

Jamaica's Usain Bolt charges off with the baton he picked up from Yohan Blake (L) during the men's 4x100 metres relay final where they set a new world record at the IAAF World Championships in Daegu yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Another Bolt record

AFP, Daegu



Sprint superstar Usain Bolt brought the World Championships to a thrilling climax Sunday as his Jamaican team smashed the world 4x100m relay record on the last night of action in Daegu.

It was Bolt's second gold of the Worlds after winning the 200m crown and marked a fairytale ending for the sprinter, who on only the second day of the Championships saw his 100m dream shattered when he false-started.

Jamaica's team of Nesta Carter, Michael Frater, Yohan Blake and Bolt got off to a flyer and never looked like being caught, Bolt stretching every sinew to cross the line in 37.04 with France taking silver and St Kitts and Nevis bronze.

The United States failed to finish after Darvis Patton tumbled to the ground and could not get the baton to Walter Dix who was running the anchor leg.

A delighted Bolt danced on the track and pretended to strip his singlet off in front of a packed crowd, just a day after wowing spectators with the fourth fastest 200m run of all time as he rebounded from his 100m disappointment.

Elsewhere on the track, Mo Farah ensured Olympic hosts Britain ended the worlds on a high with 5,000m gold.

Farah won a thrilling battle down the home stretch to take gold, putting behind him the frustration of just missing out on the 10,000m title.

Farah was pushed hard by 2007 champion Bernard Lagat of America but found the strength to stay in front, crossing the line in 13min 23.36sec, just 0.28sec ahead of his American rival.

Ethiopia's Dejen Gebremeskel took bronze after his team-mate Imane Merga was disqualified for stepping inside the curb.

Farah, the first British athlete to win a global long-distance event, said: "It hasn't sunk in yet. I wanted to put things right after the 10k. It was key today to wind it up and not let anyone go past me and then dig in after that.

"I knew Bernard Lagat coming up from 1500m would have the speed.

"My coaches said 'believe in yourself' and I did and it worked and the sacrifices like moving away from home to the US to train have paid off."

Russia's Mariya Savinova denied Caster Semenya a second consecutive women's 800m title, nipping past the controversial South African for gold.

The reigning world indoor and European champion timed her run to perfection, coming from near the back of the pack at 600m to clinch the victory in 1min 55.87sec.

Semenya, looking to bury controversy over her true gender, took silver with Kenya's 2007 champion Janeth Jepkosgei claiming bronze.

After her win in Berlin in 2009, Semenya found herself the target of seedy allegations that saw her cast into limbo because of doubts over her gender.

But she was cleared by the sport's world governing body, the IAAF, and largely accepted by her peers.

Earlier Abel Kirui romped to marathon gold on the streets of downtown Daegu to seal a marathon double for the east African powerhouse.

In yet another show of distance running power by Kenya, Kirui crossed the line in 2hr 07min 38sec, nearly two-and-a-half minutes ahead of team-mate Vincent Kipruto -- the biggest winning margin in world championships history.

Ethiopia's Feyisa Lilesa took bronze.

The 29-year-old, who did a celebratory dance after crossing the finishing line, said: "It is really very, very nice for me. It was emotional. I find myself sometimes dancing, rejoicing because it was a very great day."

America's women took gold in the 4x100m relay ahead of Jamaica and the Ukraine and Christian Taylor of the United States won the men's triple jump, pipping Britain's defending champion Phillips Idowu.

American Will Claye claimed bronze.

Russia's Tatyana Lysenko won the women's world hammer throw with a best of 77.13m, ahead of Germany's Betty Heidler and China's Zhang Wenxiu.

Djokovic keeps winning

AFP, New York



Novak Djokovic racked up his 60th win of the year on Saturday to join former champions Serena Williams and Roger Federer in the US Open last 16 as Flushing Meadows claimed a record 18th injury victim.

World number one Djokovic, who has lost just twice in 2011, clinched a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Russia's Nikolay Davydenko to set up a fourth round meeting with Ukraine's Alexandr Dolgoplov.

Djokovic, the Australian Open and Wimbledon champion, had only dropped three games in his first two rounds, but wily Davydenko, a semifinalist in 2006 and 2007, gave the Serb a decent workout under the lights of Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"I played well at important moments and got the crucial breaks in all three sets," said the top seed.

"He was aggressive and stayed close to the lines. But I was passive and I wasn't happy with the game."

Williams, who missed last year's tournament at the start of an 11-month injury and life-threatening illness lay-off, defeated Belarusian fourth seed Victoria Azarenka 6-1, 7-6 (7/5).

The 13-time Grand Slam champion, seeded a lowly 28, next faces former world number one Ana Ivanovic of Serbia who saw off US wildcard Sloane Stephens 6-3, 6-4.

In a tournament missing defending champion Kim Clijsters, and which saw Maria Sharapova, French Open champion Li Na and Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova all fail to reach the second round, Williams looks the hot favourite.

Asked what it felt like to be blitzed 5-0 after just 17 minutes of the first set, Azarenka said: "It's painful."

Williams, who saw three match points slip away in the ninth game of the second set, insisted she still has much to work on.

"I think in the first set I played some really good tennis. In the second, she kind of dictated. I probably could have played better."

Federer reached the fourth round for the 30th consecutive time at a Grand Slam with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 win over Croatia's 27th seed Marin Cilic.

The third-seeded Swiss next plays Argentina's Juan Monaco who defeated Tommy Haas 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 with the German veteran committing a huge 71 unforced errors.

"It was a tough match. Coming in I knew it was going to be tricky, and I'm happy that I was able to counter his pace and his good play," said Federer.

Wozniacki, the runner-up to Clijsters in 2009, and still searching for an elusive first Grand Slam title, made the last 16 with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over America's world number 103 Vania King.

The Dane next faces 15th-seeded Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova, the 2004 champion, who eased past Uzbekistan's Akgul Amanmuradova 6-4, 6-2.

Meanwhile, Czech ninth seed Tomas Berdych and Marcel Granollers, the Spanish 31st seed, took the tournament injury toll to a record 18 when they quit their third round matches.

Berdych was suffering from a right shoulder injury and needed treatment at the end of the first set against Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic, which he lost 6-4, and then called it quits when he was down 5-0 in the second.

Granollers was trailing Spanish compatriot and 2003 runner-up Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-1, 4-3 when he brought proceedings to a halt with a stomach strain.

Tipsarevic and Ferrero will meet for a quarterfinal place.

"For me it is shocking to see so many retirements," said Federer, who has conceded just one walkover in his 973-match career.

"It doesn't matter how bad I'm feeling, I will be out there and giving it a try, because you never know what's

going to happen."

Also going through on Saturday was 2010 French Open champion Francesca Schiavone, the Italian seventh seed, who saved a match point before defeating South Africa's Chanelle Scheepers 5-7, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3.

Schiavone next faces Russian 17th seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova who beat Serbian 11th seed Jelena Jankovic, the 2008 runner-up, 6-4, 6-4.

German 10th seed Andrea Petkovic made the last 16 for the second successive year with a 6-4, 6-0 win over Italian 18th seed Roberta Vinci 6-4, 6-0.

She will play Carla Suarez Navarro, who put out fellow Spaniard Silvia Soler-Espinosa 6-0, 6-4.

Men's eighth seed Mardy Fish defeated South Africa's Kevin Anderson 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/3) and next plays French 11th seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga who saw off Fernando Verdasco, the 19th-seeded Spaniard, in straight sets.

No hilsa for Messi

Those interested in learning how Messi will enjoy traditional Bangladeshi cuisine will be disappointed to know that the Argentines will only be enjoying a pre-set menu determined before their arrival.

"People have often asked me why we aren't serving traditional dishes like ilish maach and pitha, but the reality is that they (Argentina) are a professional football team and have specific demands according to what is most healthy for them to maintain their performance," explained Sadeque. "We were in contact with the management and they fixed a menu of Italian and Spanish cuisine for the team."

So, instead of fried hilsa, Messi and his team will be treated to the likes of Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce, Grilled Beef Steak and Baked Potato.

Taibu delays Pak victory march

AFP, Bulawayo

Pakistan's attempt to wrap up their one-off test with Zimbabwe a day early was thwarted by a resolute innings from Tatenda Taibu at Queens Sports Club here Sunday.

An astonishing collapse by the hosts in their second innings saw them go to tea on the fourth day on 56-5, just two runs ahead of Pakistan who had been dismissed for 466 just after lunch.

But Zimbabwe lived to fight until the final day thanks to a gutsy ninth-wicket stand worth 66 between Taibu (58) and Kyle Jarvis.

The hosts will resume their second innings on 135, a lead of 81.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ZIMBABWE: First innings 412

PAKISTAN: First innings 466 (Hafeez 119, Azhar 75, Younis 88, Misbah 66, Akmal 36, Ajmal 28; Mpofu 2-64, Price 2-69, Lamb 3-120)

ZIMBABWE: Second innings 135 for 8 at stumps (Mawoyo 12, Taibu 58 not out, Jarvis 20 not out; Cheema 2-24, Ajmal 2-52, Hafeez 4-31)

A missed

Many believe if our budding footballers were given a chance to accompany the players of Argentina and Nigeria that would have been an inspiration.

"I have appealed the authority concerned to pick up junior booters as mascots but they did not consider as most slots for mascots went to Beximco," said Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, vice-chairman of BFF school tournament committee.

Aslam, however, said that some 10 booters of U-16 national team have been selected as ball-boys while rest of ball boys have been picked from those who regularly do this job.

Fest for the

The phenomenon is also reflected in the choice of mascots (boys and girls who accompany the players into the playing surface) for the marquee match. The organisers showed their banal way of thinking by choosing to select mascots from among the kins of the sponsors and BFF officials. They might have taken a leaf from the organisers of the Kolkata match between Argentina and Venezuela on Friday who showed how much this game means to the common people by picking children with a footballing background who come from the under-privileged class of the society.

Siddikur's final flourish at Omega



STAR SPORT DESK

Siddikur Rahman, Bangladesh's vaunted golfer, closed with a final round of four-under-par 67 to finish as the top Asian at the Omega European Masters despite bogeying the last hole on Sunday.

The 2010 Brunei Open winner adds another feather in the cap at the Crans-sur-Sierre Golf Club in Switzerland yesterday where he finished in tied 18th place.

"It was a great day but it was disappointing to shoot a bogey on the last or I would have been higher on the leaderboard. Maybe I need more stamina but overall it was good," said Siddikur, who finished on nine-under-par 275 in the tournament that was won by Thomas Bjorn of Denmark.

Siddikur, who started from the 10th tee, played in unfamiliar conditions on Sunday as rain and fog covered the Crans-sur-Sierre but it did not deter him from returning with six birdies against two bogeys.

"The weather was very uncertain. It was raining in the beginning then it was cold and then there was fog! We had to wait on the second last hole for the fog to clear," he said.

Siddikur has yet to miss a single cut on the Asian Tour this season and will take pride with his strong performance in the 2 million pound (approximately 2.6 million dollars) show-piece co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour.

"I'm playing with a lot of confidence and this result will set me up perfectly in the second half of the year," said Siddikur, currently second on the Asian Order of Merit.

India sweat on Sachin

AFP, Chester-le-street

India are sweating on the fitness of superstar batsman Sachin Tendulkar ahead of the second one-day international against England in Southampton on Tuesday.

Tendulkar missed the first one-dayer in Durham on Saturday with a recurrence of an old toe injury that left him struggling to jog.

The batsman will see a surgeon in Southampton on Monday to determine if he can take any further part in the series.

Rohit Sharma is definitely out of the rest of the series after having his hand fractured by the first ball he faced from Stuart Broad.

Tendulkar aggravated the injury in training on Friday and if he misses the rest of the series it would leave him stranded on 99 international hundreds after failing to get to three figures all summer.

Indian manager Shivlal Yadav said: "He is suffering from inflammation to the bone in his big toe on the right foot. In the past he had a fracture to the bone and after training he felt a little pinch."

Brazil hopes for Ronaldinho lift



AFP, London

Brazil coach Mano Menezes hopes Ronaldinho can revitalise his struggling side when the Selecao face Ghana in a friendly in London on Monday.

Menezes handed Ronaldinho a surprise recall for the fixture at Fulham's Craven Cottage after the former Barcelona and AC Milan forward showed signs of a renaissance late in his career.

The 31-year-old looked to have been cast into international exile for good when he was left out of Brazil's squad for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

At that point Ronaldinho was a shadow of the flamboyant star who helped Brazil win the 2002 World Cup and led Barcelona to the 2006 Champions League.

He has played only once for Brazil since the World Cup -- a 1-0 friendly defeat against Argentina in 2010 -- but has enjoyed a fine run of form with Flamengo.

Ronaldinho has scored 15 times this season, a prolific spell perfectly timed for Menezes, who is desperate to inject some swagger into a Brazilian team that was bereft of inspiration as they crashed out of the Copa America in the quarter finals and then lost 2-0 to Germany in a friendly.

"Ronaldinho is a world champion with the Brazil team and after his return to the country he has readjusted and he is playing very well," Menezes said.

"He is becoming one of the best players of the season and what has been successful with Flamengo can also help the national team."

The fixture also offers a chance for redemption for Marcelo, Real Madrid's attacking left-back, who has yet to feature since Menezes took charge and fell out with his coach after deciding he was unfit to play in the Copa America.

The pair have patched up their relationship sufficiently for Marcelo to return to the squad and he now hopes to cement a place.

"It could look like a lack of commitment, but I have always wanted to be in the Selecao and help my teammates," Marcelo said.

"I have served the team from the very start, even on long trips. They are the best, so why wouldn't I want to be involved."

Robinho had to pull out of the clash after the AC Milan forward suffered a groin injury, but Menezes can still call on highly-rated Santos striker Neymar, Milan forward Alexandre Pato and Porto targetman Hulk.

Ghana have lost their two previous meetings with Brazil -- including a last 16 defeat in the 2006 World Cup -- but coach Goran Stevanovic plans to experiment and could give Bristol City winger Albert Adomah a dream debut.

Utmost security

The highest-level security measures from the government have been taken," informed Roy adding that instant measures would be taken to face any unwanted circumstance during practice session and the match.

The ticket-holders will not be allowed to enter the stadium premises after 6:00pm and all gates will be opened three hours before the starting time of the game.

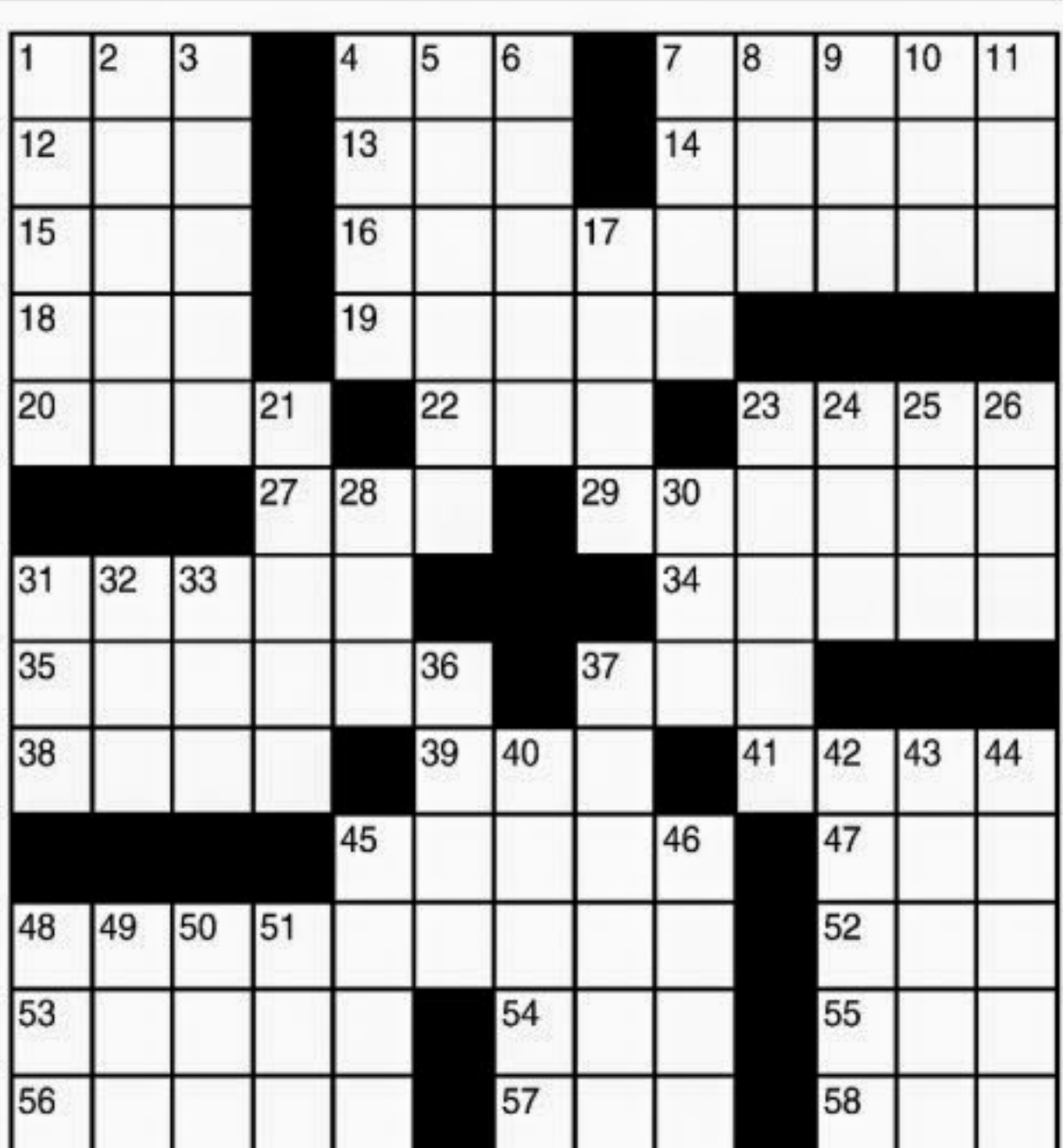
"It will take two to three seconds to check each ticket and we believe all spectators will be able to enter the stadium premises inside three hours," said the former national booter. But the fear is that with a capacity of 24,000 there might be some trouble in accommodating entry of all fans inside the premises within three hours.

"Some tickets' booths will be in the stadium arena for the spectators as some 5824 tickets for the practice session have been sold so far till today afternoon," said Ruhul Amin, CEO of Apon Communications, which has bought the rights of the practice session's ticket sale.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39 Wide shoe size	58 —	21 Japanese assassin
1 Energy	41 Eat in style	Lingus	23 Receded
4 Chances, for short	45 The Jetsons' dog	DOWN	24 Expert
7 Ball VIP	47 Pick-up-sticks game	1 Poison	25 Perched
12 Tokyo's old name	48 Deli purchase	2 Spud state	26 North Sea feeder
13 Scrap	52 Society newbie	3 Engine	28 Vast expanse
14 Art supporter	53 Wharton or Piaf	4 — and ahs	30 H-deux-O
15 — "King" Cole	54 Over (Pref.)	5 For now	31 Cunning
16 Lake Mead structure	55 Lemieux milieus	6 Tale	32 Bill's partner
18 Discoverer's cry	56 High-pitched	7 Gridlock sound	33 Mayo ingredient
19 Disrobe	57 Give permission	8 Listener	36 Inter-weave
20 Early period		9 1960s hallucinogen	37 Siesta cover
22 Storm center		10 Grazing area	40 Lucy's pal
23 Relaxation		11 Shade provider	42 Kind of ink or rubber
27 Doctrine		17 Panorama	43 Dorothy, to Em
29 Skype device			44 Fireplace tidbit
31 Part of an act			45 Wan
34 Lends a sneaky hand			46 Leave out
35 Blockage			48 Apiece
37 Seek damages			49 Praise in verse
38 Meditation method			50 Decline
			51 — be a pleasure

Solution time: 25 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

DMZFLA NORDS RG VTRDT
BMZFYMLA BOMVOA DMMSB
TMQBF QRLFQB' BFWUB RG
NWU: "YQWRBRGK BWLLOFB."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PEOPLE ALWAYS TELL ME THAT COUNTRY FOLK FROM WAY OUT IN THE STICKS BAKE THE BEST BUMPKIN PIE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals I