

# SPORT

DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 2, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Rooney fancies management

Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney revealed on Friday that he is planning to go into management when he calls time on his playing career. Rooney, 25, may only be approaching his prime as a player but the England international has already turned his thoughts to life after he hangs up his boots and he fancies his chances of succeeding as a manager. "I would like to be a manager. That would be my ambition when I finish playing," Rooney said.

- AFP



# For a cherished ticket

BISHWAJIT ROY And MOHAMMAD ISAM



The cricket World Cup is still 48 days away and the ticket booths are to be opened this morning, but for the thousands who stood in line in front of different The City Bank branches since yesterday morning, World Cup fever has already caught on.

These people, obviously the cricket-mad populace of the country, hardly have a care in the world for all the complications that the Bangladesh Cricket Board has been spelling out over the last few days about the allocation of the tickets. All they want to do is be a part of history, and of course the best way to do that is to watch the matches from the stands and not from the comfort of their homes.

Azmal Hossain, a government employee, was among the teeming thousands near the Mirpur-1 branch of City Bank when the reporters met him last evening. Along with his wife and four-year old son, Azmal was crouched on the footpath, ready for a grueling overnight stay just to get hold of the prized possession.

"To get a ticket, I will give all my effort," said the middle-aged Azmal with a smile on his face. He lives in nearby Kazipara and realised the enormity of watching a World Cup game through his family members. "I love cricket but it was my wife and son who inspired me to come here and stand in line," he said.

At around 5:00pm yesterday, roughly 16 hours before the counters will officially open, the queue had already gone up to around 3,000 people. Most of them are

from the nearby areas but there were some from other districts, where the ticket allocations are scarcer than the capital.

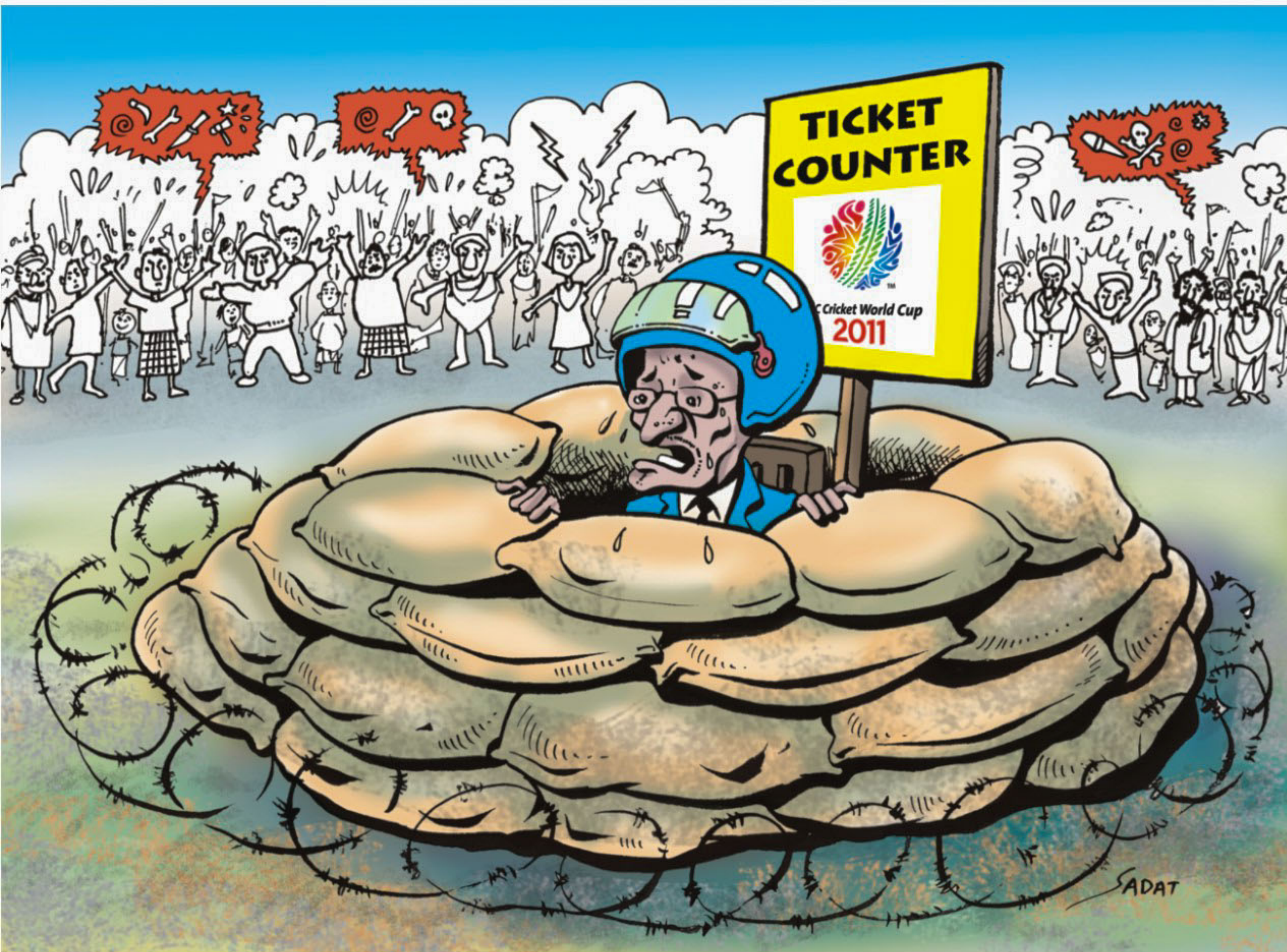
But in all practicality, no more than 480 tickets can be sold on a day from a single booth and Imran Zahid knows what he is up against. "I know that I might not get a ticket tomorrow. But unless I get it, I will keep on trying," said the Mirpur-2 resident.

For anyone who wants to know the level of interest in grabbing one World Cup ticket, the first man to stand in line in that branch came at 10:00am yesterday morning. "At around noon, there were at least 300 people around. You can imagine what might happen tonight, the lines may go up to Bangla College!" said a shopkeeper.

A mile or two away at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) headquarters, it was a different scene with a similar narrative. In a press conference, BCB chief AHM Mostafa Kamal confirmed, once again, that the confusion regarding the tickets has not gone away. His latest version only omitted the word 'complimentary' otherwise it was the same story as they had been telling for the last few days and apparently, they have doubled the confusion. Worse, he informed that the BCB are yet to confirm the exact capacity of the stadiums so they have to calculate everything in approximation.

"We can feel the excitement and hype with the World Cup. But there is a huge difference in demand and supply. We have limitations but what I can assure you that every

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# Riding on a lenient law

SPORTS REPORTER



The domestic cricket continued to lose its discipline as yet another unsavoury incident marred a Premier

League match on Friday.

Surjo Tarun's Rajin Saleh and Asif Hossain of Orient Sporting Club were handed one-match suspensions each after they were involved in an ugly scuffle at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi.

According to eye witness, in the ninth over of Orient's innings, Asif and Rajin got involved in a war of words on the pitch that led to the Pakistani batsman grabbing the former national captain by the collar. A huge melee ensued with some of the other Surjo Tarun fielders

surrounding the duo and on-field umpire Sharfuddowla Ibn Shahid Saikat stepped in at that moment, but the damage had already been done.

"Asif Hossain and Rajin Saleh are suspended and Abdur Razzak was fined Tk 5,000 for the incident," informed CCDM coordinator Qazi Aynul Islam yesterday.

Though the Orient-Surjo Tarun match calmed down soon after, the on-field face-offs are piling up this season. During the Gazi Tank-Abahani game in Bogra last week, Mahmudullah Riyad and Sabbir Rahman got into a mid-pitch scuffle that had both players suspended for a game each with Gazi Tank skipper Naeem Islam and Nasir Hossain both being fined.

On the same day, Mohammedan captain Shakib Al Hasan confronted

the umpire after his caught-behind dismissal at the BKS, the all-rounder being handed a Tk 10,000 penalty.

According to those handling these matches (umpires and match referees), these single-game bans and 5,000-10,000 taka fines are never enough as it doesn't discourage the players or the officials from getting into confrontations.

"These punishments are token. The club officials tell their players to put pressure on the umpires with the assurance that the rest will be taken care of. And as it happens, the players always tell us that they hit the ball when we give a leg-before decision or that they didn't hit it when we give a caught-behind decision," said an umpire who requested anonymity.

According to this umpire, this is one of the reasons why some

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# ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

## 'An unforgettable handshake'

*Shahriar Hossain Bidyut was one of the most exciting batsmen. He had a terrible time during the 1999 World Cup, only to redeem himself with a fine 39 against Pakistan on that famous day. He spoke to The Daily Star Sport about his World Cup days.*

Daily Star Sport (DSS): How did it feel when you heard that you would play the 1999 World Cup? Shahriar Hossain Bidyut (SHB): Of course it was a great feeling. It was like a dream come true. You know how a World Cup is... it was an amazing experience.

DSS: You took Bangladesh's first ball. Tell us about the particular match against New Zealand.



SHAHRIAR HOSSAIN

SHB: I didn't score much, one or two runs actually. But I wasn't that nervous. The wicket had moisture as it had rained the night before. I was slightly upset with my performance.

DSS: How different was the atmosphere compared to other matches or tours?

SHB: I didn't have much problem with the cold but the wickets

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## Afridi, Waqar to appear in ICC tribunal

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan cricket chiefs said on Saturday they would allow one-day captain Shahid Afridi and coach Waqar Younis to appear at a hearing into spot-fixing allegations in Doha during the coming week.

The decision was taken after the International Cricket Council requested the appearance of the two men at the hearing.

"The ICC has requested the PCB to direct Afridi and Waqar to appear before the ICC anti-corruption tribunal to determine the guilt or otherwise of the three players who have been accused of serious violations," a Pakistan Cricket Board press release said. The three players -- Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer -- were suspended by the ICC in September on spot-fixing charges relating to the Lord's Test against England a month earlier.

The trio are to appear before the tribunal in Doha from January 6-11.

The statement said the PCB had decided to allow Afridi and Waqar to appear as witnesses either in person or through a teleconference depending on their convenience and subject to their professional commitments.

## Metropolis School Football

SPORTS REPORTER

A quadruple from Sohag powered AK International School to a 6-1 victory over Kamuchan Shah High School in a match of the Asian City Dhaka Metropolis School Football Tournament at the Rahmatganj MFS Ground yesterday. At the Khilgaon Jorpukur venue, Siddeshwari High School smothered Motijheel Model High School 5-0, courtesy of a Tamal hattrick and a brace from Dipu. Elsewhere, Saint Gregory High School beat Wari High School 3-1 while Residential Model School defeated Vashantek High School 2-0.

# R'ganj make winning start

SPORTS REPORTER



Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society started the Grameenphone Bangladesh League with a 2-1 victory over Arambagh Krira Sangha at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. A fine volley from youngster Jamal Hossain gave Rahmatganj the lead before their Nigerian recruit Paul McJames Mwachukwu made it 2-0 after the breather. Veteran Liberian striker Benjamin Cooper's last gasp goal was the only consolation for a sorry Arambagh.

The sparsely attended affair at the country's second premier football venue was dominated mostly by the club from old town. After a couple of close calls, Jamal broke the deadlock on the 34th minute with a fine volley. A minus from captain Idris Kasirye from the left was expertly received by Jamal on the edge of the box before he calmly slotted it on the back of the net.

The lead was doubled nine minutes after restart when tall Nigerian McJames bulldozed into the box before releasing a cross that took a deflection off a defender into

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Rahmatganj striker Paul McJames Mwachukwu (L) staves off an Arambagh defender as he shoots for goal during their Grameenphone Bangladesh League encounter at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## SPORTS POLL WEEKLY QUESTION

Do you think Bangladesh will have a great 2011 in sports?

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