ্যমে প্রতিদিন ১০ জন এই পুরস্কার পাবে।

অফারটি শুধুমাত্র ১২৫ মিলি প্রাণ জুনিয়র জুস-এর ম্যাংগো ও ফ্রুট ককটেল ফ্রেভারের জন্য প্রযোজ্য। পুরস্কার দাবির সময় বিজয়ীর সাথে অবশ্যই উল্লেখিত ফ্রেভার ও পরিমাপের একটি প্রাণ জুনিয়র জুস থাকতে হবে।

প্রাণ-আরএফএল গ্রুপ এবং এই ক্যাম্পেইনের সাথে সর্বেশ্ট কোন ব্যক্তি বা তাদের পরিবার এই কার্যক্রমে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে না।

প্রাণ জুনিয়র জুস কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন নোটিশ ছাড়া যেকোন মুহুর্তে এই কার্যক্রমের যেকোন প্রকার পরিবর্তন, পরিবর্তন, পরিমার্জন ও বন্ধের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

এই কার্যক্রমের সকল ক্ষেত্রে প্রাণ জুনিয়র জুস কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

শপিং প্রযোজ্য