



PHOTO: AFP  
**MAN OR SUPERMAN?**  
Jamaica sprinter Usain Bolt strikes his trademark pose with his country's flag after leaving the field in his dust to win his third successive 200m crown at the World Athletics Championships in Moscow yesterday.

# Usain bolts to 200m hat-trick

AFP, Moscow



Usain Bolt underlined his amazing sprinting prowess on Saturday by powering to a third successive world 200m title at the World Athletics Championships for his seventh world gold medal.

The 26-year-old Jamaican destroyed the field to finish in 19.66 seconds, teammate Warren Weir claiming silver in a personal best of 19.79sec and American Curtis Mitchell taking bronze in 20.04.

"I had to push myself to be the best," said a subdued Bolt. "I'm really happy to get it done as the 200m is my favourite event."

"I knew it wouldn't be the fastest of races as when I came into the straight I felt slightly tired and I started to look around me."

It was Bolt's seventh world gold medal after winning the 100 and 200m at the Berlin worlds in 2009, the 200m in Daegu in 2011, the 100m in Moscow on Sunday and golds as part of the winning Jamaican 4x100m relay squads in both 2009 and 2011.

He also has two silvers (200m, 4x100m relay) from the 2007 worlds in Osaka.

His burgeoning medal haul also includes unprecedented treble golds from both the 2008 and 2012 Olympics.

Bolt now has the opportunity to draw level with the present mark of eight world gold medals won by retired American duo Carl Lewis and Michael Johnson when he races the 4x100m relay on Sunday.

Bolt, who had been nursing a sore foot after regaining his 100m title on Sunday, had the slowest reaction time of the eight-man field, but exploded into the corner and was up on Briton Adam Gemili on his outside in lane five within 10 paces.

As he rounded the bend, Bolt had a clear lead on the rest of the field, Weir in lane eight coming through late on.

Bolt's sprint double was just the tonic for track and field, the credibility of which had again been called to account in recent weeks, notably after American sprint rival Tyson Gay and Jamaican compatriot Asafa Powell tested positive for drugs.

## Cricketers return to camp today

SPORTS REPORTER

The national cricketers will resume their camp at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium following a 12-day long Eid break from today. The camp which began two months ago initially focused on improving the players' fitness levels and then included skill-based exercises for the players' before the break.

With New Zealand scheduled to arrive in the country on October 2 to play two Tests and three one-day-internationals, the team management's main aim following the resumption of the camp will be to prepare the players for the series.

The resumption of the camp will not feature the entire group of players since a majority of them are currently in the United Kingdom playing for Bangladesh A. It will however include the likes of captain Mushfiqur Rahim, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and other senior players.

Coach Shane Jurgensen, who returned to the country yesterday evening after having spent his Eid vacation in Australia, will join the players today.

## Mithun scores in 'closed door' match

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team beat BFF XI 1-0 in the latest practice match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, thanks to a 72nd minute strike from substitute forward Mithun Chowdhury. The win was the seventh in seven matches for the national team against local opponents ahead of the SAFF Championship, and only the second 'closed-door affair'.

Although the concept of closed-door training or match is being followed worldwide for some time, it is quite new here. Dutch coach Lodewijk de Kruif imported this idea, along with his expertise in the game, in a bid to avoid media speculations ahead of such a big assignment. The coach wanted to make sure he kept his cards close to his chest and he did it almost successfully.

On the ground, the performance seemed an improvement from the last match four days ago where the national team looked lacklustre and eked out a 2-1 win. The passing and ball control was impressive yet the impact was lacking. Substitute forward Mithun Chowdhury scored a clever goal to save the blushes of the side.

The coach tinkered with the playing eleven and made a number of changes after the breather. The coach seemingly wanted to try out his options one more time before he has to trim his 24-man squad to 20 for the SAFF Championship.

## Kevin's car towed away

ANI, London

England batsman Kevin Pietersen's car was towed away after his parking permit expired, leaving the player fuming as he called it 'daylight robbery'.

According to The Daily Star, the batsman angrily tweeted 'following the truck to the pound' after the incident.

The report said that the star had to pay a 240 pound release fee after the 4x4 was seized from outside his house in Chelsea.

## For the love of kabaddi

SPORTS REPORTER

Over the last two days, the National Kabaddi Stadium in Paltan was the site of some curious and indeed unprecedented goings on. Although it was not the Kabaddi season, the final of the National Kabaddi Championship seemed to be taking place. Also, there seemed to be significantly more fans and cameras than one would expect for the oft-neglected national sport. And why would a kabaddi final take two days? Even the names of the two finalists will cause alarm -- Fire Club and Hawa (air) Club. Upon closer inspection, it was not a real match, but one enacted for an upcoming movie called "Bhalobashte Mon Lage" (Love requires a heart).

This low-budget movie is the first movie made in the country centred on the much-neglected national sport. The producers took the noble step of highlighting the chivalrous aspects of the game in a bid to revive the sport.

Shot on digital cameras over five months the plot of the movie, directed by Kalam Kawsar for Padmo-Kanan Production, takes a course similar to most other Bengali movies. The hero is a happy-go-lucky Kabaddi-loving boy named Sagar (played by debutant Hridoy Chowdhury), who hires himself out to different teams. On one such assignment, Sagar meets his to-be-beloved Nadi (Nirjona) at a village and rescues her from the evil eyes of the antagonist.

In the last sequence of the movie, Nadi ducks a flight abroad and comes straight to the stadium to encourage Sagar, who is captaining Fire Club in the final. The denouement contains much drama, passion, and a fistfight. Can the Fire Club emerge victorious? Readers will have to find out for themselves. It is expected to be released during Eid-ul-Adha.

## Ayman in last 8

SPORTS REPORTER

Shuttler Ayman Ibne Zaman moved into the second round of the men's badminton singles event on the second day of the 2nd Asian Youth Games in Nanjing, China on Saturday while the rest of the competitors in different disciplines failed to impress.

Ayman beat Al-Mandalawi Qasim of Iraq in 21-10, 21-15 sets and took just 25 minutes to complete the game to move into the last 16. Ayman, who won gold at the eighth Bangladesh Games, will face Japanese shuttler Koga Minoru today, for a place in the last eight.

Meanwhile, weightlifter Jahura Akter Reshma eclipsed her previous best record in the 48kg category, yet only managed to finish in 10th position among 12 participants by lifting a total of 117kgs.

The Bangladesh three-on-three basketball team suffered a 13-11 defeat against Macau.

## Booters' Malaysia tour scrapped

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh national football team's tour of Malaysia has been cancelled after head coach Lodewijk de Kruif asked the for the tour to be scrapped in a bid to keep the players injury-free and fresh ahead of the SAFF Championship, informed National Teams Committee (NTC) chairman Kazi Nabil Ahmed yesterday.

The coach had a meeting with Nabil where it was decided that the tour of Malaysia, where the national team were supposed to play a practice match against Malaysia Under-23, would be cancelled.

"The coach asked us to cancel the tour as he does not want to risk injuries to his players and wants them to be as fresh as possible. He has said that five players have slight injuries. The travelling will take two days off our scheduled practice. Therefore, he asked us to cancel the tour," confirmed Nabil yesterday.

"Since the ultimate responsibility of performance rests on the coach and he is the one who will be accountable for the results,

we thought it appropriate to honour his request," added Nabil.

The NTC chairman also informed that they do not have any plans to bring any foreign teams for practice matches, and are rather looking forward to arranging a couple of matches against the BFF XI.

"We are not thinking of inviting any foreign teams at the moment. The coach feels playing a few matches against the BFF XI will be good enough practice. There will be two more matches against the same side before the team leaves for Nepal on August 25."

The tour of Malaysia was planned after Pakistan's scheduled tour to Bangladesh, where they were supposed to play one match against BFF XI on August 13 and another against the national team on August 16 in Dhaka, was cancelled on the grounds of nation-wide strikes and political tension.

Bangladesh's SAFF campaign will take off with the opening match against hosts Nepal on August 31 before taking on defending champions India on September 3 and Pakistan in the last group match on September 5.



NOOR HOSSAIN ... 4 for 25

## U-23s trounce Singapore

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-23 secured a comfortable eight-wicket victory over hosts Singapore in the inaugural ACC Emerging Team Cup at the Kallang Cricket Ground yesterday. After electing to bat first the hosts were bundled out for 121 in 47.1 overs. In reply, the visitors reached their target in just 26.4 overs.

Singapore seemed to have no answer against Bangladesh's spinners as the hosts crawled at just over two runs an over for most of the innings. Leg spinner Noor Hossain, who finished with figures of four for 25, was the chief wrecker as he ran through Singapore's middle order. Spinners Tajul Islam (2-19), Sabbir Rahman (2-24) and Mahmudul Hasan (1-24) took the rest of the wickets.

Bangladesh's chase was powered by opener Soumya Sarkar (65 not out) and Mithun Ali (43). The Under-23 side will face Sri Lanka Under-23 on Sunday for their next game.

## Tamim's Zouks out of semi race

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal scored just five as his team St. Lucia Zouks became the first team to crash out of the semifinal race after a six-wicket loss to Trinidad & Tobago Red Steel in the Caribbean Premier League yesterday.

Batting first, the Zouks could only manage a woeeful 99 for five. Opening the batting with Andre Fletcher, Tamim was the first to go after an eight-ball innings. Fletcher (59-ball 46) was the only notable scorer as the Zouks struggled with the spin of Samuel Badree (2-18) and Sulieman Benn (0-11 in four overs).

Red Steel then had no trouble knocking off the runs, scoring 105 for four in 17.5 overs with Kevin O'Brien top-scoring with 37.

## Forum demands 'transparency'

SPORTS REPORTER



(BCB's) elections.

With the delivery of the ICC's anti-corruption report providing a temporary breather in cricket's fixing saga, attention has now shifted to the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) elections. Until last week, it was thought that current BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon would be the only one contesting for the presidential spot. Things however have spiced up a notch after former BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury announced that he too would be running for the BCB post in a press conference last Wednesday.

The elections are due to begin in September and there are a number of processes that are yet to be completed. The BCB, which had asked the National Sport Council to begin the election process on August 6, is yet to send a letter to the clubs, the DSAs and the other parties asking them to send the names of their councillors. BCB is reportedly waiting for the president's approval, who is in Singapore, to release the letters.

The councillors, who'll be nominated from their respective categories, will in turn elect the 27 directors of BCB's executive committee. These directors will then elect the president of the BCB. The councillors' role this time is bound to be much more important considering that, for the first time, their votes can help determine the most important post of the BCB.

With the elections around the corner there has been talk from various quarters

about the interference in the nomination process of the councillors.

The Bangladesh District and Divisional Sports Organisers Council, known as Forum, yesterday reiterated their demand for fairness in the BCB's elections in a press conference which took place at the National Sports Council.

Forum, which is a group within the District and Divisional Sports Associations, asked the BCB's ad-hoc committee not to interfere in the nominations of the councillors from the DSA. As per the constitution, 71 councillors will be elected from the DSAs, out of which 10 will become BCB directors.

"We want the elections to be transparent. If there is any interference with regards to the election of the councillors then that can only be bad for the game," said Abdullah Al Fuad Redwan, Forum's joint secretary.

BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon had earlier accused Forum of having dictatorial tendencies about the nomination of councillors from the DSAs and had also refused to recognise the organisation.

Papon who has been meeting various members of the DSAs, had stated that the BCB would not interfere with the nomination process of the DSAs' councillors but would request them to elect ex cricketers such as Naimur Rahman and Akram Khan for 'the development of the game'.

However Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Papon's opponent in the elections, during a recent press conference had accused the current president of trying to influence the nomination of DSA councillors through individuals in the Prime Minister's office, without the knowledge of the PM.

## Top two sent packing

AFP, Cincinnati



The world's top two tennis players, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray, both suffered shock defeats Friday, while Rafael Nadal stormed back to beat long-time rival Roger Federer at the Cincinnati Masters.

Number three Nadal booked a spot in the semifinals by rallying past Federer, with the Swiss player saving four match points in a 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 loss.

The pair have met a total of 31 times, with Nadal winning 21 of those.

"My movement got better, with more intensity," said Nadal, undefeated on hardcourts in 2013. "I put in more balls on the return, and controlled the baseline, something that didn't happen the first set and a half."

"The match was very close. I played some good points in important moments." Federer suffered only his second loss in the last five editions in Cincinnati.

"Credit to him for hanging in and getting back some tough shots," said five-time champion Federer, who will fall to seventh in the world as a result of his defeat.

"I have some disappointment, I could have played better late in the second and early in the third."

"But my tactics were working most of the time. I served well for most of the match, but when I didn't he was able to step it up." World number one Djokovic fell 7-6 (7/5), 3-6, 7-5 to unseeded John Isner as the Serb's attempt to set another tennis record ended in defeat.

Had Djokovic beaten the American he would have kept alive a bid to become the first man to win all nine Masters 1000 titles

in his career.

Two-time champion Murray was eliminated 6-3, 6-4 by Tomas Berdych, leaving the Scot to head for New York and his US Open title defense, beginning August 26, with plenty to work on.

The second seed fired 10 aces but was betrayed as he missed on all four of his break points. Berdych has now beaten Murray twice this season after beating him in Madrid on clay.

"The court was lively today. It was bouncing pretty high and it was quite tough to control the ball. I made too many errors," said Murray. "The first couple of rounds, I was able to hit the ball quite flat and wasn't kind of flying on me; today it was happening a little bit. I need to make sure I'm not making too many mistakes going into the US Open."

Isner set up a Saturday semi with 2009 US Open winner Juan Martin del Potro, who beat qualifier Dmitry Tursunov 6-4, 3-6, 6-1. Del Potro said he won despite dealing with pain in his left wrist. The Argentine missed much of the 2010 season with a wrist problems and remains cautious.

"Yes, it bothers me a little bit, but not too much," said the 2009 US Open champion. "I'm trying to play slices and different shots before the US Open to see how different I can play against the top guys."

Del Potro needed one and three-quarter hours to get past veteran Russian Tursunov, with the Argentine hammering 15 aces and breaking three times. Del Potro reached the semifinals in 2012 where he lost to Djokovic.

The women's quarterfinal matches were dominated by world number one Serena Williams, who raced through a 16-minute opening set en route to an easy 6-0, 6-4 win against Romanian Simona Halep.