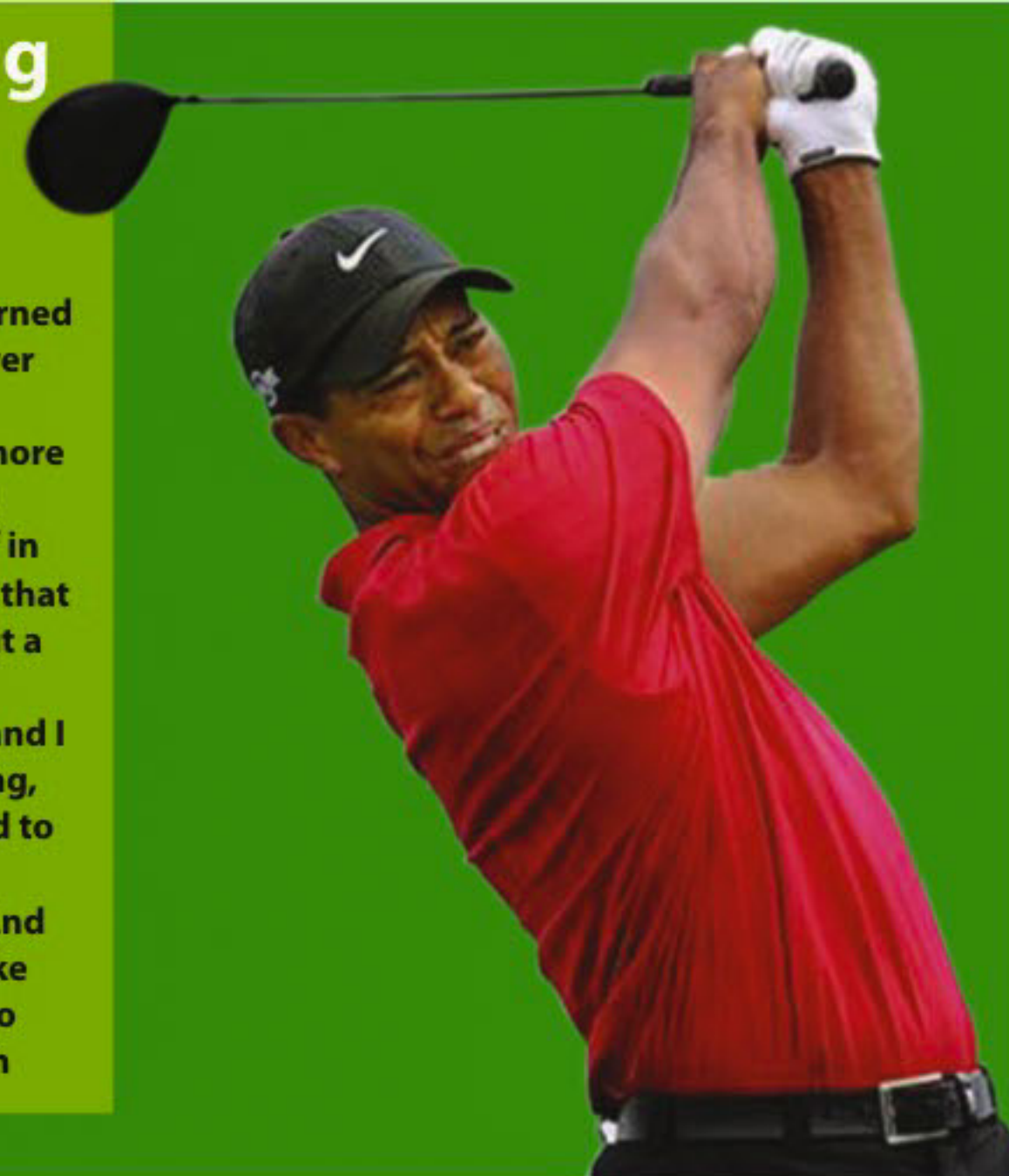


## Woods getting used to his new life

Tiger Woods says he never learned more in a year in which he never won less. Woods said on Tuesday he is more at peace with his personal life than when he returned to golf in April, and he remains hopeful that his season will not end without a victory. "I learned a lot about myself, and I learned how things went wrong, why they went wrong, and had to take a pretty deep and introspective look at myself. And there wasn't a lot of things I like about it," Woods said in a video conference call for his Chevron



## Bagerhat awaits Rubel's return

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Rubel Hossain, m-of-the-match of the match that helped Bangladesh whitewash New Zealand in the Micromax ODI series, has become talk of Bagerhat, his home town. Rubel hails from Nagerbazar under Bagerhat Sadar Police station.

Youngest of the five siblings, Rubel awaits a heroic reception when he comes home, said his proud parents Molla Abul Bakar Siddique and Rabejan Bibi.

"Playing cricket was his hobby since his boyhood. We often rebuked him for not attending his studies and instead playing cricket. We failed to convince him that education is more important than cricket," said his proud his parents.

"My son started achieving success in cricket in the last two to three years. I was overwhelmed with joy seeing him lead his country to the great victory by bowling out New Zealand batsman.

"Hundreds of men and women from Bagerhat town and remote come to our house every now and then to congratulate us for the way our son won the game against New Zealand," Abu Bakar Siddique said.

His elder brothers Kabir Hossain and Shagor Hossain deal in fisheries while two

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SPECTACULAR YET FUTILE: Mohammedan Sporting Club midfielder Kabir executes a back volley during their 23rd Grameenphone Federation Cup match against Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. The match ended in a goalless draw.

PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

## MSC, Muktis draw blank

SPORTS REPORTER



Goalkeeper Titumir Chowdhury made a couple of brilliant saves earn defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club a valuable 0-0 draw against a star-studded Muktiyoddha Sangsad in the Grameenphone Federation Cup's group B encounter under floodlights yesterday.

In the earlier match, Brothers Union ensured they got all three points with a come-from-behind 3-1 win against Feni Soccer Club at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur, thanks to a brace from Brazilian playmaker Everton.

The match under the floodlight was not only a battle of pride but also a between the 4 country's two successful coaches Shafiqul Islam Manik and Maruful Haq. Maruf quit Mohammedan in the middle of the third edition of the professional football league last season and was replaced by Manik, a former coach of Muktiyoddha.

On the back of 11 goals in two qualifying matches and boasting a bunch of star players, Muktiyoddha were definitely had the upper hand against a depleted Mohammedan side, who even failed to ensure the services of two of their last season's most valuable players -- captain Enamul Haq Sharif and defender Hasan Al Mamun.

A rejuvenated Muktiyoddha started the game at a great pace and found the back of the net within 13 minutes, only to find the goal ruled out due to off-side. Twelve minutes later, their Sudanese striker James narrowly missed the target from a set-piece.

But as the game progressed, the scenario changed as youthful Mohammedan succeeded in keeping Muktiyoddha at bay. Mohammedan winger Bipul kept on releasing threatening crosses from the left but their strikers failed to capitalise on those.

Nigerian striker Emeka failed to find the net from an unmarked position and later when he headed one home, it was cancelled for off-side.

After resumption, Muktiyoddha brought a couple of changes assert more control over the midfield and came close twice, but each time Titumir proved solid under the bar to thwart

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## NCL one-dayers from October 23

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

After a historic series whitewash of New Zealand the national cricketers will shift their focus on the domestic scene when the one-day competition of the 12th National Cricket League (NCL) starts from October 23.

However the Tigers members will be avail-

### FIRST PHASE FIXTURES

October 23:	Barisal v Sylhet at Rajshahi Khulna v Rajshahi at Bogra Dhaka v Chittagong at Mirpur
October 26:	Khulna v Barisal at Bogra Rajshahi v Chittagong at Mirpur Sylhet v Dhaka at Rajshahi
October 29:	Rajshahi v Dhaka at Rajshahi Barisal v Chittagong at Bogra Khulna v Sylhet at Mirpur
November 2:	Rajshahi v Sylhet at Bogra Khulna v Chittagong at Rajshahi Dhaka v Barisal at Mirpur
November 5:	Khulna v Dhaka at Bogra Chittagong v Sylhet at Rajshahi Rajshahi v Barisal at Mirpur

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able for only the first phase which is scheduled to end on November 5 as after that they will start their preparation for the home series against Zimbabwe in December, their last international engagement before next year's World Cup.

The tournament offers players like Junaed Siddiqui and Rokibul Hasan the opportunity to get back among runs before the next international assignment against the Africans as both the batsmen struggled in the country's most successful series against the Black Caps.

The focus will be also on Mohammad Ashraful, who was dropped due to poor form, as only some big scores can bring the former national skipper to the spotlight before the series. It's a great chance for the experienced batsman to cash in on the opportunity as the Tigers' middle-order appeared to be the cause for concern.

Ashraful got off to a good start in the domestic competition when he made a hundred in the first four-day of the National Cricket League but the longer-version was suspended after the first round following persistent rain.

The one-day league will have two phases with the top two finishers in terms of accumulated points playing in a final match to determine the championship.

## 'Rooney wants out'

Football

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson confirmed Tuesday star striker Wayne Rooney wants to leave the club, expressing "shock and disappointment" at the player's stance.

"I had a meeting with him. He intimated to me in his own way that he wanted to leave," Ferguson said at a dramatic press conference ahead of United's Champions League tie with Turkish side Bursaspor on Wednesday.

Speculation about Rooney's future had raged for days after Ferguson dropped the 24-year-old England international for last Saturday's Premier League clash with West Bromwich Albion.

It came after Rooney publicly contradicted Ferguson's claims that he was suffering from an ankle injury by telling reporters he was fully fit.

Ferguson finally broke his silence on the saga at an extraordinary press briefing here Tuesday, confirming that Rooney had requested to leave Old Trafford but denying any argument with the player.

A clearly shellshocked Ferguson said he had first been made aware of Rooney's desire to leave before the start of the new season when informed by United chief

executive David Gill.

"It was a shock. I couldn't believe it," said Ferguson.

"In early discussions - in March I think - we had discussions with him, he intimated he wanted to stay, that he wanted a life contract with the club, that he was at the best club in the world.

"It was terribly disappointing to get the news. We couldn't understand it. We have to keep the door open because he is such a good player," Ferguson said, admitting he was baffled by the position of Rooney, who he signed as a teenager from Everton in 2004.

"We have done nothing but help him since he came to this club, that is why this is such a mystery to us. We've helped him with his private life and other matters," Ferguson said.

"So we're as bemused as anyone can be because we can't understand why he would want to leave a club that is so successful as we are in British football."

In another twist, Ferguson revealed that Rooney had been injured in training on Tuesday and would not be in the squad for Wednesday's game with Bursaspor.

Ferguson also expressed disappointment that Rooney had contradicted his comments about being injured, insisting he had been nursing an ankle knock.

"Why he came out and said that you can only guess yourself. It was disap-

pointing he said that," Ferguson said in an interview with United's MUTV television channel.

"He got an ankle injury in the Rangers game. He was seen clearly hobbling at half-time. He confirmed it himself in an interview with Sky," Ferguson said.

"My idea, based on the fact he wasn't playing that well, was to leave him out of the Sunderland game, make sure his ankle is properly prepared for the next game, and give him a 10-day recovery so he could play for England.

"My hope was that by playing for England at Wembley he could recapture his form and we could kick on."

Media reports had said Rooney and Ferguson had fallen out after the publication of lurid tabloid reports about the player's private life, with Rooney complaining about a perceived lack of support from Ferguson.

With Rooney having only 18 months left on his existing contract, United will now likely be forced to sell their prized asset, valued at 50 million pounds, in order to recoup as high a price as possible for the player.

Manchester United's cross-town rivals Manchester City have emerged as the favourite to land Rooney, with the player's wife reportedly reluctant to entertain a move overseas.

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## NZ to review the debacle

CRICINFO, Wellington



New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori, coach Mark Greatbatch and high performance director, Roger Mortimer, will meet with New Zealand Cricket's board on October 22 to review the disastrous ODI tour of Bangladesh, which ended in a 4-0 thrashing on Sunday.

They are also expected to discuss their upcoming tour of India, for which the squad will be named on October 24, and their World Cup preparation, which is a shambles following an unprecedented defeat in Bangladesh, one of the host nations of the tournament in 2011.

The result plunged New Zealand to seventh in the ICC's ODI rankings, their lowest position since November 2005, but despite acknowledging the gravity of the situation NZC's general manager of cricket, Geoff Allott, said changes to management were unlikely to happen. "It's important that we remain confident in the people we have," he told the Dominion Post. "We've committed to a structure, and we'll be assessed by those decisions."

New Zealand's trip to Bangladesh was marred by poor weather and rain washed out their warm-up games, forcing the visitors to go into the ODI series with no match practice. Their batsmen struggled to adjust to the pace and turn of the pitches in Mirpur and failed to score more than 200 in three out of four innings.

"Disappointing is an understatement. When you lose 4-0 in a country you're going to be playing a World Cup match, then it's a big concern," Allott said. "From a fitness perspective, and a technical perspective, we've got the goods, it's actually the decision-making. Throughout the series there were cross-bat

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SO, YOU ARE LEAVING --- Manchester United coach Sir Alex Ferguson (L) yesterday confirmed that his star striker Wayne Rooney (R) was against renewing his contract with the Reds, opening the window of probably the most expensive transfer sooner than later.

PHOTO: THE SUN

## CJKS school football from tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A school football tournament begins at MA Aziz stadium in the port city from tomorrow.

Twelve schools will participate in the tournament organised by Chattagram Jela Krira Sangstha (CJKS).

Deputy Commissioner (north) Amena Begum of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, also chairman of the organising committee, will inaugurate the tournament as chief guest, said the organisers at a press conference held at CJKS auditorium yesterday.

A budget of Tk 1.5 lakh was

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### SPORTS POLL

TODAY'S QUESTION

Do you think Real Madrid has improved under Jose Mourinho?

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

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www.twitter.com/dssport

## What to WATCH

TEN Sports

UEFA Champions League  
Barcelona v FC Copenhagen  
Live from 12:45am (Thursday)

TEN Action

UEFA Champions League  
Inter Milan v Tottenham  
Live from 12:45am (Thursday)

ESPN

Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm

## DAY'S EVENT

GP Federation Cup

Sk Russel v Sk Jamal Dhanmondi Club  
Time: 3:00pm  
Abahani v Rahmatganj  
Time: 5:30pm  
Venue: Kamalapur Stadium