

## Ferguson tours White House

Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson swapped Old Trafford for the White House on Friday, taking advantage of a window in the Premier League schedule to tour the US presidential mansion. Ferguson was spotted going into the West Wing, where the Oval Office is situated, with a White House aide. The veteran Scot had a brief chat with President Barack Obama's press secretary Robert Gibbs, a soccer goalie during his college days, the aide said. Ferguson requested the tour through the British embassy. It was not clear what other engagements were on



## Shakib, Sachin & Murali

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will feature in a promotional video for the 2011 World Cup, which will be co-hosted by Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has nominated Shakib, the world's number one all-rounder, for the promotional video from Bangladesh along with master batsman Sachin Tendulkar from India and spin wizard Muttiah Muralidaran from Sri Lanka.

"Shakib, Sachin and Muttiah has been nominated for the AV (audio-visual) promotional activities," informed Ali Ahsan Babu, host tournament director, yesterday while talking with reporters about the outcome of central organising committee (COC) meeting held in Bangalore from October 2 to October 7.

The COC has also emphasised the need of on time completion of the venues following bad experience with the poor preparation at the XIX Commonwealth Games in New Delhi.

"All venues must be ready before November 30. The ICC is very much concerned after the happenings with the ongoing Commonwealth Games preparation. The final inspection will be held from November 21 to December 10," said COC convener MahbulAnam.

## Enamul to officiate in SA-Zim series

SPORTS REPORTER

Enamul Hoque will stand as field umpire in the one-day series between South Africa and Zimbabwe in South Africa.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has appointed the Bangladesh's international panel umpire to stand as field umpire in the three-match series.

The former national spinner Enamul becomes the first Bangladeshi to stand as a neutral on-field umpire in a match involving two full members of the ICC.

He will officiate in the ODIs in Bloemfontein (October 15), Potchefstroom (October 17) and Benoni (October 22).

Enamul will leave Dhaka today for Johannesburg.

## SPORTS POLL

What is your prediction for the 2nd ODI?

Tigers to win 61.4%  
Black Caps to win 38.6%

TOTAL VOTES: 601

## TODAY'S QUESTION

Do you think Bangladesh can take a 2-0 lead in the 3rd ODI?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

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## What to WATCH

### NEO Cricket

India v Australia  
Second Test, Day 2  
Live from 10:00am

### STAR Sports

F1 World Championship  
Japanese Grand Prix  
Live from 11:45am

### TEN Cricket

South Africa v Zimbabwe  
Second T20 Int'l  
Live from 6:30pm



New Zealand players take part in an indoor training session at the Suhrawardi National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Shahriar wants to seize the chance

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh team definitely had missed the fireworks of dashing left-hander Tamim Iqbal in the first match. But the good news was that another southpaw Shahriar Nafees made an impressive return to limited-overs cricket after being left in the wilderness for two and a half years.

Playing in place of injured opener Tamim, Nafees got a good start by making 35 runs, the second team highest after Shakib Al Hasan's 58. But there was no reason for him to be satisfied with that score as he like others wasted the opportunity to carry on the innings, which is an area the Tigers must improve in the remaining games of the five-match series.

"We must improve on this area. In the first match I got a start but failed to convert it into a big one, so definitely I will try my best to capi-

talise on a good start in the next match. I'm fully concentrating on this issue," said Nafees while talking with reporters before start of their practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Nafees once again said that he was not thinking on the return of Tamim, who started batting with soft ball yesterday and is improving fast from his wrist injury.

"As I told from the beginning that I am concentrating only on my own game. My duty is to perform for my team to cement my place in the squad. Tamim will automatically come to the squad when he is fit. I try my best to contribute for my team as much as possible if I get the chance. I have no hand in selection," he opined.

Despite having 1-0 advantage in the series, Nafees said the team was looking forward to showing improved performance in the third match, which takes place tomorrow at Mirpur.

"I would like to echo the sentiment of our

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## Smith smacks Zimbabwe

AFP, Bloemfontein

Graeme Smith hit a brutal half-century as South Africa raced to a seven-wicket win in the first Twenty20 international against Zimbabwe in Bloemfontein on Friday.

In his first match since handing over the 20-overs captaincy to Johan Botha, Smith slammed 58 off 29 balls as South Africa chased down a seemingly competitive Zimbabwe total of 168 for four, winning with 25 balls to spare.

Smith and Loots Bosman gave South Africa a blistering

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## BFF selects preliminary women's team

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Saturday picked a 29-member preliminary squad for the first Women SAF Football Championship to be held from December 3-15 in Cox's Bazar.

The selected players have been asked to report to BFF coach Golam Rabanni Chhoton and camp commandant Taslima Taher at the Dhanmondi Women Sports Complex on Tuesday (Oct 12) at 4 pm for a residential camp that will begin on the same day.

### SQUAD

Kemi Chakma (Rangamati), Sabina Akter, Asma Khatun, Muslima Akter Molly, Beli Khatun, Khaleda Khatun and Sharmin Akter Rupa (Jessore); Criere Marma, Trishna Chakma, Farhana Khatun, Sainu Ching Marma, Rupali Chakma, Sraboni Chakma, Sainu Pru Marma, Nubai Ching Marma, Mainu Marma, Ongmraching Marma, Kabina Chakma and Jahanara Akter Janu (Ansar); Surovi Akter Eiti, Rupa Akter, Asia Khatun, Tahmina Akter Putul, Mahmuda Akter Ananya and Maksuda Khandakar Sukhi (Narayanganj); Sonia Khatun and Sabina Khatun (Sathkhira); Mirona (Bagerhat) and Joya Khatun (Rangamati).

## Fed Cup kicks off today

UNB, Dhaka

The first round match of the GrameenPhone Federation Cup Football kicks off today at the Birshreshtha Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Stadium at Kamalapur in the city.

In the day's lone match, Chittagong Abahani Limited takes on Bangladesh Police at 3:30 pm.

Spectators can witness the first round matches without ticket.

## Kiwis focused on last three games

SPORTS REPORTER



After hiding behind tonnes of cloud for the last couple of days the sun smiled for a while yesterday. And without any doubt it also brought smile on the faces of New Zealand cricketers who must be eagerly waiting for some sort of action after being frustrated by heavy rain.

After losing the first game by nine runs, the Black Caps haplessly watched rain completely wash out the second match of the five-match series against the Tigers on Friday.

But with depression over the Bay subsiding and the sun winking for a while signs were good enough to see the ground of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur fit for practice and everybody was hoping that tomorrow's third match will be held at the same venue in all probabilities.

"It's frustrating to play one game in ten days but you can't do anything about it. Weather permitting we are going to play three games and hopefully try to turn things around," said New Zealand wicketkeeper-batsman Brendon McCullum while talking with the reporters at

Mirpur yesterday.

"We are in a very tight position against Bangladesh at the moment as they are one-nil up. We have got to believe that we are capable enough of turning things around and every person in the team believes that with the weather we can't help and it is of no use wasting our energy over that," he added.

There was a pre-series prediction from New Zealand skipper Daniel Vettori that Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan would be the main threat for them and the Bangladesh captain proved it right after he single-handedly guided the Tigers to victory in the first match.

"Shakib is definitely a world-class player and you will have to check him if you want to win matches," said McCullum.

"I think pressure is there when you play any international series. From our point of view we are going to approach match by match and want to make sure we are well prepared for that and hopefully we can transform that into result.

"We are preparing ourselves for the next game and will try to win that then we move on to the next game and try to get on through the same process," he added.

McCullum, who hit 61 in the first game, didn't

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## Ponting lifts Aussies

Cricket  
AFP, Bangalore

Australia captain Ricky Ponting hit a gutsy 77 to steer his faltering team out of trouble on the opening day of the second and final Test against India on Saturday.

Ponting's 54th half-century helped the tourists survive a middle-order collapse to reach 285-5 by stumps in front of 20,000 boisterous home fans at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Marcus North was unbeaten on 43 and wicket-keeper Tim Paine was on eight when bad light halted play 4.1

overs early. Australia is seeking a series-leveiling win after they lost the dramatic first Test in Mohali by one wicket.

Shane Watson and Simon

Katich gave the tourists a flying start with an opening stand of 99 after Ponting won the toss and elected to bat in overcast conditions.

Watson hit 57, his third successive half-century in the series, and Katich made 43 on a moisture-laden wicket that afforded movement to the seamers and turn for the spinners.

Indian spinners Harbhajan Singh and Pragyan Ojha turned the tables in the post-lunch session, grabbing three wickets for 33 runs as Australia stumbled to 132-3.

Ponting led his team's revival by adding 66 for the fourth wicket with Michael Hussey (34) and 58 for the fifth with North.

Ponting, who hit 12 boundaries, was dismissed in the final session when he missed a straight ball from part-time

spinner Suresh Raina and was declared leg-before.

"That wicket by Raina helped us greatly because Ponting was playing so well," said Indian batsman Virender Sehwag.

"The important thing now is to dismiss Australia cheaply and then put on a big score because the wicket is good and it will help batting over the next two days."

Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni enjoyed a mixed day in the field after losing his 10th successive toss in Test cricket.

Watson, who scored 126 and 56 in the first Test, made light of the heavy conditions to build on his good form. But he was stunned by Ponting's dismissal.

"He was batting so beautifully, there's no doubt he will be

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## Ratna-Sadia pair fails frustratingly

ANISUR RAHMAN from New Delhi

After successive successes in the South Asian Games and then the Commonwealth Shooting Championships early this year, all the focus was on the Bangladeshi golden pair of Sharmin Akter Ratna and Sadia Sultana in the XIX Commonwealth Games, but the duo disappointed miserably with their performance at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi yesterday.

Ratna and Sadia finished fifth out of eight teams in the 10m air rifle pair event with a poor score of 784, six less than the score that earned them gold medal in the Commonwealth Shooting Championships in February at the same venue.

Malaysian pair Taibi Nur Suryani and Nur Ayuni Halim broke the Indian dominance at the shooting range to win the gold scoring 793 out of 800, well ahead of Singapore's silver medal-

ists Xiang Wei Jasmine and Jian Huan Cheng, who together shot 790. Indian pair Suma Siddharth and Kavitha Yadav had to be content with a bronze medal scoring 785.

After arriving in India on September 30, both the Bangladeshi shooters got enough time to practise at the match venue, but yesterday's performance was nowhere near what they had been scoring in practice sessions. They even failed to get closer to their best scores they had earlier scored.

Ratna, who once shot a perfect 400 in practice, scored only 394, four less than her best score while Sadia was at a lowly 390, which is also four less than her best set during the SA Games on home soil.

Both Ratna and Sadia made a frustrating start scoring 97 and 96 respectively in the first of four series. However, Ratna recovered from the poor start scoring 99 and 100 in the last two series and finished her four series inside half-an-hour, but Sadia found points hard to come by and finished

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## West Bengal lift kabaddi title

UNB, Dhaka

West Bengal of India clinched the title of the Meizan International Club Cup Kabaddi beating Japan by 14-10 points in the final at the Kabaddi Stadium on Saturday.

Earlier, on way to the final, Japan beat Assam 52-11 with four creditable 'lona' in the first semifinal while West Bengal defeated Bangladesh Prisons 29-14 with one 'lona' in the second semifinal.

Bangladesh Olympic Association vice-president Mizanur Rahman Manu distributed the prizes among the winners as the chief guest.



PHOTO: AFP

A FAMILY GAMES: Australian couple Jared (R) and Claire Tallent take questions from journalists after the husband won the men's 20km walk gold and his wife crossed the line for silver in the women's race in the Delhi Commonwealth Games yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

Australia captain Ricky Ponting (R) follows the path of the ball after pulling it on way to scoring 77 on the first day of the second Test against India at Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday.

## Viv bats for cricket

SPORTS REPORTER from New Delhi



It doesn't matter for Sir Vivian Richards that his country, Antigua and Barbuda, is not a big contingent like hosts India or Australia or England. Realistically the twin-island nation, lying between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, stands almost no chance of winning a medal in the ongoing Delhi Commonwealth Games.

But all these do not deter Sir Vivian from inspiring the athletes from the Caribbean islands. After arriving in the Indian capital, the legendary cricketer, who is an ambassador and mentor of the 19-athlete contingent, has been regularly visiting all the venues where their athletes are in action in athletics, boxing, cycling, shooting, swimming and tennis.

In rotation, yesterday was Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium's turn where his countrymen were

participating in the track and field events. But the 5-foot 10 former batsman wasted no time to bat for the sport he loves most. The West Indian great urged the authorities to include cricket in the Games as only a small number of countries are playing the sport and he preferred the inclusion of the newest format.

"Like the event of Rugby, Twenty20 cricket is more exciting and I believe the spectators will enjoy it," opined Richards, who once terrorised the bowlers around the world.

He also seemed to have fallen in love with Delhi, which has been marred by pre-tournament fuses like dengue fever, snakes, stadium foot-bridge collapse and so on following high-ranking withdrawals of superstar athletes like Usain Bolt and Asafa Powell, and praised the state of the Games Village after hearing about it from the athletes.

"It was a fabulous opening ceremony which stunned all and India, especially Delhi, has

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