



Maasranga TV
& STAR Cricket
ICC Champions Trophy
England v Australia
Live from 3:30pm
NEO Prime
French Open
Women's Final
Live from 7:00pm

Speedy Gatlin shocks BOLT

US star Justin Gatlin (L) finishes just ahead of Jamaican Usain Bolt (R) at the end of the men's 100 metres sprint event of the 2013 IAAF Diamond League in Rome on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

Royals face suspension

AFP, New Delhi

Former Indian Premier League champions Rajasthan Royals faced suspension from the cash-rich tournament on Friday after its co-owner admitted to betting on the Twenty20 matches.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has called an emergency meeting of its working committee in New Delhi on Monday to discuss the fate of the team which is captained by Rahul Dravid.

"We have taken cognisance of the Raj Kundra issue. We are going to discuss it in our meeting on June 10 and if necessary, stringent measures will be taken," BCCI interim head Jagmohan Dalmiya told reporters late Thursday.

Raj Kundra, co-owner of the Royals alongside his Bollywood actress and former Big Brother contestant wife Shilpa Shetty, has admitted to illegal gambling on the competition, according to police. He has since been ordered to hand over his passport.

According to an agreement between the BCCI and IPL sides, if any franchise group or owner acts in a way which has a "material adverse effect" on the reputation of the BCCI or the league, then their agreement will be terminated.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Royals said in a statement that Kundra would be suspended if "proven guilty".

"We believe that Mr. Raj Kundra is a law abiding citizen and would not act contrary to law. If however, he is proven guilty, or has breached any regulations, he will be suspended, and he will also forfeit his shares," the statement said.

AFP, Rome

Six-time Olympic champion Usain Bolt said he will review the key ingredients missing from his race after being pipped to victory in his first 100 metre outing in Europe this season by American rival Justin Gatlin.

Gatlin came into the Rome Golden Gala expected to challenge the world record holder (9.58sec) on the back of two wins in the opening two legs of the Diamond League in Doha and in Eugene.

Bolt, meanwhile, was making his first appearance on the continent since his recent recovery from a hamstring injury.

The Jamaican surprised himself with a strong start but soon had trouble finding the required rhythm and later admitted his traditionally strong finish was absent.

Bolt, who will next compete in Oslo at the Bislett Games before returning to Jamaica on June 14, said he felt no twinge from his hamstring during the race but felt "a little sore" afterwards.

But he admits he has work to do ahead of the world championships in Moscow later

this summer.

"I got a great start. I think the fact that I did threw me off a little," said the Jamaican. "Normally the last 50 (metres) is the best part of my race but it wasn't there.

"But I'm not worried. I wanted to find out where I was at here and now I will go home and look at the tape, see where I went wrong and come out and do better next time."

Gatlin's weaker start did not stop him clinching the win with a dipped finish in a time of 9.94, his third win in the Diamond League this season.

But the 2004 Olympic champion, who once served a four-year ban for doping, admitted his technique is also a work in progress.

"Last season I was a really good starter, this year, it's been a little slower," said the American. "I'm trying to get that back and get the middle of my race stronger."

"I just want to stay healthy. It's a long season ahead."

Olympic champion Allyson Felix settled for second in the women's 200m where Murielle Ahoure of Ivory Coast clocked a

new national record on her way to the win.

The African made the most of the absence of Jamaicans Veronica Campbell-Brown, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, the Olympic silver medallist in London, and Sherone Simpson to clock a time of 22.36.

"I'm very excited and the national record is a big bonus for me," said Ahoure.

Felix finished second in 22.64, and admits her focus is on sealing her place in the USA team.

"I'm taking a different approach this year, taking more time off, so I was a little off," admitted the American.

"I'm trying to make the (US) team, run the 100 and 200 (in Moscow). I'll stay patient. It's what happens down the season that counts."

Americans topped the podium in a number of key events with Lashawn Merritt winning the men's 400m ahead of Saudi Arabia's Youssef Ahmed Masrahi.

Merritt later declared: "I would say I'm the favourite for the world championships if nobody else will say so."

Dawn Harper-Nelson won the women's

100m hurdles ahead of compatriot Lolo Jones, while Johnny Dutch literally threw himself over the line to clinch the men's 400m hurdles and Olympic champion Christian Taylor won the triple jump with a leap of 17.08.

All eyes were on Croatia's former Olympic champion Blanka Vlasic and Russia's reigning world and Olympic champion Anna Chicherova as the pair duelled for the first time in two years.

But Vlasic, returning to competition after a 20-month absence due to injury, ultimately had to settle for third as Chicherova and compatriot Svetlana Shkolina shared victory after efforts of 1.98 m.

Vlasic's best jump was 1.95 and she said: "I'm satisfied with my performance, I've improved my season's best and it's another stepping stone. I'm happy to be back."

Ethiopia's Yenew Alamirew powered down the home straight to win the men's 5000m ahead of teenaged compatriot Hagos Gebrehiwet in a time of 12min 54.95sec, slashing 10secs off the best time of the year so far.

Xabi Alonso undergoes op

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid and Spain midfielder Xabi Alonso has had successful surgery on a nagging groin injury, the Spanish La Liga runners up said on Friday.

The 31-year-old was left out of the world champions' squad for the Confederations Cup later this month, after having struggled during the latter half of the season with his club.

Alonso had the surgery with a specialist in Munich.

Spanish media reported he would be out of action for three to four months. The club gave no estimate of how long he would be sidelined.

Robben wants Bayern stay

AFP, Berlin

Dutch winger Arjen Robben plans to remain at Bayern Munich, with whom he won last season's Champions League.

"My plan is to stay (at Bayern) where I'm enjoying myself and am under contract until 2015," Robben told the Bild newspaper.

"Leaving is not an issue at the moment. There's no reason," said the 29-year-old, scorer of the winning goal in Bayern's 2-1 victory over Dortmund in the Champions League final.

While acknowledging that football was a "business where anything could happen at any time", Robben would not be drawn on a possible departure after rumours linking him with a move to Italy, England or Turkey.

Chelsea on the hunt for Cavani

REUTERS, Rome



Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis says Chelsea have made enquiries about signing striker Edinson Cavani.

"Chelsea are interested in Cavani and they will call me soon," De Laurentiis told

Napoli's official radio station Radio Marte from Los Angeles On Friday.

"I'm very happy that his brother has said that he will stay, but if he did decide to go to Chelsea we would take time out to think and replace him with people worthy of replacing him."

Uruguayan Cavani was top scorer in Serie A last term, netting 29 goals in 34 appearances as they challenged for the title and finished second behind Juventus.

He is also Napoli's third highest goalscorer with 104 goals in three seasons, 11 behind Diego Maradona, who scored 115 in seven seasons.

Film mogul De Laurentiis also revealed in the interview that he has offered 40 million euros (\$52.8 million) for AS Roma pair Erik Lamela and Marquinhos.

"I contacted Unicredit (Italian bank which part-owns Roma) directly for Lamela and Marquinhos. I offered them 40 million," he said.



Netherlands stars Arjen Robben (L), Wesley Sneijder (C) and Dirk Kuyt (R) enjoy a light moment before their friendly against Indonesia in Jakarta yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

CLEAR
YOUR CHANCE TO **WATCH**
BARCELONA VS REAL MADRID
LIVE IN SPAIN

Sharif, Ashik & Omar are the lucky winners to watch Barcelona vs Real Madrid Live.
YOU TOO CAN BE ONE OF THE REMAINING 5!
To find out who is the winner of this week, keep your eyes on at 1:30pm today

Buy 180ml Clear Men shampoo
Fly to Spain*!
For details: Log on to /clear

*Conditions apply

U
Underrun