

Jamaica celebrates independence day with Olympic glory

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Jamaica is basking in its independence day celebrations a day after Usain Bolt retained the Olympic gold medal in the men's 100m, with his compatriot Yohan Blake taking the silver.

Pictured: Jamaicans partied after Usain Bolt romped home with his 100m gold medal.

The world's fastest man, 25, set a new Olympic record of 9.63 seconds.

Jamaican Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller described her country's success as "just marvelous."

The Caribbean nation is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its independence from British rule.

In the Jamaican capital, Kingston, thousands gathered in the national stadium to watch the race and celebrate the Jamaican medals.

In an interview with the BBC, Simpson Miller said: "I am so proud and so happy and pleased at the victory of Usain and young Blake.

"It's a serious achievement, an excellent achievement, particularly coming on the heels of our

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independence celebrations."

Jamaica was denied a clean sweep of medals in the men's 100m, the most keenly watched race in the Games, as Asafa Powell pulled up injured during the race.

But another sprinter from the Caribbean nation, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, retained her women's 100m crown.

Mrs Simpson Miller said that her country had been "on this journey" since the late 1940s.

"We have produced outstanding sportsmen and women. For us in terms of sports we are there, and we are going to venture into other areas as well."

Although Bolt was 0.05 seconds slower than his previous world record, he expressed happiness at his performance.

"I was happy when I went out in the first round, I felt I could do this," he said.