

Manchester United defender Gary Neville has retired from football with immediate effect, the player announced Wednesday. Veteran full-back Neville, who turns 36 later this month, has not played since Premier League leaders United's victory away to West Bromwich Albion on New Year's Day. Neville, a one club man, made 602 appearances for United, scoring seven goals, and also won 85 England caps. "I have been a Manchester United fan all my life and fulfilled every dream I've ever had," Neville said in a United statement.



SPORT

DHAKA 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net



Bangladesh cricketers (L-R) Shafiu Islam, Mohammad Ashraful and Junaed Siddiqui go through one of Fountain's innovative fielding drills during the Tigers' practice session at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong.

BATTLE PLAN

Fountain tweaking Tigers' fielding

SAKEB SUBHAN



It has often been said that a good fielding team adds runs to the total. This means that, for instance, when defending a score of 220 a fielding side, by being alert to every run-saving opportunity, can actually make the batting side feel that the total they are pursuing is, say, 20 runs higher. This is even truer of younger, more inexperienced sides like Bangladesh; what they may lack in batting or bowling can be made up by the runs 'scored' on the field. To this end, national fielding coach Julien Fountain has been working tirelessly with the Tigers. The fruits of this effort have been in evidence in certain instances; think Shafiu Islam's brilliant catch to dismiss Daniel Vettori during the fifth ODI against New Zealand at Mirpur last October.

"The fielding's shaping up really well, I am very happy with the way things are progressing," said the UK-born national fielding coach. "You've got to enjoy it, you've got to want the ball to come to you. As soon as there is a fear element it's horrible. The fun element is very important, but also a big thing is attention to detail," Fountain said. "You've got to give it a hundred percent; you can't give it seventy-five percent and then wonder what went wrong. Every time you touch the ball you have to give it a hundred percent, be it a practice match, an international match or a practice session." This attention to detail is evident in some of the drills that the team go through, which at first glance might seem irrelevant to a layman. One such drill is one where all the players throw different-sized and different-

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Tamim hungry for century

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

When Tamim Iqbal is on song, the Bangladeshi fans hardly have any chance to be disappointed. Expectations run very high whenever the Chittagong lad gets going but the irony is that despite his master blaster reputation Tamim has never scored a century in his own ground. Before the beginning of this practice session on Thursday evening, Tamim was queried about this very fact and said, "I want to score my first century at Chittagong in the World Cup." He also went on to say that he would start the tournament with the goal of finishing it as the top scorer. "I will try to be a highest scorer in every match in the upcoming World Cup," he said. When asked about team performances he said, "It is our first practice. All of us are enjoying the sessions and the environment is also good."

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ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

Hopes rest on his shoulders

Shakib Al Hasan today is the face of Bangladesh cricket. More than his talent with bat and ball it is his solid temperament and alert cricket brain that has taken him to the top of the rankings of ODI allrounders, ahead of such names as South Africa's Jacques Kallis, Pakistan's Shahid Afridi and Australia's Shane Watson.

When he was selected for the 2007 World Cup, he was still an inexperienced player; but his performances belied the fact. Everyone would remember his crucial innings in the first match against India, which the Tigers memorably won. He came in at the fall of the third wicket, when 103 runs still had to be scored. In the company of Mushfiqur Rahim, he serenely went about the job and scored 53 of those runs.

In the Super Eight match against England at Bridgetown, he proved that he was a cut above when he stood alone among the ruins. He scored 57 while the next highest score was 15 as Bangladesh capitulated to 143.

He impressed with the ball too, as might be expected from a future number one allrounder. In the victory against South Africa in the Super Eight match at Providence, he broke the backs of the South Africans claiming the wickets of Mark



SHAKIB AL HASAN

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'Trophy' completes city tour

SPORTS REPORTER



The cricket lovers thronged locations across the city to be a part of history as the ICC World Cup trophy was put on display for public viewing at different city spots yesterday. But the question on everyone's lips was whether it is a genuine one or a replica.

Many cricket-mad people were not only satisfied with watching the trophy

but they also took the picture in their mobile phone and kissed the trophy during its journey across different spots at the city.

Hero Honda, an official global partner of the ICC, started the trophy's journey from Atlas Bangladesh (local distributor of Hero Honda) premises in the morning and handed the trophy over to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) after visiting a number of places.

The roadshow traveled through the city led by a team of Hero Honda Hunk.

When the trophy was kept at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal became a part of the photo session.

"Definitely it's a different feeling. Hope we will be winner of this Cup in the future," said Kamal.

And when a reporter doubted the originality of the trophy, the smiling BCB boss quipped: "When I held it, it felt like the original one."

Many also raised the question

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IMITATION THE HIGHEST FORM OF FLATTERY?: The World Cup trophy is displayed at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium as part of its tour of the capital yesterday, even as many were questioning its authenticity. PHOTO: STAR

Only shiny cars are allowed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It's time for Dhaka to get dolled up for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011. No ugly scar will be allowed to spoil the view of the city adorned in the finest attires during the sporting fiesta.

In the run-up to the tournament, the emphasis is placed on traffic as part of the overall city beautification.

The government has asked owners to make their dilapidated vehicles in the capital shine like new ones by February 10 and mobile courts will take action against tainted automobiles from the next day.

The directive came yesterday at a meeting on tackling traffic congestion and maintaining signal during the World Cup.

"Fitness certificate and route permit will be cancelled if any of those [bad looking] vehicles are found plying on city streets after the deadline," Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain said after the meeting at his office.

The meeting also directed the owners in Chittagong,

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Collect your own token of red and green and join us in the prayers for our National Cricket Team



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Stay Close



Siddikur leads the pack

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh golfing sensation Siddikur Rahman as expected led the home side after playing 6-under-par on the opening round of the Grameenphone Bangladesh Masters at Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

Siddikur, the first player to win on the Asian Tour, wielded a hot putter as he returned with a sizzling 6-under-par 66 at the US\$75,000 Asian Development Tour event followed by his compatriot A Motin and Liton Howlader.

Motin and Howlader occupied the second and third placing with a solid 68 and 69 respectively while Japanese duo Hiroto Naito and Yosuke Tsukada, Malaysian Rizal Amin and Sayum Miah of Bangladesh

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The HSBC Young Entrepreneur Awards 2011

Unleash the power of your potential

The HSBC Young Entrepreneur Awards (YEA) is an annual, regional competition designed to encourage young people to unleash the power of their potential. The competition is open to full-time Bangladeshi undergraduate students. Participants must form teams of two or three members. Each team is allowed to submit only one proposal.

The Gold, Silver and Bronze winners of Bangladesh finale will receive trophies of honour and cash prizes of BDT75,000, BDT45,000 and BDT35,000 respectively. The 3 teams from Bangladesh will attend the regional grand finale in the Hong Kong SAR and participate in a week-long entrepreneurial study tour in June 2011.

- Round 1 business idea submission open from 19 January to 10 February 2011
- Submit your idea at the website: www.asiayea.com
- For more information, contact +88 01756199346 or email at rifat.faruq@hsbc.com.bd

*conditions apply



Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited in Bangladesh. Dates, awards and prizes of the competition are subject to change. The Organiser reserves the right to amend the aforesaid arrangements without prior notice. Please check the official website www.asiayea.com for any change to the programme schedule. HSBC does not take responsibility for the originality, intellectual property rights, and any other legal or reputational aspect of the ideas and plans submitted by participating teams. The competition is open to Bangladeshi full-time undergraduate students studying inside the country only. HSBC will bear travel, accommodation and selected expenses for the study tour to the Hong Kong SAR. Immigration, medical, accidental or any other incidental expenses or liabilities are not the Bank's responsibility.