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Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt ran the 200 metre sprint in style, outpacing his nearest opponent, USA's Justin Gatlin, comfortably to clinch gold in Beijing. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Bolt's fabulous fifth

REUTERS, Beijing

Usain Bolt delivered when it mattered again on Thursday when he scorched the fastest time of the year to win a record fourth straight world 200 metres title in 19.55 seconds and sweep the individual sprints at a global championships for a fifth time.

Five days after beating Justin Gatlin to win the 100 metres, the 29-year-old Olympic champion and world record holder again proved too strong for the in-form American, who finished second in 19.74.

"Well done Usain," Bolt told reporters. "I am just happy, I told you guys I would do it. There was no doubt. I was not really focused on time. I knew I was not in the shape for a world record."

Bolt, who had run only one race at the distance coming into the Championships after an injury-disrupted season, was in control from the start.

He got out of the blocks quicker than the usually explosive Gatlin on his inside and was ahead halfway round the bend before the American picked up speed and briefly looked like he might threaten the champion.

Puffing his cheeks out and swinging his arms high, though, Bolt pulled away down the home straight for an ultimately comfortable victory, thumping his chest with his fists as he crossed the line.

"When it comes to the 200 metres, I am a different person," Bolt said.

"My four World Championship gold medals in the 200 metres, this a big deal, a great accomplishment."

The victory gave Bolt a record-extending 10th World Championship gold medal and he could yet win an 11th as part of Jamaica's

4x100 metre relay team on Saturday.

Anaso Jobodwana took bronze in 19.87 for South Africa ahead of Panama's Alonso Edward, who was awarded the same time but lost out on a medal by two 1,000ths of a second. Jobodwana's time was 19.861 and Edward 19.863.

"I just told myself that I was going to try for the best," said Jobodwana, whose time was a South African record.

"It always gives you energy running against [Bolt]."

Bolt and Gatlin had faced each other only once before in a 200 metres race, at the 2005 World Championships in Helsinki where the American claimed his first world title in the event and teenager Bolt finished last.

That was the year before Gatlin, having just matched the 100m world record, tested positive for a banned substance for a second time and was suspended for four years. Gatlin, 33, had gone unbeaten since

2013 in both sprints coming to Beijing and his was the world leading time that Bolt bettered to take the title.

"I'm the oldest man in the field and still running, running pretty well," said Gatlin. "It feels good to go against him [Bolt]. I'm just going to prepare myself for next year, for the Olympics and come out even stronger."

Britain's Zharnel Hughes, who finished fifth in a personal best time of 20.02 at his first major championships, said: "Usain Bolt's a legend, man."

"I even doubted him a bit but Bolt is phenomenal. He knows what to do when it comes to major championships. All credit to him."

Turkey's Ramil Guliyev (20.11) was sixth ahead of Femi Ogunode of Qatar (20.27) with Bolt's compatriot Nickel Ashmeade bringing up the rear in 20.33.

## Pitch keeps SL, India guessing

### 3rd & final Test starts today

AFP, Colombo

India and Sri Lanka were left to ponder the behaviour of an unusually greenish wicket as they delayed naming their line-ups for the decisive third Test starting in Colombo on Friday.

The traditionally high-scoring pitch at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) has undergone a dramatic change in appearance from a brown, flat track to a moisture-laden one that sports a tinge of grass.

Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews refused to hazard a guess on the re-laid pitch even though the last time the hosts played a Test at the SSC a year ago, they swamped Pakistan by 105 runs to break a sequence of four successive draws since 2009.

"After being re-laid the wicket has a bit more carry," he said. "As of now, there's a bit of grass on the wicket. You can't really predict a wicket 100 per cent. We just have to play it by the ear."

"It looks a sporting wicket. We just have to play positive cricket. The batters have to look to score runs, bowlers have to take wickets. We have to get the basics right."

The series is tied 1-1 after Sri Lanka won the opening Test in Galle by 63 runs and India drew level with a thumping 278-run win in the second match at the P Sara Oval in Colombo on Monday.

The Test marks the start of a new era in Sri Lankan cricket following the retirement of batting great Kumar Sangakkara from international cricket after the second Test.

Mathews confirmed that the 134-Test veteran Sangakkara will be replaced by another left-hander Upul Tharanga, who has played 20 Tests, but admitted Sri Lanka were undecided on the rest of the team.

"We still have not found the best combination," the captain told reporters on Thursday. "With Sangakkara now retired, we've got an opportunity to test our players in different positions."

A finger injury sustained by off-spinner Tharindu Kaushal in the second Test has compounded Sri Lanka's worries with Mathews indicating he will wait till Friday morning to finalise the team.

India, seeking their first series win in Sri Lanka in 22 years, will also not reveal their playing 11 till they had assessed the wicket before the toss, team director Ravi Shastri said.

## New Zealand's busy summer

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand Cricket on Thursday announced details of upcoming tours involving Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Australia as the Black Caps seek to capitalise on their stirring run to the World Cup final. The international action over the New Zealand summer will feature four Tests, 11 one-day internationals and five Twenty20 matches.

"Looking at this schedule, there's some really exciting opposition in front of us," captain Brendon McCullum told reporters, adding it offered the home fans a chance to again see their team playing top-class opposition.

**V SRI LANKA**  
Dec 10-14: 1st Test, Dunedin  
Dec 18-22: 2nd Test, Hamilton  
Jan 26: 1st ODI, Christchurch  
Dec 28: 2nd ODI, Christchurch  
Dec 31: 3rd ODI, Nelson  
Jan 2: 4th ODI, Nelson  
Jan 5: 5th ODI, Mount Maunganui  
Jan 7: 1st T20, Mount Maunganui  
Jan 10: 2nd T20, Auckland

**V PAKISTAN**  
Jan 15: 1st T20, Auckland  
Jan 17: 2nd T20, Hamilton  
Jan 22: 3rd T20, Wellington  
Jan 25: 1st ODI, Wellington  
Jan 28: 2nd ODI, Napier  
Jan 31: 3rd ODI, Auckland

**V AUSTRALIA**  
Feb 3: 1st ODI, Auckland  
Feb 6: 2nd ODI, Wellington  
Feb 8: 3rd ODI, Hamilton  
Feb 12-16: 1st Test, Wellington  
Feb 20-24: 2nd Test, Christchurch

## IN A NUTSHELL

### Worcestershire recruit Gabriel

Worcestershire have signed West Indies fast bowler Shannon Gabriel for the final two matches of their County Championship campaign, the Midlands side announced Thursday.

"This will be my first taste of county cricket and I am looking forward to the challenge of keeping Worcestershire in Division One of the Championship," said Gabriel in a Worcestershire statement.

"I know it is only for two matches but I am hoping to make a big contribution."

### They tried to kill me: Bolt

Justin Gatlin could not get close to Usain Bolt in the 200m final in Beijing, but he may have had better luck if he had been on a Segway and armed with a camera.


When Bolt was celebrating his victory in the 200 metre sprint with the crowd, an overzealous cameraman got too close for comfort, lost control of his segway and swept the Jamaican off his feet.

Most of the world held its collective breath while Bolt lay on the ground, but the 10-time world champion managed to see the funny side. The cameraman appeared to come off worse after a nasty fall.

"They tried to kill me!" Bolt told the BBC after he took his tumble.

"I don't know what's going on! That guy's winning too much," he continued with a beaming smile on his face.

The collision left Bolt with an apparent cut to his leg, but he said it wouldn't keep him out of the 400 relay. "Hopefully, I won't feel any effects," he said.



Compiled by Star Sport Desk

## Nat'l booters in Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national football team had their first practice session in the afternoon after landing in Malaysia in the early hours of yesterday as they were getting ready for a friendly match against the hosts tomorrow as part of their preparation for the September 3 World Cup qualifier against Australia in Perth.

The players had practised for two hours at the Padang Latihan Sime Darby and all members of the squad were fine, informed a Bangladesh Football Federation press release.

The players are scheduled to have their final practice at the match venue, Shah Alam Stadium, today afternoon.

### U-15 FOOTBALL

## Jessore win big

SPORTS REPORTER

Jessore notched up a 4-1 win over Thakurgaon in the Sailor-BFF National Under-15 Football Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sagor and Arif struck a brace each for Jessore while Maruf struck the consolation goal for Thakurgaon.

In the day's other match at the Abahani ground in Dhanmondi, Dhaka and Narayananj played out a goalless draw.

## Blame it on anti-football

### BD youths lose 4-3 on penalties

SPORTS REPORTER

There is a whole lot of difference between taking the first shot of a penalty shootout and the one in the sudden death situation.

It mattered little when India's Lalramzouva blasted the first shot miles over the bar and into the stands during a nail-biting tiebreaker of the SAFF U-19 Championship semifinal against Bangladesh in the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu yesterday.

But it cost Bangladesh youths a place in the final when Rahmat Miah did a la Zouva while taking the first shot in the sudden death after the regulation first five spot kicks produced a 3-3 stalemate.

And the moment Rahmat drove his shot over, the Indian camp burst into celebrations, sending their opponents into the depths of despair.

India's 4-3 win in the shootout at the ANFA ground was a fair result against a team that had turned up in the match with a defensive mindset. The boys of coach Saiful Bari Titu had done their best to keep an attacking Indian team at bay during the entire 90 minutes that ended in a goalless draw.

But despite doing all the hard work in training for the last couple of days, during which the main focus was how win in the penalty shootout, the U-19s ended up as sore losers.


And this is where the divine justice was done where anti-football lost the battle against beautiful football. We have appreciated the recent success of the U-16 team at home not because they have won the championship in Sylhet, but because of the attacking brand of football they played.

This U-19 team also played attractive football in their two group league games against Bhutan and hosts Nepal, who will now take on India in Saturday's final.

But why Titu, who himself was defensive midfielder, instructed his boys to resort to a negative approach?

"India is a better team than us and they played really well. We came here for a draw but our training on penalties did not work well," said Titu at the post-match briefing.

His statement may make sense for a professional player but unfortunately his concept is absolutely rubbish for those who love to express themselves. If we are not mistaken, age-level events are meant more for freedom of expression. It's not a place where youths are supposed to feel that they are inferior to their opponents. It's a place where they will go out to showcase their budding talents.



Bangladesh goalkeeper Anisur Rahman tried his best, but failed to save any of the Indian penalties in the semifinal of the SAFF Under-19 Championship at the ANFA ground in Nepal yesterday. PHOTO: BIKRAM THAPA

If we go by what Titu said then aren't we making the future generation of our footballers grow up with an inferiority complex?

It was exactly a week ago when Bangladesh colts were up against their Indian counterparts in a similar shootout situation. And in that tiebreaker a positive and confident Bangladesh came out triumphant.

We feel for this U-19 team not because they have lost but for not being allowed to play their natural game. Even in defeat they showed their resolve to comply with the instruction of their coach. This is absolutely a positive sign from a group that may be even better if they are asked to play attacking football.

Football in our country has failed to make any impression for decades. Recently, the success of the Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and to some extent the success of the colts brought a positive vibe. But that can only head to positive direction if we can build a future generation of footballers who will not only be disciplined but also be fearless.

## Oz prevail amid Belfast rains

AFP, Belfast

World champions Australia beat Ireland by 23 runs under the Duckworth-Lewis method in their rain-affected lone one-day international in Belfast on Thursday.

Ireland, set a revised target of 181 in 24 overs were dismissed for 157 in 23.4 overs, with Nathan Coulter-Nile taking three for 13 and Pat Cummins two for 19.

Earlier, Australia in their first match at this level since winning the World Cup, made 222 for six in 40.2 overs before their innings was cut short by rain.

David Warner top-scored with 84 and fellow opener Joe Burns made 69 on ODI debut in what was Steven Smith's first match as full-time Australia captain following the retirement of Michael Clarke.

With rain having already delayed the scheduled start and forcing a further reduction in overs during Australia's innings, Ireland were set a revised target of 195 to win in 27 overs.

That in turn became 181 in 24 overs after yet more rain halted Ireland's reply with the hosts 27 for two after 6.2 overs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**AUSTRALIA:** 222 for 6 40.2 overs (Burns 69, Warner 84, Smith 21, Watson 26 not out, Marsh 11; Murtagh 2-45, Mooney 1-33, Thompson 1-37)

**IRELAND:** 157 all out in 23.4 overs (Joyce 44, O'Brien 45, Balbirnie 12, Thompson 24; Starc 2-34, Coulter-Nile 3-13, Cummins 2-19, Maxwell 2-41)

**Result:** Australia won by 23 runs on D/L method. **Player-of-the-match:** David Warner.