



**“The board president said that Shakib got himself endorsed with Betwinner News thinking it was some online news portal. It wasn’t the right decision. After we explained the thing to Shakib, he understood that he made a mistake and said that he has come out of that contract.”**

**“The logic [behind making him the captain] is that Shakib is still our best cricketer. We own him. He is not someone from outside the board or the country. Since he said that he made a mistake, we are hoping that....he was told not to repeat any such mistake in the future. He too said that he won't.”**

BCB's cricket operations chairman  
**Jalal Yunus**



Shakib Al Hasan wears a broad grin as he leaves after a meeting with the BCB high-ups at the board president's residence yesterday afternoon after returning from the USA earlier in the day. Following the meeting, which lasted more than three hours, the ace all-rounder was named as the captain for the Bangladesh team till the T20 World Cup. (Bottom) Chief selector Minhajul Abedin Nannu announcing the Asia Cup T20 squad.

PHOTO: STAR

## AGENCIES

"This spell at Real Madrid will end my career," the Italian told *Il Messaggero*.

This Sunday, Real Madrid will kick off their 2022-23 La Liga campaign visiting Almeria, but the Italian coach has made it clear that the Champions League is their main aim:



"This spell at Real Madrid will end my career. After Madrid, I'll retire. Real Madrid are the best club in football. It makes sense to end my career after this experience."

Ancelotti also spoke about the 24 trophies he was won throughout his career:

“The truth is that these calculations don’t matter. I’ll make them at the end, which is when a final total makes sense. Now, I’m focussed on coaching. I like the day to day job. Until some years ago, my priority was tactics, now I focus more on human relationships, in getting to know people and new generations.”

## SPORTS REPORTER

Confusion reigned when it came to the Tigers' squad for the event following some injury concerns alongside the controversy over Shakib's contract with Betwinner News and those issues forced selectors to delay announcing the squad and seek extra time to submit their squad.

Pacer Ebadot Hossain, who made his ODI debut in Zimbabwe, was included in the T20 side for the first time while Munim Shahriar, Najmul Hossain and Shoriful Islam were expectedly dropped due to poor performance.

Instead, they named just two specialist openers in the form of Anamul Haque – who made a return to the T20I side after seven years during the West Indies tour in July – and Parvez Hossain Emon, who only made his debut in the third T20I in Zimbabwe.

Despite questions over his performance and approach in the shortest format, selectors kept Mahmudullah Riyad in the squad and also included injured wicketkeeper-batter Nurul Hasan Sohan, who underwent finger surgery recently.

Yet again, some of these decisions, such as the choice to include someone like Sabbir who was not even in contention for the national team, have lain bare the lack of clarity and consistency from the selectors.

Sabbir scored just 109 runs in six games in the last Bangladesh Premier League at a strike rate of 111.22

There were hardly any exceptional performances from Sabbir in the Dhaka Premier League either as he struck a century and a fifty. He ended the 50-over competition with 515 runs from 15 games at an average of 39.61 and a strike rate of 102.38.

It was learned that Shakib had told Sabbir and Saifuddin to be prepared for the Asia Cup and that their inclusion was probably a reflection of the captain's desires.



### Bangladesh Squad for Asia Cup 2022:

Shakib Al Hasan (C), Anamul Haque Bijoy, Mushfiqur Rahim, Afif Hossain, Mosaddek Hossain, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mahedi Hasan, Mohammad Safiuddin, Mustafizur Rahman, Sabbir Rahman, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Ebadot Hossain, Parvez Hossain Emon, Nurul Hasan Sohan (subject to recovery from injury), Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud.

"We decided to include Sabbir because he has experience in the domestic circuit in T20 format. All of us, including Shakib, sat together and prepared the team," chief selector Minhajul Abedin told the media yesterday after announcing the squad at BCB president Nazmul Hassan's residence.

Akin to the past, it seems that selectors are once again turning to someone like Sabbir not because of exceptional performances that merit a call-up, but simply because of a lack of competitiveness and an inability to perform that forces selectors to walk backwards.

**AFP, Montreal**

The Wimbledon runner-up lost 7-6 (7/4), 6-7 (5/7), 6-1 to Polish powerhouse Hubert Hurkacz after coming to the court with 15 victories from his past 16 matches.

"My body hasn't been feeling great the last week," he said. "I was feeling the abdominal (muscle) a little bit before the match. My knees hurt."

The Aussie was annoyed as his opponent left the court for a change of clothes, a delay that ate into his fragile fitness.

"Obviously when you're playing and you stop for like five to 10 minutes, it doesn't help your body," Kyrgios said. "My body was so stiff after that, I couldn't move properly. I mean, it's within the rules. I'm not going to complain. I completely stiffened up."



## AGENCIES

Lionel Messi was excluded from the 30-man Ballon d'Or shortlist because of "new criteria" for the awarding of football's most prestigious individual prize, according to event organisers France Football.

Seven-time winner Messi and his Paris Saint-Germain team-mate Neymar weren't included when the list of candidates was released on Friday, but Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo earned a place.

The award is handed out annually, but for the first time this year the winner will be selected based on their form over the previous season, rather than the calendar year.

Messi, who won the Ballon d'Or last year, scored just six league goals in 26 league games for PSG last season. "Inevitably, Lionel Messi, with his 15 appearances in a row since 2006, his seven Ballon d'Or victories, his title holder status, weighs very heavily when it comes to the final choice," France Football's deputy editor-in-chief Emmanuel Bojan explained.

“The Argentinian was part of the discussions to integrate the 30, but the new criteria for the Ballon d’Or were unfavourable to him: disappearance of the criterion of a player’s entire career, and new periodicity, modelled on a season of football and no longer over a calendar year, which does not make it possible to integrate the Copa America of July 11, 2021.

"And then, it must be admitted that his first season in Paris was very disappointing both in terms of the visual impression and the statistics."



**Aston Villa defender Tyrone Mings (L) congratulates midfielder Emiliano Buendia, scorer of the team's second goal, during their Premier League fixture against Everton at Villa Park on Saturday.**

PHOTO: AFP



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