



South Africa's double-amputee Olympian Oscar Pistorius (C) appears at the Magistrate Court on charges of murdering his model girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp in Pretoria yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Motive is 'I want to kill'

Reeva cremated; mourners turn angry

Athletics

REUTERS, Pretoria

"Blade Runner" Oscar Pistorius put on his artificial legs and walked across his bedroom before firing four handgun rounds into the locked bathroom door, killing his covering girlfriend in cold blood, prosecutors said on Tuesday. Reeva Steenkamp, a law graduate and model, died after being hit by three rounds, prosecutor Gerrie Nel said. Pistorius wept uncontrollably in court as Nel outlined details of a shooting that has gripped South Africa and the millions around the world who saw the double amputee's track glory as the ultimate tale of triumph over adversity. Scores of mourners gathered in the coastal city of Port Elizabeth for Steenkamp's funeral, where the mood was one of grief tinged with anger at the loss of "an angel". In Pretoria central magistrate's court, defence lawyer Barry Roux disputed the murder charge, saying the facts surrounding the shooting in the early hours of Thursday were unclear. "All we really know is she locked herself behind the toilet door and she

was shot," he told the packed courtroom. However, Nel, his opposite number at the bail hearing, painted a picture of premeditated killing - a crime that carries a life sentence in South Africa. "If I arm myself, walk a distance and murder a person, that is premeditated," he said. "The door is closed. There is no doubt. I walk seven metres and I kill." "The motive is 'I want to kill'. That's it," he added. "This deceased was in a 1.4 by 1.14 metre little room. She could go nowhere. It must have been horrific." The arrest of Pistorius, 26, stunned the millions who had watched in awe last year as the Olympic and Paralympic sprinter reached the semifinal of the 400 metres in the London Olympics, running on high-technology carbon fibre 'blades'. Initial reports suggested he might have mistaken Steenkamp for an intruder -- a possibility in crime-ridden South Africa and a version Pistorius told his sister immediately after the shooting, Nel said. The prosecution countered this theory by saying Steenkamp's

overnight bag had been found in the bedroom of the plush two-storey home in a gated compound north of Pretoria. Dressed in a dark suit, Pistorius arrived at the court in a police car shortly before 7am. Proceedings were delayed as more than 100 journalists from around the world jostled to get into the dimly lit, brick-face courtroom. The case has drawn further attention to endemic violence against women in South Africa after the gang-rape, mutilation and murder of a 17-year-old near Cape Town this month. At Steenkamp's cremation in the windswept Victoria Park Crematorium in Port Elizabeth, sorrow mingled with outrage. After the hour-long private ceremony in the cream-coloured hill-top church, Steenkamp's brother Adam and uncle Mike, fighting back tears, spoke briefly to reporters. "There's a space missing inside all the people that she knew that can't be filled again," Adam Steenkamp said. "We are going to keep all the positive things that we remember and know about my sister. We will miss her."

Mahela out of Tigers series

AFP, Colombo

Former Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene was on Tuesday ruled out of the forthcoming home series against Bangladesh because of a finger injury, the cricket board said. Jayawardene, 35, who is Sri Lanka's highest run-getter in Tests, dislocated a finger in his left hand while fielding during a domestic first-class match in Colombo on Sunday. Scans of the injury have been sent to Australia for further analysis, Sri Lanka Cricket said in a statement, adding that the batsman could be out of action for four to six weeks. Bangladesh are due to play two Tests, three one-dayers and one Twenty20 international during their month-long tour of Sri Lanka in March. Jayawardene, who resigned as captain after the recent Australian tour, has scored 10,806 runs in 138 Tests at an average of 49.56 with 31 centuries. He also has 10,892 one-day runs from 391 matches with 15 hundreds, and 1,293 runs in 46 Twenty20 internationals. All-rounder Angelo Mathews replaced Jayawardene as Test and one-day captain, while Dinesh Chandimal will lead in Twenty20 matches.

Shakib enjoys 'car luck'

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Performances from many local players meant that he had to fight harder to hold on to the award this year. "I aimed to win the award, obviously. But many performed well this time. I thought they might get it as well. I was the man-of-the-series last year so there was a kind of a pressure on me to hold on to that," he said. Shakib, who is still recovering from a shin bone injury, believed that he would have played better had he been fully fit. "Honestly, I wasn't 100 per cent fit, but if I was I would have performed a bit better. For instance I didn't take any catches throughout the tournament, just a run-out. If I was fully fit then I would have probably held on to a catch or two. But this confidence will help in the future for sure," said Shakib. "(During) The two matches that I couldn't play, I worked on my fitness. I thought my body was a little weak. When I am completely fit I can do a lot with my body. So those few days I worked with my trainer and I think that helped me a bit," he added. Skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, after having led Dhaka to the title for the second year in a row, thought that the team was a lot more confident this year. "Last year we targeted the semis after which two good Pakistani players, Shahid Afridi and Saeed Ajmal, joined and we became a very strong

Vincent bids cricket bye

CRICINFO, Hamilton

Lou Vincent, the New Zealand batsman, has announced his retirement from all cricket. He made the announcement on Monday evening via Twitter. An occasional wicketkeeper, Vincent, 34, played 23 Tests and 102 ODIs for New Zealand, the last of which was in December 2007. Then he signed with the now defunct Indian Cricket League -- by joining the unsanctioned Twenty20 league, he was temporarily barred from playing for New Zealand and lost his central contract.

BJMC ask for Rasheed's replacement

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation has decided to run a medical test on Team BJMC's Nigerian player Ajagun Abdul Rasheed after his club sought his replacement three days ago claiming the forward is HIV Positive. It is the first time that a foreign footballer playing in Bangladesh has been diagnosed with the virus, which was found during a test by Dr Prodip Seth at AIDS Reference Centre, A.I.I.M.S, New Delhi on November 6, 2012, according to the club. If Rasheed is found HIV positive again in the test which is expected to be done today, the league committee will decide whether to allow a replacement for Rasheed, informed BFF's general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag yesterday.

According to the bylaws of the professional football league, all participating clubs are supposed to submit 12 medical tests of each player on the last day of the players' registration but the clubs reportedly did not comply with the regulation. "Despite repeated requests, we could not get good response from the clubs in this regard. So we did not medical test reports of many players including that of Rasheed," said Shohag.

World Hockey League Bangladesh play China today

SPORTS REPORTER

Smarting from a 2-5 drubbing at the hands of Ireland, Bangladesh will be looking to bounce back when they take on China in their second match of the World Hockey League (round-2) at the Dhayanchand Stadium in New Delhi, India today. Bangladeshi boys will be seeking inspiration from their first 20 minute's performance against Ireland where they took a 2-0 lead, before conceding five goals due to some defensive mistakes. China, the 18th ranked side, will be the favourites against Bangladesh after their comfortable 4-0 victory over Oman in their opening match. China have a good record over Bangladesh as they beat Bangladesh nine times out of 12 meetings since 1981 and the highest margin of victory for them is 8-0. Bangladesh managed to beat China only once in 1993 Asia Cup and the other two encounters ended in draw. Bangladesh last met China in the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games where they lost by 4-1 goals, where the lone goal for Bangladesh was scored by midfielder Quamruzzaman Rana.

Dhaka

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sixes before being bowled by Kings' most successful and most expensive bowler, Rubel Hossain. Chittagong briefly turned the tide back in their favour after Anamul's departure when Ravi Bopara bowled the dangerous Kieron Pollard, but Shakib Al Hasan took charge to take his team to a fighting total. Shakib rode his luck to make a 29-ball 41 with two fours and as many sixes. The total could have been much higher if Rubel had not ripped through the tail, picking up three wickets to finish with figures of four for 44. A total of 3.1 overs were left when Shakib was dismissed but only 22 runs came off them. Kings flew in two Sri Lankan cricketers, Shehan Jayasuriya and Dilhara Lokuhettige for the final match and the latter made an impact, taking the two important wickets of Ashraful and Shakib.

Focus shifts to SL tour National training camp from today

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The conclusion of the month-long Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 has now shifted focus to the Tigers' tour of Sri Lanka in March. 13 out of the 25 players shortlisted for the tour will begin training today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur from 9:00 am. Of the 25 who were a part of teams that reached the knock-out stages of the BPL have been given a few days off and are required to join the camp from Sunday. The players joining the camp today all played in BPL teams that did not make it to the knock-out stages. With the first Test a little less than two weeks away, the players' injuries continue to be a concern for the team management. Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who recently reclaimed the number one Test

all-rounder spot in the ICC rankings, is expected to leave for Australia tonight for a medical check-up on his shin-bone injury. The report will determine the extent of his participation in the tour. Left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal, who hurt his left wrist in the BPL, has been given time off till February 27. He is currently in India on a personal visit. Meanwhile, Australian Corey Richards is expected to join the camp as the Tigers' new specialist fielding coach today. With no specialist batting coach hired for the series in Sri Lanka, the Australian might have to play a dual role for the team, informed Enayet Hossain Siraj, chairman of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) cricket operations committee. The Tigers will leave for Colombo on February 28 to play two Tests, three ODIs and a T20I. The Test series will begin on March 8 with the ODI series to follow from March 23.

Players' injury still a worry. Shakib Al Hasan to visit Australia for medical check-up.

MSC win as Brothers drop points

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket

Mohammedan SC notched their first win in five matches of the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League when they handed a lone-goal defeat to bottom-side Arambagh KS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Winger Mobarak Hossain struck the all-important goal in the 20th minute, with an angular shot from inside the box, to take the Black and Whites to the fourth position of the nine-team table with 20 points from 13 matches. Arambagh KS stayed bottom of the table with six points from 12 matches. The win for Mohammedan, their sixth in the league, ended a six-match winless streak for them which included three straight defeats and a 1-1 draw with Team BJMC in their previous match. The Black and Whites could have got on the scoresheet earlier than they did had the league's top-scorer Osei Morison not failed to convert a penalty in the 13th minute. That favour was however repaid by Arambagh Nigerian striker Kester Akon who failed to score from the spot in the 64th minute. Arambagh's last chance of equalising extinguished in the 76th minute when a close-range effort from Sabuj Kumar was cleared off the line by Cameroonian defender Baybeck. In the first match of the day, relegation-threatened Feni Soccer Club held Brothers Union to a goalless draw as the All Oranges failed to replicate the performances they put up against Sheikh Jamal (1-1), Mohammedan SC (4-1), Muktijoddha Sangsad (1-1) and Abahani (1-1). While the other big teams struggled against Brothers, Feni hardly faced any challenge from Brothers, who lost to Feni 2-1 in their first meeting. Feni Soccer's assistant manager Tajwar Awal said that his club should have secured

full three points against Brothers but could not do so due to failure of the strikers. Replying to suspicions of a fixed-match, Awal said, "I can guarantee you that the match was fair." Brothers striker Kingsley made the only mentionable moves in the entire game as he rattled the crosspiece in the seventh minute before his weak header was cleared off the goalline by Feni defender Musfiuddin Khan Shimul in the 76th minute. "Kingsley (Chigozie) did not get proper assistance from substitute Abdul Malek after Brazilian striker Anderson picked up injury to leave the field. I don't agree that we intentionally dropped points to Feni Soccer," said Brothers Union's assistant coach Arifur Rahman Pannu adding that Brothers could not play as expected compared to their previous matches. The draw left Brothers at seventh position with 10 points from 12 matches while Feni Soccer climbed up to eighth position with seven points from 12 matches. The ongoing Bangladesh Premier League will remain suspended for almost five weeks due to Bangladesh national team's engagement in the AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers (March 2-6) and the 2nd Independence Cup Football Tournament in March. Azarenka out of Dubai Open

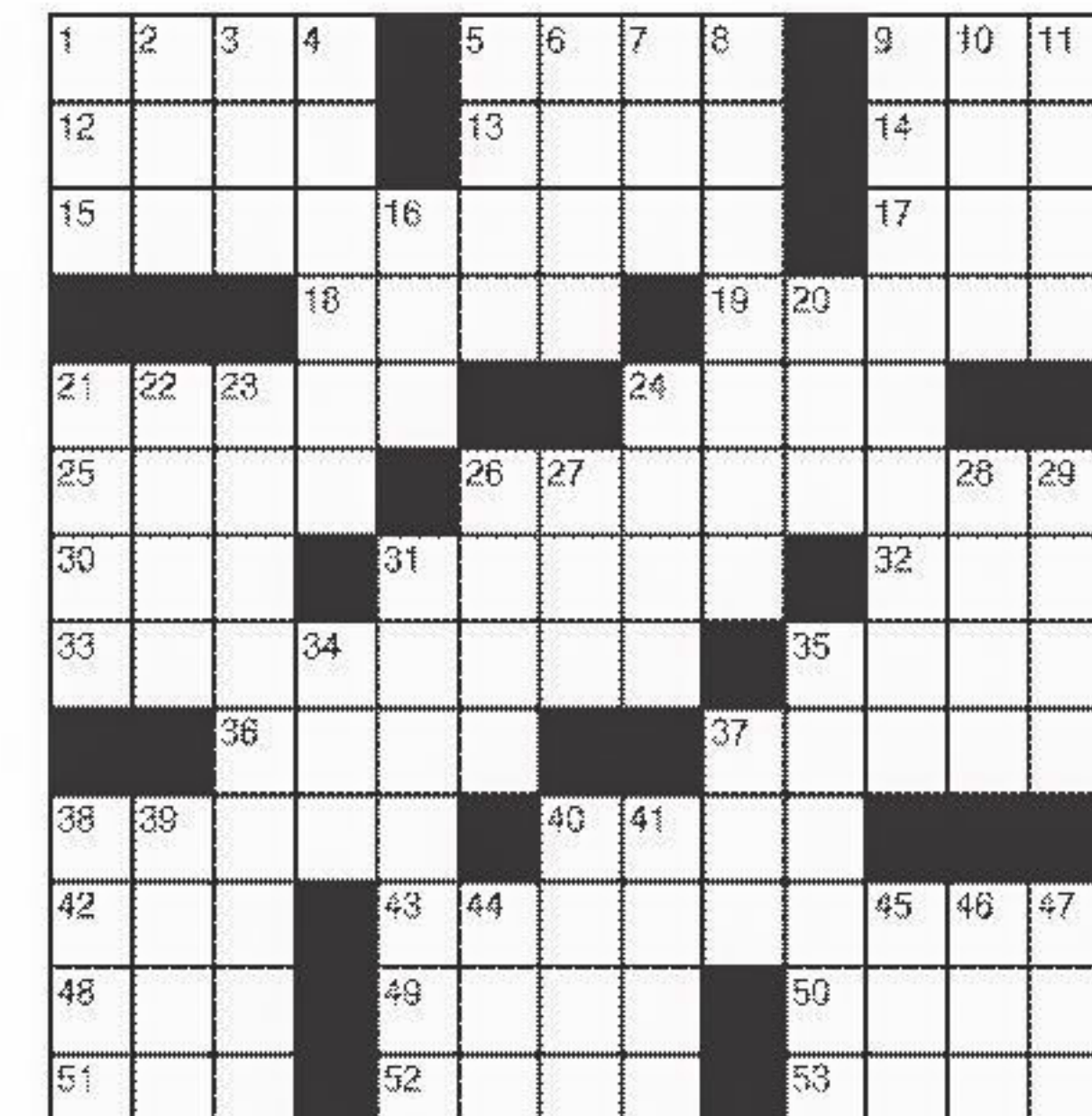
AFP, Dubai

Top-seeded Victoria Azarenka pulled out of the Dubai WTA Open on Tuesday with a bruised heel, paving the way for Serena Williams to hold on to the world number one ranking this week. Azarenka, the only unbeaten leading player on the tour this year, beat Williams in three sets in the final of the Qatar Open on Sunday, but had been playing part of the tournament with painkillers.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 37 How one 1 Old 5 Always 9 "See ya" 12 Took the bus 13 Anger 14 Legislation 15 Pyrite 17 Anger 18 Implement 19 Makes one's way 21 English composition 24 Behave 25 Cook-ware 26 Both ways 30 Equal (Pref.) 31 Bichon (dog) breed 32 "the fields we go" 33 Reins 35 Metal refuse 36 Actor McGregor 37 How one says "alas" 38 Georgia city 40 Leaves 42 Past 43 Absolute dominance 48 Web address 49 Teeny bit 50 Soon, in verse 51 Pop 52 Vacillate 53 Relaxing discipline DOWN 1 "Bow-wow!" 2 Sticky stuff Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-15



CRYPTOQUIP

NIXBWXUW RMIIM OBYBY IM LD QNDW LK ZJUZQN DRHCMKDDN YTM YMUO YJIT CJMBN: "YD IXRD IM HCDXND!"

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN A PIECE OF UNDENIABLE INFO IS ABOUT TO BE PRESENTED, THAT'S A HARD FACT TO FOLLOW. Today's Cryptquip Clue: L equals B