

# SPORTS



Usain Bolt looks across to Canadian sprinter Andre De Grasse, who came in 0.02 seconds behind the Jamaican, during the 200m semifinals at the Olympic Stadium on Wednesday. Bolt won the race in 19.78 seconds and will aim for a medal in the final.

## Bolt eyes record as Jamaica reign

ATIQUA ANAM from Rio de Janeiro

In its first 14 Olympic appearances, Jamaica won only seven gold medals. But in the next three Olympics -- 2008 Beijing Games, 2012 London Games and the one currently running -- the island nation has bagged as many as 14 gold medals. And that count is almost certain to increase by the time the Rio Games are over.

Thanks to the exploits of the world's fastest man Usain Bolt and his teammates, the Jamaicans are having a ball in the sprint events at the Olympics. While Usain himself has won seven gold medals so far in two and a half Olympic Games, his colleagues, too, have stood up to be counted. The island has produced sprinters like Yohan Blake and Asafa Powell to complete the dominance of Jamaica's male athletes while Shelly Anne Fraser-Pryce had so far

he is the one to beat by breezing his way to a semifinal victory in the 200m, the final of which will take place at 7:30am Bangladesh time.

The seven-time Olympic champion clocked 19.78 seconds, even with his typical languid strides as he approached the finishing line, to pip Canada's 100m bronze medallist Andre de Grasse by 0.02 seconds. The Jamaican later joked about being pushed all the way by the Canadian.

"He was supposed to slow down. I said 'What are you doing, it's a semifinal?'" Bolt



Jamaica's Elaine Thompson obliterated her rivals in the women's 200 metres final on Wednesday and became the first woman since 1988 to secure the

carried the country's baton in women's sprint. It seems that baton has passed onto a new queen in Elaine Thompson, who has completed the double in women's sprint after winning the 200m dash on Wednesday. It looks like the sprint factory of the world is not moving from Jamaica for some time to come.

The 21-year-old Jamaican lit up the Olympic Stadium with an injury-defying 21.78-second dash which put the favourite Dafne Schippers to the shade and catapulted herself to the height of American legend Florence Griffith Joyner.

"My school motto was 'let the light shine' and I let my light shine tonight," Thompson told reporters, after dusting herself up from the track and posing for the photographs, with elation and exhaustion etched on her face.

Meanwhile, Bolt gave further proof that

told reporters. "But I think he wanted to push me. I was a bit lazy but I got round."

There was a surprise, though, as Justin Gatlin, the fastest man in 200m this year, failed to make it to the final.

The American seemed to take it a little too easy once in the lead, paving the way for the Netherlands' Churandy Martina and Panama's Alonso Edward to edge past him into the qualifying positions.

Bolt, however, was not concerned who he would be running against. Having won this event in the last two Olympics and four world championships, the 29-year-old Jamaican was eyeing the world record, which he had set at 19.19 seconds in 2009.

"I definitely think I can try for the world record," Bolt said. "I need to run efficiently and get into the straight and run the perfect race. I will be hoping for lane six or seven maybe to be able to run as smooth as I can."

## Tight-lipped but appreciative

SPORTS REPORTER



It is always our routine to visit all countries before we tour," England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) director of cricket operations John Carr told reporters after visiting the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The ECB's three-man delegation's visit however assumes special significance in light of the July 1 terror attacks on the Holy Artisan Bakery in Gulshan, which cast security doubts over the England team's tour scheduled for October this year.

Carr expressed his satisfaction and appreciation for the cooperation of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) but said that they were not in a position to make any public commitments.

"We are here for three days, seeing all the facilities -- hotels and cricket grounds. We are meeting with the security providers. We are grateful to the BCB and the government for their cooperation and assistance. We have been here for more than 24 hours now. We are heading off to Chittagong tomorrow.

"We won't be saying anything specific about findings. We have to go back and report to the ECB before anything is made public," said Carr.

When his attention was drawn to Bangladesh's track record of successfully staging many international events, Carr said: "We are aware very much of the provisions of the recent ICC events. Reg Dickason has been with the team in Bangladesh before. We are aware of security provisions in recent times provided by the

Bangladesh government."

BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus, who accompanied the delegation during the second day of their visit, said: "Our board president [Nazmul Hassan Papon] and some of our directors had a meeting and a dinner with the delegation last night [Wednesday] where we gave them the detailed plans. Our board president appraised everything. Today they met with different concerned security agencies and our home ministry. They will go to Chittagong tomorrow and then visit Fatullah the next day as it is the venue of a practice game."

England are scheduled to land in Dhaka on September 30 to play two Tests and three ODIs in Dhaka and Chittagong, before heading off to India for a full series there.

## QUOTES OF THE DAY

He was supposed to slow down. I said 'What are you doing, it's a semifinal?'  
Usain Bolt on his conversation with Andre De Grasse as they crossed the line in the 200m semifinals.

Times don't matter but medals matter.  
Women's 800m runner Caster Semenya of South Africa.

They could have just shaken my hand and then go do their thing and go think about Spain, but they spared some very kind words, respectful words. I truly appreciate it.  
Argentine basketball star Manu Ginobili on the tributes from the US team as he retires from international basketball following the defeat to the defending champions.

## We trust the security team: Anderson

AFP, London



James Anderson says he will accept the advice of England's security experts when it comes to deciding whether he should tour Bangladesh.

England are due to fly to Bangladesh on September 30 for three one-day internationals and two Test matches.

But there have been concerns about the fixtures since an attack by jihadists on a cafe in the capital Dhaka last month in which 20 hostages and two police officers were killed.

Britain's Foreign Office currently advises "there is a heightened threat of further terrorist attacks and foreigners, in particular westerners, may be directly targeted".

An England and Wales Cricket Board delegation led by security adviser Reg Dickason accompanied by director of cricket operations John Carr and David Leatherdale of the Professional Cricketers' Association are currently making their own security assessment in Bangladesh.

The ECB will await their report before deciding whether to proceed with the tour.

Anderson, England's all-time leading

wicket-taker, said he and his colleagues would await ECB guidance.

"Obviously as players when you're going on tour somewhere where there have been incidents in the last few months you try to keep tabs on it and there are discussions going on among players," Anderson said Wednesday at an event staged by England sponsor Brut Sport Style.

"Reg is brilliant at his job and he's looked after us for the best part of 10 years and David is there with the PCA. We'll get their feedback when they arrive back.

"If there are any doubts they will make the call and we trust their ability. "These decisions aren't -- or really shouldn't be -- in the hands of players."

Anderson was among England players who returned to India to finish the 2008 series following the Mumbai terror attacks.

"The situation is different this time because of the time before the tour goes ahead. In India we were all together as a group," he said.

"I'm sure those of us (who have experience of such trips) will try to help if necessary, but if someone is particularly uncomfortable I'm sure they can raise it with the coach, the captain or a senior official within the ECB."



## AFC Cup Russel leave for Bhutan today

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel KC leave here today for Bhutan to take part in the AFC Cup Play-Off Qualifiers, beginning Sunday at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu.

Sheikh Russel, who are struggling in the domestic league after suffering five defeats from six matches, will play their first game against Tatung FC of Chinese Taipei on August 23 while, in their final Group C match, they take on hosts Terton FC on August 25.

The champions of Group C will advance to the play-off stage for the Qualifiers.

## SA look to climb back to summit

AFP, Durban

Fast bowling pair Dale Steyn and Vernon Philander will reunite as South Africa seek to start the long climb back up the rankings in the first Test against New Zealand in Durban on Friday.

When Steyn and Philander last shared the new ball, in the first Test against India in Mohali last November, South Africa were the top-ranked side. Now they are a lowly seventh, two places behind New Zealand.

At Kingsmead, Steyn and Philander are set to team up for the first time with Kagiso Rabada, South Africa's 21-year-old fast bowling phenomenon, who was named the country's cricketer of the year last month.

It is the first time a Test series has been played in South Africa in August and the pitches in Durban could be slower than normal.

## Jamal, Muktis tied for top

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Russel KC returned to losing ways in the JB Bangladesh Premier League as the big-spending outfit suffered a 2-0 defeat to MuktiJoddha Sangsad at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

It was a fifth defeat in six matches for last season's runners-up, who were hoping to put up a fighting display against MuktiJoddha after playing out a 1-1 draw against Team BJMC in their previous match. However, there was no urgency from the boys in Blue and the casual approach led to them conceding both goals due to fumbles from defenders.

After losing their first four matches, Russel played well and created a lot of scoring opportunities against BJMC, but without their foreign players yesterday, Russel were abysmal in both attack and defence and they played their worst game so far, failing to muster even one shot at goal. They remain

MUKTIJODDHA	2 - 0	SK RUSSEL
TEAM BJMC	2 - 3	SK JAMAL

bottom with a solitary point.

Russel defender Mintu Sheikh found the back of his own net in the 10th minute while attempting to clear a low goal-bound drive from Towhidul Alam but referee Jalal Uddin awarded the goal to Towhid, while the blame for the second goal was on defender Nahidul Islam. He failed to receive a long ball outside the box, fumbling it to the unmarked Mohammed Javed. The winger raced into the box and doubled the margin with a clinical finish in the 26th minute.

The win put MuktiJoddha on top along with holders Sheikh Jamal DC, who posted their third win with a 3-2 victory over BJMC. Both teams are equal on 12 points, one point ahead of Chittagong Abahani, who however have a game in hand.

## Five actions found illegal

SPORTS REPORTER

Five of the 10 bowlers reported for suspect actions during the Dhaka Premier League 2016 have been cleared to varying degrees while the rest have been found to have illegal actions in the findings of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) Bowling Action Review Committee (BARC), a BCB press release revealed yesterday.

The five bowlers -- left-arm spinners Foysal Hossain (Mohammedan) and Amitav Kumar (Abahani), off-spinners Mohammad Sharifullah (Kalabagan KC), Asif Ahmed (Rugpanj) and Mustafizur Rahman (Gazi Group) -- with suspect actions will be permitted to bowl in domestic cricket till November 15, 2016. However, to avoid being suspended after the deadline, they are advised to undergo a remedial process followed by a BARC re-assessment.

Left-arm spinners Moinul Islam (Gazi Group), Naeem Islam Jr (Mohammedan) and off-spinner Sanjit Saha (Brothers Union) were cleared fully and are eligible to bowl. The actions of Prime Doleswar left-arm spinner Rezaul Karim and Cricket Coaching School medium-pacer Saifuddin Ahmed were found to be legal but they were barred from bowling the arm-ball and the slower ball respectively.

বাংলাদেশের #1 পেস্ট ব্র্যান্ড  
সর্বোচ্চ বিক্রিত  
BERGER Robbialac  
বাংলা ও স্বাদ মিলেছে

## MEDALS TALLY

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
United States	31	32	31
Great Britain	19	20	13
China	19	15	20
Germany	13	8	9
Russian Federation	12	14	15
Japan	10	5	18
France	8	11	12
Italy	8	9	6
Netherlands	8	4	3
Australia	7	8	10
Republic of Korea	7	3	7
Hungary	7	3	4
Spain	5	1	2
Kenya	4	4	0
Jamaica	4	0	2
New Zealand	3	6	2
Brazil	3	5	5
Kazakhstan	3	3	6
Canada	3	2	9
Croatia	3	2	0
Ukraine	2	4	2
DPR Korea	2	3	2
Cuba	2	2	4
Poland	2	2	3
Thailand	2	2	2
Colombia	2	2	0
Uzbekistan	2	1	4
Belgium	2	1	2
Switzerland	2	1	2
Greece	2	1	1
Argentina	2	1	0
Iran	2	0	2
South Africa	1	5	1

(The medals tally was updated at 10:00pm Bangladesh time)

After serving a three-year ban for match-fixing, Mobammad Asbraful returned to the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED