

International Cricket Council (ICC) president David Morgan (C) and England & Wales Cricket Board's Chief Executive David Collier (2nd from L) with BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal, (3rd from R) on their arrival in Dhaka yesterday.

# hunt talents

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) is going to hold a talent hunt programme across the country as an Australian sports organisation has come forward to contribute Tk 10 lakh recently to conduct the programme.

BSF general secretary Mahbubur Rahman Shaheen informed that they had already received the money and been thinking of holding the programme after the Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games, scheduled for March 24 to 27 in Kolkata.

"We will first pick the potential swimmers through talent hunt and then they will be given training in Dhaka," said Shaheen adding that they also retained the Korean coach Park Tae Gun, who coached the local swimmers in the South Asian Games in Dhaka in January-February.

Sheheen also informed that Park at his own cost had bought 17 swimming costumes for the youngsters and the Korean had accepted BSF's proposal of only providing him food and accommodation during his one-year stay in Bangladesh.

**SUB-JUNIOR CHESS** 

#### Four in the lead

SPORTS REPORTER

in Natore yesterday.

Four players were sharing the lead in the Prime Bank 30th National Sub-Junior Chess Championship at close of third round at the Sankar Gobinda Chowdhury Stadium

Abdullah Al Saif, Ikramul Haue Siam, Fahad Rahman and Asif Iqbal maintained their winning streak. Saif beat Tanzina Akter Tani, Siam checkmated Tahmina Akter Tisha while Fahad outdid Raihan and Asif overcame Protiva Talukder.

### Ljubicic lifts **Indian Wells** title

AFP, Indian Wells

Ivan Ljubicic beat American Andy Roddick 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/5) Sunday to win the Indian Wells men's title, the first elite Masters 1000 triumph of the Croatian veteran's career.

Ljubicic, who celebrated his 31st birthday on Friday, became the oldest first-time winner of a Masters event, filling a gap on his resume that had nagged since runner-up finishes at Paris and Madrid in 2005 and Miami in 2006.

#### Bell tolls

FROM PAGE 17 six months, we were at the receiving end of many bad decisions. Hopefully a few more goes in favour [of us] in the coming days."

And he reserved some praise for the good outing from the hosts throughout the Test.

"Bangladesh batted fantastically well. They've bowled well too, bowled in good areas. Hats off to them, because they've played some good cricket overall in this Test.'

Having admitted that Bell still thought that England were in a position from where they can force a win in this match. England lead the first innings by 21 runs and have Bresnan at the wicket

who is on 74. "I don't see why it may not be possible from here. There are still two days left in the match. We will have to play fantastic cricket. We are going to give absolutely everything to make it happen."

# Swimming to Ridon ravages Shuktara

SPORTS REPORTER



Striker Akbar Hossain Ridon became the first person to score four goals in the Bangladesh League this season, as Chittagong Mohammedan thumped visitors Shuktara Jubo

Sangsad 5-1 in their home match at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Ridon, who had earlier found the back of the opponents net once in 10 matches, put the Black and Whites ahead in the 19th minute and doubled the lead nine minute later before completing the league's fourth hattrick in the 32nd minute. Arambagh KS's Nicodemus G Anunda, Alfaz Ahmed and Sheikh Russel's Moroccan striker Samir Omari had earlier slammed hattricks. After resumption, Shuktara put up some

signs to bounce back in the match and pulled one goal back in the 55th minute through a penalty kick taken by Rezaul Karim Liton.

But, the port city side did not show mercy to the Narayanganj outfit as Touhidul Islam made it 4-1 in the 59th minute and Ridon completed the rout striking his fourth and team's fifth goal in

the 64th minute.

At the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium, former national striker Alfaz Ahmed struck a brace to help Arambagh KS came from behind to hold Farashganj Sporting Club to a 2-2 draw in their last match of the first leg.

National striker Touhidul Alam Sabuz gave Farashganj a 25-minute lead before Alfaz levelled the margin through a penalty kick four minutes into the second half.

Mokles then again put Farashganj ahead in the 74th minute and once again Alfaz came forward to rescue Arambagh as he struck his ninth league goal in stoppage time to stay just behind Sheikh Russel top-scorer Omari, who has scored 10 goals.

With their fifth draw in 12 matches, Arambagh have now 14 points to join fourthplaced Brothers Union while Farashganj have 11 points from 12 matches to join fifth-paced Rahmatganj, Beanibazar and Chittagong

Their second win in 11 matches means Chittagong Mohammedan with nine points toppled Shuktara to stay at 12th position.

#### New Zealand v Australia 1st Test

## McCullum's rescue act

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Brendon McCullum changed his tactics to produce a superb team innings that allowed New Zealand to take their battle with Australia into a fifth day. Standing up to a fierce wind gusting up to 120kph, McCullum smothered his attack-first mentality and overcame a distracted Australian side to finish unbeaten on 94 on the fourth day of the first Test in Wellington yesterday.

Crucially, McCullum built on the work of Daniel Vettori, who produced a committed 77, and took the hosts further ahead during their follow-on. By stumps on a day curtailed by rain, light and regular interruptions caused by the gale, their advantage stood at 67. It is not much, but some more wet weather is predicted on the final morning, giving them a

chance of saving the game. The Australians started the day with a lead of 115 and needed five wickets but they managed only one. Mostly they wished they were inside, safe from the powerful gusts and resting after three consecutive days in the field. McCullum and Vettori kept them outside during a partnership of 126 -- it was a sixth-wicket record for New Zealand against Australia -- and both raised their highest

home side's hopes of taking a

sions one could not take away

the superb effort of Bell who

showed his character espe-

cially against the Bangladesh

slow bowlers during his 262-

ball 138 that contained 15

Shakib finally put an end to

the innings when Bell tried a

slog sweep but could not

execute it properly as the ball

ballooned up off the top edge

to reach at the safe hands of

run out of Graeme Swann

while Mahmudullah Riyad

trapped Stuart Broad in front

to end the day with some

Scoreboard at stumps on the

third day of the second and

final Test between Bangladesh

and England at the Sher-e-

Bangla National Cricket

Stadium in Mirpur on Tamim

Shakib also initiated the

boundaries and a six.

Jahirul Islam.

delight.

SCOREBOARD

Despite all the bad deci-

**FROM PAGE 17** 

first innings lead.

Men in white

Monday:

out; Swann 4-114)

(overnight 171-3)

Trott b Shakib

Prior b Shakib

Bresnan not out

Tredwell not out

nb-6, w-1)

426, 8-434.

Bowler

Shafiul

Razzak

Shakib

Rubel

Naeem

Extras: (b-9, lb-11,

Mahmudullah 15

Swann run out

Cook c Kayes b Razzak

scores in trans-Tasman Tests. McCullum, who is happiest

when he's slashing boundaries, focussed successfully on batting for a long time and usually avoided the big shots that could have led to his departure. For much of the time it was an uncharacteristically gritty display, but he allowed himself some attractive flourishes.

The best shot came when he pulled Mitchell Johnson out of the ground behind square and forced a lengthy search for the ball. Unfortunately for the Australians they found it, as McCullum liked hitting it.

He cut Nathan Hauritz when he dropped short and eased the fast men through cover or point when they overpitched. After lunch he thumped a drive to point that was prevented from reaching the rope by the gale, but he picked up 11 boundaries and the six during an impressive 178-ball performance.

McCullum's half-century came up with overthrows after he picked up a quick single, and he was the most comfortable man on the ground throughout the day. Vettori was almost immoveable as he showed he could have a longterm future at No. 6. After scoring 46 in the first innings Vettori, who has been promoted two spots in the order this season, delivered in another crucial situation.

Rain delayed the start and

**BANGLADESH:** First innings

419 (Tamim 85, Naeem 59 not

ENGLAND: First innings

Pietersen c Kayes b Shakib 45

138

Collingwood lbw b Rubel

Broad lbw b Mahmudullah

Total: (For 8 wkts in 154 overs) 440

Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-105, 3-

107, 4-174, 5-272, 6-415, 7-

14

37

57

23

OMRW

3 45

7 127

27 99

3 36

0 29

0 4

80

Bell c Jahirul b Shakib

the hosts resumed their second innings on 187 for 5, knowing they didn't have much batting power after Vettori and McCullum.

**SCORES IN BRIEF AUSTRALIA:** First innings 459

(Clarke 168, North 112, Katich 79, Ponting 41; Arnel 2-89) **NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 157 (Vettori 46, Guptil 30, McCullum 24, Taylor 21;

for 5 declared in 131 overs

Bollinger 5-28) NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 369 for 6 (McCullum 94 batting, McIntosh 83, Vettori 77, Watling 33, Taylor 25, Tuffey 23 batting; Hauritz 3-119,

#### Jankovic clinches title

AFP, Indian Wells

Bollinger 2-30)

Former world number one Jelena Jankovic jump-started her 2010 season Sunday with a straight-sets victory over Caroline Wozniacki for the Indian Wells WTA title.

Jankovic didn't put a foot wrong as she downed her Danish opponent 6-2, 6-4 to claim her 12th career title and her first since Cincinnati last August.

The Serbian came into the tournament ranked ninth in the world and seeded sixth, while world number four Wozniacki was seeded second.

#### Frustration

**FROM PAGE 17** today," he said.

"I was expecting more from Razzak, especially when we both were bowling. It was very important to have a partnership between us to create pressure from both ends, but he ended up making the same mistakes from the first Test, because the main thing is patience. Whoever loses his patience first will be a loser. Maybe he thought he'd try to bowl wicket-balls, but every time he conceded a four, the pressure came off," observed Shakib.

Bangladesh captain said that now their main job would be to bat well in the second innings after wrapping up the England innings quickly in the morning.

"Still, everything is possible - win, draw or loss because the game is now evenly poised. I think both teams are under pressure. But we have more pressure, because we cannot always play consistently well. I am looking for good batting in the second innings," he hoped.

#### Sachin seals easy win

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

SPORTS REPORTER

SPÖRT

Sachin Tendulkar hit a sublime unbeaten 71 as Mumbai Indians cruised to a sevenwicket win against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai yesterday.

Tendulkar entertained his home fans with an array of strokeplay after Chris Gayle did the spadework for Kolkata with a measured 75.

But despite Gayle boost the visitors could score a moderate 155 for three against a disciplined Mumbai attack led by Zaheer Khan, who took two wickets for 27 runs.

The home side never looked in trouble in their chase with master batsman of all forms Tendulkar in full flow.

The little right-hander struck 10 fours in his flawless 48-ball knock as Mumbai reached the victory target with nine balls to spare. **BRIEFSCORES** 

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS:

155-3 (Gayle 75, Ganguly 31, Shah 31; Zaheer 2-27) MUMBAI INDIANS: 156-3 in 18.3 overs (Tendulkar 71 not out, Tiwari 30; Sharma 2-44)

#### BFF distances itself with concert

SPORTS REPORTER

Following advertisements of holding a concert at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in different newspapers and radio and television channels, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday claimed that it had not given any approval to hold the concert. "The BFF has not given any

permission to any organisation to hold any concert because it is not interested in an programme that will suspend the regular football activities at the venue," said a BFF statement yesterday. Currently, the Bangladesh League is being held at the venue. Advertisements of a concert

titled "Jagoroner Gaan" organised by Banglalink on March 26 at the stadium are being published regularly though the organisers have yet to obtain permission to hold the concert at their mentioned venue.

It's learnt that State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker permitted the organisers to hold the concert at the said venue, subject to the approval of the BFF, which, however, rejected the minister's recommendation in the greater interest of the game.

#### City Club want to play pro league

SPORTS REPORTER

The City Club has shown their interest in playing the secondtier professional football league as it expressed its desire to the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday, two days after the deadline for submitting application.

Five teams -- Wari Club, Badda Jagaroni, Uttara Baridhara, Bangladesh Boys and Mohakhali Ekasdash -had earlier applied to play in the league.

pulpit

series

a 2008

movie

35 Leftovers

recipe

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A U T O N E S T

nights

# Saptarshi becomes a Grand Master

Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian IM Saptarshi Roy Chowdhury achieved his third and final norm of Grandmaster when the lad from Kolkata emerged unbeaten champion in the Six Season Chess Tournament at the Tulip Hall of Uttara Club here yesterday.

However, none of the four Bangladeshi FM's (Fide Master) could manage IM norms from the tournament, which was organised by country's first GM Niaz Murshed in a bid to help the local chess players achieve their IM norms.

Saptarshi with 6.5 from eight outings needed half a point in the final game to secure his final GM norm and he did well to draw against his compatriot GM Dibyendu Barua to achieve the highest recognition in chess. "A dream came true

because each and every players has a dream of earning the GM title and I am very happy to earn the final GM norm today (Monday)," Saptarshi told Daily Star after the game.

The 28-year old player, who came to chess at the age of 7, achieved the IM title in 2004 and then he had to wait for four years to gain the first GM norm in 2008 and the next year he achieved the second GM norm.



SAPTARSHI ROY CHOWDHURY

Saptarshi is continuously inspired by his parents and his employer Indian Railway gives him a plenty of time whenever he takes part in tournaments either at home or abroad. Saptarshi believes the

tournament being arranged by the Six Seasons led by Niaz would help the local players a lot on way to achieving norms

because the Bangladeshi players play fewer tournaments compared to the Indian players.

"We play at least 12 to 13 tournaments including four IM tournaments at home and it helps us a lot and Bangladesh players also should play more tournaments," said the champion adding that he had participated in five tournaments in Europe last year.

Uzbek GM Iuldachev Saidali became runner-up with 6.6 points while Dibyendu finished third through tie breaker as he along with Niaz earned 5.5 points each.

Indian Praveen Kumar with 4.5, his compatriot IM Sahaj Grover with 4 points, FM Kh. Aminul Islam with 3.5 points, FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon with 3 points finished five, sixth, seventh and eighth respectively.

FM Minhazuddin Ahmed with three and FM Abu Sufian Shakil with 2.5 became ninth and 10th respectively. In the last round games,

Niaz drew with Saidali, Sahaj beat Praveen, Amin drew against Sagar, and Emon drew against Shakil.

they are asked to put a little bit

### Umpires for the Empire? money from the game and if

Of course it would have been

diplomatically and political more astute if the ICC had appointed at least one umpire from one of the south Asian Test countries. But diplomatic and political savvy has never been one of the ICC's strong points; it has not woken up to the heavy racial undertones that underline the sport even after the Darrell Hair affair, which means that it will probably never wake up to it. The make-up of the elite panel of umpires, ICC's so called list of the world's best umpires from which appointments are made for all international matches, shows how strongly the ICC believes that westerners are born with the attributes that somehow automatically make them better umpires compared to South Asians. The latter account for four of the nine Test playing nations and over 90 per cent of the cricket following population of the world. Yet, out of eleven members of the current elite panel of umpires, only three are south Asians, the rest, including one West Indian, all belonging to the western world. India, the number one Test nation in the world does not have a single representative on the panel. How it is that India has produced some of the finest batsmen the world has seen and today has, by some distance, the best batting side in the world but cannot come up with an umpire worthy of being in the panel is a question that defies a cricketing explanation. Not that India is unduly bothered about that. They know that as the financial superpowers of the cricketing world they can bring their financial muscle to bear

series of wrong decisions against India in a Test in Sydney in 2007-08, Bucknor having to leave half way through the series. But everybody does not have India's financial muscle and Bangladesh certainly does In a busy cricketing season

the ICC appoints umpires from its international panel to help umpires from the elite panel Every Test playing nation and Zimbabwe has two umpires on the international panel and Tucker is from the international panel. If therefore it was necessary to resort to the international panel, any of the umpires from Pakistan or Sri Lanka (presuming that the Indians are busy with the IPL) on the panel could have been called on to have at least one South Asian umpire in a Test being played in the region. This again, is not to suggest that any of either Hill or Tucker's many mistakes in the series have been racially motivated; it is only to say that the ICC should be aware of the racial context in which many umpiring decisions are seen and should as such be trying, as far as possible, to counter such feelings and presumptions. They owe that to the image of

the game, which they are guard-Of course, the best way of ensuring fairness is the referral system and it is not known why the current Bangladesh-England series has been excluded from its ambit. But whatever the reason, the exclusion has only been possible because the ICC allows it. To make this optional is nonsensical and there is absolutely no reason why it should be so. Television companies which do not have the software for hawkeye, hotspot and the snickometer should be asked to develop these and told that if they do not do so, they need not bother bidding for a contract in the future. They make enough

back into it, it would not be entirely amiss. In any case, I can hardly think of any Test series these days which does not have hawkeye and even if the other facilities are not available, there is no reason why the facilities that are should not be used. And when using them, the prime consideration should be to get the right decision, not to uphold the umpire's honour and authority. When I go to watch a cricket match, I go to see the players in action, not the umpire's authority being upheld, irrespective of whether the umpire is right or wrong. This all consuming concern for the umpire's authority can only be explained in terms of cricket's status as a vehicle for the values of empire for in no sport is an assault on the umpire less likely. The current rules that guide referrals are ridiculous because the aim is not to come to the right decision but to uphold the authority of the umpire which is nonsense. Thus even if Jahurul Islam's lbw decision was only marginal, it would have stood a referral while if Pietersen was given not out on exactly the same ball, (as

rubbish. After the Pietersen and Prior decisions, if I was a Bangladeshi player on the field, I would have felt that the only way I could get a wicket was clean bowled or caught beyond even a blind man's doubt and Pietersen was ultimately dismissed by the latter method, while Prior was dismissed by the former. For the umpires to be allowed put that amount of pressure on one side is certainly no way to be conducting an international sporting

is very likely) the not out deci-

sion would have stood. That is

(Shahed Sadullah is a freelance writer who lives in London)

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## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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ASSISTELI

upon any umpire who has the

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sions against them and Steve

Bucknor, once regarded as the

best umpire in the world, will

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#### **TOQUIP**

57

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER I STICK THIS CARVING KNIFE INTO THE PUMPKIN, YOU

MIGHT SAY I'LL HAVE A GORED GOURD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals M