



PHOTO: AFP

This picture shows Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt's waxwork image moulded in his trademark pose during its unveiling at London's Madame Tussauds Museum yesterday.

All eyes on Bolt's legs

REUTERS, London



Organisers may think the most closely-guarded secret of the 2012 Games is who will light the Olympic flame...

The Jamaican triple gold medalist from Beijing is the number one attraction of the London Games...

Bolt needed some stretching and massage treatment for a tight hamstring following his 200m defeat by Yohan Blake...

ing where he had been due to run the 200m in a race before the Olympics.

Bolt then travelled to Germany to see renowned German sports doctor Hans-Wilhelm Muller-Wohlfaht...

The 6ft 5ins (1.95m) sprinter suffered with hamstring troubles early in his career...

Bolt, like the rest of the all-conquering Jamaica athletics squad, is training behind closed doors in Birmingham...

Running with aches and niggles are part and parcel of an international sprinter's life...

ters, will also be defending his 200 metres title and will hope to help Jamaica defend the 4x100 gold...

That programme represents a minimum of nine separate races in eight days...

Teammate and former world record holder Asafa Powell withdrew from the London Diamond League meeting...

Gay failed to make the 100m final four years ago as he ran with a groin/hip problem...

to toe the line fully fit this time.

Metropolitan selection chess

SPORTS REPORTER

As many as 26 players shared the lead of the Metropolitan Selection Chess Tournament...

Their leaders are -- Momin, Masum, Siraj, Belal, Khorshed, Chapal, Resat, Fahad, Titu, Faisal, Karol, Khairul, Shahjahan, Shamsul, Zia, Shahnaz, Badrul, Sajjad, Bulbul, Mahmud, Sohan, Bappi, Hanif, Nayem, Faruki and Saimon.

Top 16 finishers of the nine-round Swiss-League based competition will advance to the upcoming National Chess Championship.

Tigers take

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ago," Saad said over telephone.

Bangladesh last played a one-day international against Scotland in December 2006 at Mirpur and they have a hundred per cent record against the ICC associate members...

"There is a brilliant sunshine and the wicket is also looking good. The boys are very confident to continue their good run and finish the trip on a winning note," Saad added.

Bima ensure

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Abdus Samad Mamun levelled the margin for Bangladesh SC but Turjo restored the lead scoring again in the 57th minute.

Afterwards, Rasel Hossain and Azib Singh struck in the 64th and 66th minutes respectively to ensure Shadharan Bima's fifth victory to steer the side to the Super Five.

In the day's other match, Usha KC handed a 9-0 defeat to Ajax SC to join leaders Mohammedan SC at the top of the league table.

Moinul Islam Kaushik and Afsar Uddin scored two goals each while Khorshedur Rahman, Shahidullah Titu, Mohammad Atique, Deen Islam Emon and Mohammad Imran netted one goal apiece in the one-sided affair.

LONDONdiary

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temperatures are set to hit 30C in the south yet, worryingly, showers have been forecast for London on Friday...

Abahani to keep Ali Akbar?

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani may retain the services of Iranian coach Ali Akbar for the third consecutive season...

Abahani, four-time champions in the professional football league, have already managed to keep most of the players from the last season including two of the Ghanaians -- forward Awudu Ibrahim and defender Samad Yussif -- for the next season's Bangladesh Premier League...

However, some players like defenders Nasir Uddin, Mohammad Linkon, midfielder Imtiaz Sultan Jitu, forward Mohammad Robin, winger Zahid Hossain have already left the Sky Blues but the team management is seemingly not worried with departure of those players.

"Striker Enamul Haque sat out the entire season last year due to injury, but he is now fit and set to pair with Shakhawat Hossain Rony. So we are not worried with the departure of those players," said director Kazi Nabil Ahmed on Sunday.

Nabil also hinted that they might retain the services of Ali Akbar but the final decision is yet to be taken.

"As he (Ali Akbar) worked with us in the last two seasons, he knows the players well as well as the opponents. He also knows the facilities we provide him. Besides, the players have also become familiar with his coaching style. So it may be easy for both players and the coach (Ali Akbar)," said Nabil adding that the final decision would be taken at the board meeting.

Ali Akbar, who is uncompromising on disciplinary grounds, guided Abahani to regain the professional league title but failed to take the Sky Blues to the final of season's curtain-raising tournament Federation Cup, a trophy he delivered in his first season with Abahani in 2010.

Gayle back for Tests

Cricket

CRICINFO, Antigua

Chris Gayle is set to play his first Test in more than 18 months after being named in the West Indies squad for the first Test against New Zealand. Gayle has not played Test cricket since the tour of Sri Lanka in December 2010, and he will provide a major boost to the West Indies batting line-up...

The 13-man squad does not include the batsman Darren Bravo, who is West Indies' second leading run scorer in Tests in the past year. Bravo, who has not managed a half-century in his past five Tests and scored his most recent fifty in the first innings of the first Test against Australia in April, is still recovering from a groin strain sustained during the England tour.

The top-order batsman Assad Fudadin was included after making his Test debut in the final match of the England tour. Sunil Narine was the only specialist spinner named in the squad and there was no room for the fast man Fidel Edwards, who was part of the Test side during the tour of England.

The first Test against New Zealand begins in Antigua on Wednesday, before the sides move on to Jamaica for the second and final Test.

SQUAD

Chris Gayle, Adrian Barath, Kieran Powell, Assad Fudadin, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Marlon Samuels, Narsingh Deonarine, Denesh Ramdin, Darren Sammy (captain), Tino Best, Kemar Roach, Ravi Rampaul, Sunil Narine.

Cibulkova stuns Bartoli

Tennis

AFP, Carlsbad

Dominika Cibulkova beat top-seeded Marion Bartoli 6-1, 7-5 Sunday to win the WTA Carlsbad crown, warming up for the London Olympics with her second career title.

The second seed from Slovakia needed 95 minutes to overcome her fatigued French opponent, whose sixth double fault of the contest gave Cibulkova three match points.

Cibulkova needed only one, falling on her back in joy after converting it.

"Today I played well all through the match," said Cibulkova, who added the title to the trophy she won in Moscow last year. "In the past finals I was nervous. This was the first one where I just went for it -- everything went my way."

"I've changed my coach recently, and I'm more relaxed on the court. It's all working

Nuwan out, Nuwan in SL-India 2nd ODI today

CRICINFO, Colombo

Fast bowler Nuwan Pradeep has been called up to the Sri Lanka squad for the remainder of the one-day series against India, in place of the injured Nuwan Kulasekara. Pradeep has played three Tests, but is yet to debut in ODIs.

Sri Lanka's chairman of selectors, Ashantha de Mel, said that Pradeep will join the team on Monday, after returning from Zimbabwe, where he had played in the tri-series involving Sri Lanka, South Africa and Zimbabwe's A teams. Pradeep had picked up three wickets in two matches in the tournament.

Pradeep debuted in Tests in October 2011, against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi, and was originally part of Sri Lanka squad that toured South Africa following that. However, he injured himself in a warm-up game in South Africa and was out of action for three months. He returned to first-class cricket in March, and was picked for the home series against Pakistan.

Kulasekara had strained his groin while attempting a catch in the first one-dayer against India on Saturday. After the incident, he could not complete his quota of overs and came out to bat only at No. 11 with India in control of the match.

The second one-dayer will be played in Hambantota on Tuesday.

Kluft missing Olympics

AFP, London

Sweden's three-time world heptathlon champion Carolina Kluft pulled out of the London Olympics on Sunday after suffering a thigh injury.

Kluft, 29, had been hoping to take part in the long jump but having picked up the injury at a small regional meeting in Kuortane, Finland, she made her decision to skip the Games.

"I don't want to go to London with this kind of preparations," she said.

Kluft was Olympic heptathlon champion at the 2004 Athens Games and took the world title in 2003, 2005 and 2007.

Amla, Steyn destroy

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before the morning drinks break.

Bell and Bopara put on 50 for the fifth wicket and Bell found another useful partner in Matt Prior as the pair added 86 for the sixth wicket.

Both batsmen were caught by Kallis -- Prior off spinner Imran Tahir and Bell off Steyn after four-and-a-half hours at the crease and 220 balls.

Steyn took three wickets in 16 deliveries with the second new ball, including Bell's, whom he had caught at second slip, giving him five for 56 and seven wickets in the match, as England could only manage 240 all out in their second innings.

Stuart Broad gloved a catch down the leg side in Steyn's next over. He was given not out by umpire Asad Rauf but South Africa successfully sought a television review which showed the ball brushed his glove.

Graeme Swann then tried to attack the bowling and hit seven runs off nine balls before driving Steyn to cover.

Last man James Anderson

was dropped by a diving JP Duminy at point off Steyn before he had scored and delayed the inevitable for more than half an hour before he was trapped leg before wicket by Tahir.

The victory is South Africa's first in 11 matches at the Oval and they had previously lost all three Tests at the south London venue since returning to international cricket in 1991.

The last time the two teams met in England in 2008, South Africa edged the hosts 2-1 but England have been unbeaten at home since then, rising to number one in the world rankings under captain Andrew Strauss and coach Andy Flower.

South Africa, though, have not lost an away series since they were beaten in Sri Lanka in 2006. They are currently ranked third but will take the top place from England if they win the series.

The win was only the fifth time a team had won a Test match losing only two wickets.

The previous occasion

was by South Africa against Bangladesh in Chittagong in 2002-03. All the other instances were wins by England, including one against South Africa at Lord's in 1924.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First innings 385

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 637-2 dec (Amla 311 n.o., Kallis 181 n.o., Smith 131)

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 102-4)

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Balls, Fours, Sixes. Includes Strauss, Cook, Trotter, Pietersen, Bell, Kallis, Steyn, Prior, Bresnan, Broad, Swann, Anderson, Extras, Total, Fall of wickets, Bowler stats.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes Morkel, Philander, Steyn, Tahir, Kallis, Duminy. Result: South Africa won by an innings and 12 runs.

Amla beats Els too

AFP, Johannesburg

Surprise British Open champion Ernie Els had to settle for second place behind triple centurion Hashim Amla on the front pages of South African newspapers Monday.

"South Africa's day of champions" read the headline across the top of The New Age with pictures of Els holding the Claret Jug at Royal Lytham in northwest England and Amla acknowledging the crowd at The Oval in London.

"Els wins British Open; Proteas on verge of victory against England" said the sub-headline as the youngest Johannesburg published daily devoted its front page to the sporting achievements.

Els snatched a one-stroke victory over Australian Adam Scott, who imploded over the closing holes and bogeyed the last four as the wind turned the links course into a treacherous test.

I got half my pay: Pont

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willing to be even more patient.

"We are a little frustrated with the payment issue. It would be nice for us if we could finish the inaugural tournament without any controversies, but still we have five months in hand before the next event to solve all the issues," he said.

"We have got verbal assurance from some franchises. Actually most of the franchises are now focusing on the revenue issue. You know a huge financial deal was involved in the event, so it's not unlikely that they

face some setback. I think we are in a learning process which will help us to arrange the next edition smoothly.

When asked about whether they will take any tough actions against the franchise which failed to settle the issue, Ashraf said: "The governing council will review all the things before taking any action. We hope the franchises can understand everything, so we are not in hurry."

Pont has also claimed that Dhaka Gladiators' players were willing to boycott their semifinal against Khulna Royal Bengals as

they were not receiving fees from the owners.

"The overseas players came to me and we had an emergency meeting where it was felt that boycotting the semifinal was a genuine option. So much money was missing that the guys didn't know what else they could try. But the players did not want to let the BPL down or the fans, which was the right thing to do," he revealed.

"I am amazed we remained focused enough to win the whole competition and it's a testament to the players -- overseas and local -- when the only talk was

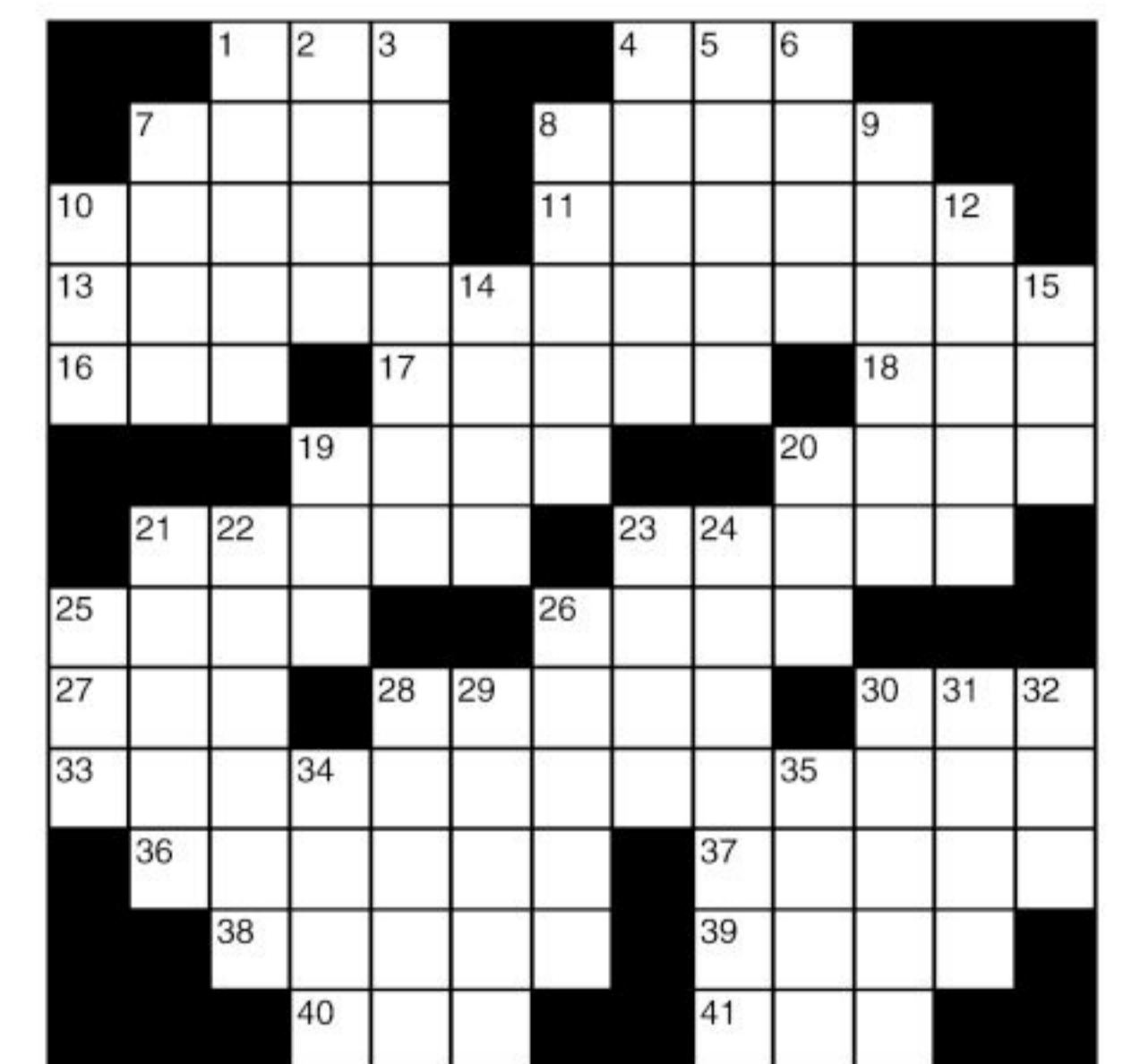
about payments. It was hard to concentrate on the cricket with such an enormous distraction. After all, this is not simply a game for the players and staff, but it is their living."

Pont added that he'd like to work in the BPL but is willing to quit the Dhaka franchise.

"I anticipate returning to hopefully win the BPL again. It just won't be with the Shihab Trading Company's franchise. The fact is you cannot have players worrying if they are going to get their money. It just sends the wrong message," he said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Pal of Snow White, 4 Upper limit, 7 Lass, 8 West Coast st., 10 Stands, 11 Vinegary, 13 Subjective rulings, 16 Agent, 17 Foundation, 18 Once around, 19 Tops, 20 Bart's sister, 21 Wear, 23 Principal pipes, 25 Reverbate, 26 "My bad", 27 Attempt, 28 Surpass, 30 Old French coin, 33 Is in control, 36 Nebraska river, 37 Leg bone, 38 Wickerwork, 39 Caustic solutions, 40 Pitch, 41 Corn spike, 4 Woes for Wile E. Coyote and Guinness bread, 6 Pocket bread, 7 Rise, 8 "Art able to," in days of yore, 9 Temp, 10 Sleepwear, briefly, 12 Curriculum component, 14 Right on the map?, 15 Masseur's workplace, 19 Greet the villain, 20 Fleur-de- —, 21 Throw away, 22 Flaky pastry dough, 23 Fashion, 24 Last Supper figure, 25 List-ending abbr., 26 Different, 28 Town at the mouth of the Tiber, 29 Say, 30 Not intoxicated, 31 Elevator man, 32 Location of Anytown?, 34 Final, 35 Informal greeting



CRYPTOQUIP

HPXZ LO ICIO LWNN ICUSXV
MNG "JRRVIOX" MZ NPX
MNCAMCZ ACZJWCJX, M
UXBSRZ MN HCG CYWYYO BMCR.

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: COMPLETELY STUMPED
AS TO WHAT I COULD PLAY FOR MY SCRABBLE
MOVE, I FINALLY THREW IN THE VOWEL.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: N equals T