

Argentine Football Association President Julio Grondona says Lionel Messi is the best player to wear the No. 10 for the national team, an obvious dig at Diego Maradona.

In a radio interview, Grondona said Messi, Maradona, Juan Roman Riquelme and Juan Sebastian Veron were in a class above the rest. He added "Messi is the best" of the group.

Last week Maradona said he was taking Grondona to court, accusing him of spreading false information about his problems with drugs and alcohol. Maradona says he has been clean for six years, while Grondona has suggested otherwise.



# SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY JANUARY 1, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Finally Shakib named Bangladesh captain

Tamim to be his deputy

SPORTS REPORTER

As was widely expected, Shakib Al Hasan will lead Bangladesh into this year's World Cup after the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), on Friday, named the world's number all-rounder as captain and dashing opener Tamim Iqbal as his deputy for the next one year.



SHAKIB AL HASAN TAMIM IQBAL

After Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's latest knee injury there was no other choice for the game's governing body but to declare Shakib as the Tigers' skipper. However, the appointment of Tamim as vice-captain came as a surprise to many with wicketkeeper batsman Mushfiqur Rahim long mooted as the

most likely candidate. It was still not an easy decision for the BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal to select Shakib as captain, as the number one all-rounder was reportedly not ready to take charge only for the World Cup, instead insisting on long-term duty when he met with the BCB president in the morning. The BCB boss finally agreed on a

one-year tenure after a meeting with the high-ups including the selectors at his Mirpur office and the decision this time made Shakib happy. The world's best all-rounder had previously expressed his disappointment on his short-term, stop-gap role.

"Yes, this time I am happy. I always believe in a long-term policy. Now I can plan something for the team," said Shakib soon after the BCB made the official announcement on the eve of the New Year.

"Now my first job will be to work towards a good team for the World Cup. I firmly believe that the captain has to have a strong opinion on team selection. Definitely I will be part of the team selection this time," he added.

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PHOTOS: STAR

Muktijoddha's veteran midfielder Arman Aziz (R) tries to win the ball from a Brothers Union player during their Grameen Phone Bangladesh League match at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday. (Inset) Striker Mithun Chowdhury shows the club emblem after scoring one of the two goals in the game.

## SCHOOL F'BALL Renat hits a hatrick

SPORTS REPORTER

Renat struck a hatrick as BAF Shaheen English Medium School recorded a massive 8-0 win over Don Grammar High School in the Ashiyani City Dhaka

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## Tickets for the elite?

ATIQUÉ ANAM



As the clock ticked down on 2010 ushering in a new year, cricket lovers around the country were counting down on the moment they would get a chance to get their hands on the tickets for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011. The biggest international event in the country's history is less than fifty days away and cricket lovers are waiting excitedly to be a part of that event, by being at the stadium to support their own beloved Tigers.

But unfortunately rather than being appeased, their excitement and anxiousness has been kicked up a few notches, by the apparent indecision and confusion from the Bangladesh Cricket Board regarding the selling of tickets.

As per a source from BCB, the number of tickets reserved for the ICC was 1,270 out of a total capacity of 25,509 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. The remaining 24,239 tickets will be available for selling. However, more than 6,000 tickets are reserved for ministers, members of parliament, bureaucrats and members of different sports federations, divisional and district associations, and

another 3,000 tickets are at the disposal of the BCB. A total of 442 tickets from these 3,000 are for the VIPs who will sit in the Corporate Boxes. But nobody seems to be aware of the fate of the other 2,500-plus tickets.

Even this bit of information is not concrete, and was relayed to the public at the latest of hours. The local organising committee of BCB claimed the deferral in detailing out information on the ticket availability to the eve of selling was in a bid to avoid manipulation. However, one might question the validity of such a claim, since dissemination of information should ideally wipe out confusion and make it harder to manipulate.

One might also ask why this dilly-dally or apparent indecision is taking place at the BCB while the cricket-lovers around the country await eagerly to learn where they can collect their tickets from and how many exactly remain allotted for them. Well, as per the assertion of a member of ticketing and seating committee, it is because they don't yet know how many tickets they would be putting on sale due to 'mounting demand for tickets from different communities'.

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## City Bank urges calm from fans

SPORTS REPORTER

Tickets for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 matches in Bangladesh will go on sale across the country from tomorrow but City Bank yesterday pointed the finger of blame at the BCB for not effectively communicating ticketing procedures to the public in due time.

The alarming information came from City Bank's chief communicating officer Mashrur Arefin, who spoke to reporters yesterday to clarify their position about the sale of tickets.

The Bank officials pointed the finger squarely at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and said that they were still being kept in

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## Muktis off to a flyer

SPORTS REPORTER



A brace from Mithun Chowdhury powered title contenders Muktijoddha Sangsad a 2-0 win over a spirited Brothers Union in their opening game of the Grameenphone Bangladesh League at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

The former Chittagong Abahani striker gave the freedom fighters' side an unexpected lead in the 39th minute and then doubled the margin in the 60th minute in the entertaining encounter.

But the game was marred by Brothers officials, who entered the playing area during the play in protest of a defective net while fans threw chairs onto the field from the second-floor of the VIP stand to bring it to the attention of officials. It was later revealed that Brothers Union goalkeeper Sabuj Das Raghu tore the net while foiling an attempt from the opponents and the game resumed after a 10-minute break.

Brothers Union, the semifinalists of the Federation Cup, pressed a rejuvenated Muktijoddha Sangsad from the outset with Brazilian playmaker Everton ruling the midfield and striking duo Ghanaian Enock Bentil and Cameroonian Bitcha

Richard proving a handful throughout the game.

However, it was Muktijoddha's experienced goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee, who twice rescued his new side in the first half as the former Abahani goalkeeper first made a diving save off a Faisal Mahmud drive in the 16th minute and then blocked a powerful shot from Bentil in the 22nd minute.

Muktijoddha coach Maruful Haq had started with a 4-5-1 formation but he switched sending on striker Mithun Chowdhury in place of midfielder Maruf Ahmed and the national striker struck the opener against the run of play just two minutes later. Mithun availing a short corner off Zahed Chowdhury sent in a cross-shot and goalkeeper Raghu missed the flight to concede goal.

Brothers Union were not as lucky as Muktijoddha. The Gopibagh-based outfit should have won the match but their strikers saw their attempts either go wide or foiled by goalkeeper Biplob.

The backline of Brothers, who played in a 3-5-2 formation, was exposed whenever they went into attack and conceded the second goal from a counter attack as Zahed

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## ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

### Public support was remarkable

When the 1999 World Cup squad was first announced, one name was missing. The cricket-loving public of the country protested, there was a huge outcry in the media and then, bending to the pressure, Minhazul Abedin Nannu was added to the squad. In Glasgow, Nannu stroked a masterful 68 against Scotland when Bangladesh were 5 for 26. The win thereafter was all his doing and it took Bangladesh a step further towards the Test arena. Speaking to The Daily Star Sport, Nannu mentioned the affection of the public at the mere mention of the 1999 tournament.

Daily Star Sport (DSS): How did it feel when you heard that you would ultimately play in the 1999 World Cup?



MINHAZUL ABEDIN

Minhajul Abedin (MA): My experience of the World Cup is very unique, unlike all of my teammates'. It was not the usual way that I got into the team, as you may know. I was under immense pressure due to the expectations on me. It was exciting of course, but there was pressure. I was determined to honour the public sentiment that was very much part of my World Cup selection at the time. My inclusion in the team, the way it was done, I don't think will be done

a second time. DSS: How excited were you to play in your country's first World Cup?

MA: Everything about the World Cup was new to us. This generation would not find it easy to understand as we automatically qualify to the World Cup these days. We missed qualification to the World Cup twice so you can understand that we dreamt of playing in the tournament for really long. I cannot express how excited I was to play. Actually the entire time between our ICC triumph

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## Tickets for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 in Bangladesh are now available at the following MoneyGram outlets:

<b>Dhaka Division</b> The City Bank Limited	Faridpur Faridpur Branch	Feni Feni Branch	Sylhet Zinda Bazar Branch	Chapai Nawabgonj Branch Pabna Pabna Branch	Narail Narail Branch
Dhaka B.B. Avenue Branch Dhanmondi Branch Banani Branch Islampur Road Branch Kawran Bazar Branch Mirpur Branch Mouchak Branch New Market Branch Uttara Branch Imamganj Branch	<b>Agrani Bank Limited</b> Dhaka Amin Court Corporate Branch, Motijheel Bank Town Branch, Savar	Laxmipur Laxmipur Branch	<b>Rangpur Division</b> The City Bank Limited	Rajshahi Rajshahi Branch	Jhenaidah Jhenaidah Branch
Kishoregonj Kishoregonj SME Service Centre	Rajbari Rajbari Branch	Noakhali Maijdee Court SME Service Centre	Dinajpur Dinajpur Branch	Natore Natore SME/Agree Branch	Magura Magura Branch
Jamalpur Jamalpur SME Service Centre	Gopalganj Gopalganj Branch	Chandpur Chandpur Branch	Gaibandha Gobindaganj Branch	<b>Agrani Bank Limited</b> Joypurhat Joypurhat Branch	<b>Barisal Division</b> The City Bank Limited
Manikganj Manikganj Branch	Madaripur Madaripur Branch	Comilla Comilla Branch	Rangpur Rangpur Branch	Naogaon Naogaon Branch	Barisal Barisal Branch
Mymensingh Mymensingh Branch	Shariatpur Shariatpur Branch	<b>Agrani Bank Limited</b> Chittagong Agrabad C/A Corporate Branch	<b>Agrani Bank Limited</b> Kurigram Kurigram Branch	<b>Khulna Division</b> The City Bank Limited	<b>Agrani Bank Limited</b> Bhola Bhola Branch
Narsinghdi Narsinghdi Branch	Sherpur Sherpur Branch	Chandpur Chandpur Branch	Panchagarh Panchagarh Branch	Jessore Jessore Branch	Jhalokathi Jhalokathi Branch
Munshigonj Rekabi Bazar Branch	Netrokona Netrokona Branch	Chandpur Chandpur Branch	Thakurgaon Thakurgaon Branch	Khulna Khulna Branch	Barguna Barguna Branch
Narayanganj Narayanganj Branch	<b>Chittagong Division</b> The City Bank Limited	Comilla Comilla Branch	Lalmonirhat Lalmonirhat Branch	Kushtia Kushtia Branch	Patuakhali Natun Bazar Branch
Tangail Tangail Branch	Chittagong Anderkilla Branch Jubilee Road Branch O.R. Nizam Road Branch Pahartali Branch Chawkbazar Branch	Comilla Comilla Branch	Nilphamari Nilphamari Branch	Satkhira Satkhira Branch	Pirojpur Main Road Branch
Gazipur Tongi Branch	<b>Brahmanbaria</b> Brahmanbaria Branch	Comilla Comilla Branch	<b>Rajshahi Division</b> The City Bank Limited	<b>Agrani Bank Limited</b> Bagherhat Bagherhat Branch	
	Cox's Bazar Cox's Bazar Branch	Comilla Comilla Branch	Bogra Bogra Branch	Chuadanga Chuadanga Branch	
		Comilla Comilla Branch	Sirajganj Sirajganj Branch	Meherpur Meherpur Branch	
		Comilla Comilla Branch	Chapai Nawabgonj		

Conditions:  
1. Ticket voucher is not transferable.  
2. One person can buy only two tickets for each match.  
3. Service charge will be applicable.  
4. Additional Terms & Conditions Apply.

