

RISING STARS

Famous Historical Thefts

by Zinnia Ahmad

ONLY one and a half months was left for the 1992 Olympic Games to start, the traditional torch was supposed to reach Barcelona from Athens during this time. But an astonishing incident occurred. The Olympic torch got

stolen. But how? The torch was handed over to Sowyas Sard sogletrive, a young hammer thrower, by actress Maria Pambolki in front of a stadium packed with spectators. A few moments after Sowyas had passed the torch over to the rent person, it was in possession of a 40-year old athlete. This athlete somehow escaped through the crowd and disappeared, along with the torch. After a fruitless search by the Greek Police Force, a second torch had to be used. No one had imagined that the Olympic torch could be stolen!



An Olympic torch similar to this was stolen

But such incredible thefts had occurred and are still occurring. Such amazing and unbelievable thefts are even considered as historical thefts. One such historical theft was that of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa. The picture that had attracted people from all over the world for years and years, the picture whose face value could not yet be decided, the picture for which, art specialists believe, a city like Paris would have to be sold if one would want to buy it. It was protected with a security system so flawless and impregnable which one would hardly understand. And in spite of such a tight security system, the Mona Lisa was stolen on 21st August, 1911 from Luv'e's Museum.

How was such a theft carried out? Who could do such a daring work? How did the portrait disappear despite all that security system? The incident created quite a fuss throughout the world. The detective agencies and international police organisation of each country were

to stay alert. Finally, the stolen Mona Lisa was found in 1913 in Italy. A man named Vincenzo Peruzza was accused and arrested by the police for the theft of Leonardo da Vinci's famous Mona Lisa.

The largest bank robbery ever recorded was in 1945 at Germany's National Bank, Rike Bank. The robbery was even entered into the Guinness Book of Records in 1959. The total amount of money stolen was \$250,000,000.

There were also certain cases where the thief was also deceived. Such an incident occurred in March 1992. The thief stole an envelope containing corporate bonds worth 186 million dollars from an old man and got mixed into the crowded streets of New York. But as all the bonds had registrations the brokerage company cancelled them. Ultimately, the thief himself had to sell those obsolete bonds.

Strange thefts like that of cannon balls, has occurred too. In the year 1990, a military train had to carry cannon-balls in almost all its fifty wagons from Panagore to Jalandhor. Each wagon door was sealed and a number of soldiers from the army were appointed as guards in the train. In a few hours, the train was in Dhanbad where it was not supposed to stop. Owing to railway lines in bad condition in the way from Dhanbad to Telumari all trains have to travel at a slow speed. The officers were aware of such conditions and the guards were told to be extra-cautious during this period. The train passed that way safely and stopped at the rent station Gomo. According to rules, security guards at Gomo came over to check the wagon doors. What they discovered was amazing. Two wagon doors were wide open. Were not the two doors properly closed at Paragone? Was this lack of efficiency from the security forces? But the actual answer to these questions were way out of their minds at that time. The cannon balls were stolen. Instantly, numerous unanswerable questions sprang up. How was this possible? Who could do this? And why? Unfortunately, despite through police investigation, there was no trace of the stolen cannon balls.

Among the famous, or notorious, as one would rather call it, thefts was that of the Rule Rime Cup, the prize for the winning team in the World Cup Football. This incident had occurred a few years ago. The police never found the cup and presumed that it had been made. Thus, a new cup had to be made.

Two more interesting inci-

dents occurred in the year 1990. In April, that year, the personal telephone of the Calcutta Telephone Area Manager got stolen mysteriously. And in September an expensive carpet was stolen from the Accountant General's office in the city of Raachi during office hours.

Cases of stolen songs are also considered as historical thefts. In 1987, the then Planning Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Bittlebbai Dattel who was also a well-known music composer, had complained that one of his songs for the film 'Salyam Sibam Shundari' was stolen.

In the case of answer sheets theft, the incident of 1990 is the most significant. In the mentioned year, almost 50,000 answer sheets got stolen from the Raachi University during the graduation exams.

Finally, there is the interesting incident of deception of the year 1860 in Thebar. The celebrated Archaeology Professor A E Mariett was then carrying out



Self portrait of Van Gogh

an excavation in a place near Thebar. Meanwhile, a gang of mummy robbers were at their work at the same place. In order to lead Mariett and his group astray from the real excavating place, the robbers made a grave and placed Albastor's pots, etc around it until it looked like an ancient place.

And, although surprising but true enough, Mariett got deceived. He and his group stopped digging at their own place and moved over to the fake grave. They went on digging this fake grave and finally discovered the 1600 BC grave of Queen Ahotep and along with it a huge treasure. This was of course sheer luck for Mariett. It really was a good thing the robbers had decided to deceive him. Had they known about Ahotep's grave, Mariett would have never discovered the royal grave and the unbelievable amount of treasure.

Source : Anandamela.

A Captain's Innings

by Hafiz Sadullah

"HOWZAT!" A loud, enthusiastic appeal came from both bowler and keeper. The umpire hesitated a moment, giving it some thought, but then slowly raised his forefinger to signal the dismissal. The batsman reluctantly departed from the field, an expression of disappointment on his face. Dismissed for 4, yet another victim of LBW. The Knights bowlers were so good at trapping batsmen leg before both with pace as well as spin.

The last batsman came to the crease, the score on 171. "C'mon, Faisal," said Atif, the captain, encouraging his bowler with a friendly pat on the back, "you can do it." Faisal went in again to deliver the last ball of the over and sent down a bouncer. To his utter disappointment the ball lifted right to the batsman's shoulder height who spun round and pulled it to the mid-wicket boundary for four! "Damn!" thought Faisal. But no, there was still one more over left for him to bowl and he was determined to make the batsman pay back then.

The next over conceded just 2 runs and it was Faisal's turn to bowl again. "Sweet revenge" he mumbled to himself as he went in once more. Only 2 balls into the over he yanked the batsman and uprooted the middle stump clean out of the ground. "Gosh," he said to Atif on the way back to the dressing room "revenge is sweet." "Yeah" replied the captain without the faintest idea what his friend was talking about. The tiny score-board at the far end of the field read: Young Lions, all out 177 in 34.3 overs. Last man 5.

Back in the dressing room, the two teams were huddled around their captains, the Knights at one corner of the room, the Young Lions, at the other. There was absolutely no way of overhearing the other team's discussion. At the northwest corner, the Knights were waiting for their captain to speak. But Atif was silent and the silence continued. At length Stuffey spoke "178" he exclaimed "in only 35 overs. Why let me see, that's a run-rate of...". "For God's sake shut up, Stuffey," interrupted Adnan, putting much emphasis on the last word. "The name's Stuffey, Chicken," retorted the plump

keeper. "Stop quarrelling you two. Listen to what I have to say." It was the calm, cool voice of Atif.

The two opening batsmen strode out onto the field. They were clad from head to toe in white and both carried 55 bats Adnan was to face the first delivery while Shumon stood at the non-striker's end. The opposition's field placings were cleverly done. There were 3 slips, cover point, silly mid-on, deep extra cover, short mid-wicket, deep mid-on and long leg. The Young Lions strike bowler, Soheli, went in to deliver the first six balls of the innings. He sent down a bouncer to start

wide. His next delivery proved to be far more accurate and deadly. It missed the off stump by, perhaps, only a fraction of a centimetre. The next delivery was stylishly driven through cover for four. Shumon was off the mark. But he paid back for the boundary, for the following delivery had him brilliantly caught at deep mid-on, in an attempt to lift the ball to the long on boundary. Two for 5.

Faisal was next at the crease. He began his innings with a mighty pull to the boundary. But after half an hour of hard hitting he finally departed caught behind for 26. Three for 47. After his departure

ging him. What he did not know, and it took him quite sometime to get settled. At first he was a bit shaky unable to get bat on ball. He was dropped twice, perhaps just lucky. But the third time he was held by a weary looking fielder but, to whose dismay, it was a no ball. Slowly Atif's confidence grew and he began to accelerate. He began playing shots. Shots that moments later turned into slogs. Rehan gave him the support he needed while he did all the hitting. At one stage he hit Soheli for a six followed by 2 successive boundaries.

The Young Lions captain was frustrated, on the verge of be-

swinger. Stuffey firmly brought his bat down onto the ball playing it back down the pitch to the bowler. "I've gotta smash the ball. The guys are relying on me," thought the fat keeper.

Indeed the "guys" were relying on him. They were all sitting in the dressing room watching and praying. "Allahu Akbar..." Faisal was mumbling. "I only hope he finds the gap," said Atif to Faisal. "Yeah" replied Faisal biting his nails. The second delivery was worked away to long leg and the batsmen scampered through for a single. Ony smashed the following delivery down to long on and picked up a couple. Three balls, 4 runs. Soheli went in again and delivered one which beat the batsman outside the off stump. Two balls, 4 runs. Soheli stormed in and delivered one which Ony painfully hit for one. So the battle would be fought to the last ball. Stuffey was on strike. Soheli rocketed in and sent down a bouncer. To his and his team's horror it was adjudged no ball. Two runs off 1 ball! For, hopefully the last time. Soheli went in again and delivered a short ball which Stuffey with all his strength pulled. But it wasn't well timed and only went half the distance to the boundary. Both batsmen started running. They ran one and turned to come back for the second when suddenly out of nowhere the Young Lions' captain, Amit appeared with the ball in his hand and threw it to the non-striker's end. It was a direct throw and very accurate, for it knocked the middle stump down before the batsman could get within 20 centimetres of the popping crease. It was clearly out and the umpire had no hesitation in rising his finger. The tiny score-board read: Knights, 7/177 in 35 overs. Last man 3. And so the match ended in a tie. But if not for Atif's brilliant innings, the results would have been quite different.

"That was a great game," said Atif to Faisal. "Yes, it was," he replied "but if not for you we would have been wrapped up for less than a century. Where would we be without you?" he sighed. Atif laughed. "Race ya' home" he said and together they pedaled home.



with However, though it lifted to quite a height, it was not judged a no ball. The next delivery, very fast indeed, beat Adnan outside the off stump. The two deliveries that followed were all defended in much the same way, but off the fifth delivery the batsman nicked a catch to first slip. Adnan departed for a duck. One for nought.

The next batsman at the crease was Farook. He played the last ball of the over in a forward defensive motion. For the next bowler there was a slight change in the field for spin was to come into the attack. Two fielders previously in the slips moved into third man and deep fine leg respectively. Sagor, a right arm off spinner, delivered the first ball of his over. It was a

the scoring rate slackened Farook and Rehan slowly and painstakingly carried the score over 100 before Farook was run out in a misunderstanding between him and his partner. Farook finally departed for 43. Four for 112.

The Knights captain, Atif was the next batsman. He was the best batsman in the team and the only reliable one left. He was always a great help in a crisis. But perhaps it was too late to do anything now. Already 25 overs had elapsed and they still required 66 runs for victory. That was a required run rate of more than 6! Perhaps, that was too much for the asking. For the time being he put away all unpleasant thoughts and tried to concentrate on the game. But something kept bug-

coming furious. He had tried all his bowlers but without success. At one point he even let his keeper have a go! Finally he decided to call back Sagor into the attack. The result was rewarding. Sagor immediately trapped Rehan LBW for 51 and very soon dismissed Atif who edged a catch to the keeper. Atif departed wondering if he was taking his team's chances of victory with him. He had played a brilliant innings for his 41. Six for 171. Both batsmen now at the crease were unsettled. There was one over left and it was Soheli who was to deliver it. The Knights required 7 runs for victory. Stuffey looked around for any gaps. He found one. There was a wide gap between mid-on and short mid wicket. Soheli went in and delivered an in-

Jackal & Camel

by Julian D'Silva

IN the heart of a jungle there lived a very cunning and sly jackal. One day he became very hungry and could not find any food to eat in the jungle. After searching a lot he saw some crabs at the other side of a river. His mouth watered for the crabs but he could not eat them for they were on the other side of the river. He saw a camel whom he knew



and called him. The jackal told the camel that there are juicy mangoes on the other side of the river. So the camel crossed the river with the jackal on his back to the juicy mangoes.

When they reached the other side of the river the jackal started eating his crabs and the camel went on searching for his juicy mangoes. The camel just started to eat some mangoes he had found in a garden when the jackal had finished eating his crabs.

The jackal then howled so loudly that the villagers could notice the camel eating the mangoes in their garden. The villagers beat the camel and chased it away. When the camel was crossing the river back to the jungle with the jackal on his back he asked the jackal why he had played such a dirty trick on him. The jackal said he always howls after a good meal. The camel quickly replied that he always takes a bath after a good meal. Saying this the camel rolled into the river to take a bath and the jackal fell from the camel's back into the river and drowned to his death.

Music Corner

Top 10 singles

1. Can't help falling in love - UB40
2. Goodbye - Air Supply
3. In these arms - Bon Jovi
4. Lemon - U2
5. Two steps behind - Def Leppard
6. If I were a carpenter - Robert Plant
7. Come undone - Duran Duran
8. Crying - Aerosmith
9. If - Janet Jackson
10. I have nothing - Whitney Houston

Top 10 Albums:

1. The last action hero - (Motion picture sound track)
2. The battle raises on - Deep Purple
3. Zooropa - U2
4. Fate of nations - Robert Plant
5. Unplugged - Neil Young
6. The Vanishing Race - Air Supply
7. Pocketfull of Kryptonite - Spin Doctors
8. On the night - Dire Straits
9. Get a grip - Aerosmith
10. The future - Leonard Cohen



A Benediction

by S Anon

HOW it would be I wonder, if there were no country or border. We could go anywhere whenever we pleased, like migratory birds do, during cold and mist. It's not anything much to insist.

I wonder how it would be, if our own rulers each of us could be. If no one were supreme or no one were low, if none had to tremble or none had to bow - Like woodland creatures who really never bow before a king or tremble with fear. It's not really anything too much to dare.

I wonder how it would be, if none had to starve and none were poor, if none had to beg from door to door, if none had more or none had less, I believe it wouldn't be too much to bless.

If really would be divine I know - If love in every heart we could grow. I know my wish can come true, the whole world can see a desired view, every heart can flow with a glorious beam. If only we make it our dream, I know reality isn't too far away. Maybe it will be true tomorrow, if not today.



An All Female Band in Concert

by Nusrat Sharmin Huq Shahed Chowdhury

THE news of an all female band in concert in Dhaka created quite a riot in the city. The band called "Noble Sentiments Band" (NSB) along with Little River Band (LRB) took place on 1st October, in the Ballroom of the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. The concert was organised by Kathakoly - an organisation treaded by Alpina Mumtaz. She also happened to be the mother of the band leader, Ruposhi.

NSB started their programme with a "BANG". They sang fifteen songs in all, including "Shai Di Akashe", "La Bamba", "Child", "Prem", "Bangladesh", "Eye of the Tiger", "Always Somewhere", "Big City", etc.

female band. This showed that even young men from so-called good families' could behave so disgracefully.

Little River Band (LRB) performed after NSB. Their performance comprised of 17 songs including "Cholo Bodle Jai", "Tears in Heaven", "Knockin On Heaven's Door", etc. Surprisingly, LRB finished its performance without any interruption from the musical equipment.

The band was formed during a college programme at Rag Day. As the band members were

concert sometime in November. In fact NSB is willing to perform almost anywhere that can provide them the security they need.

Ruposhi said her future plan was to go to India for higher studies next March or April. Neela and Paala; the twins; wanted to study engineering at BUET, if they can get in. Urmil and Ria's future plans are still uncertain while, Naima - the lead vocalist-plans to study either Architecture or Medicine.

NSB was not satisfied with their own performance because of the problems that arose from the musical equipment. As a new all-girl band, NSB should have had support they deserve. Unfortunately, most of audience did not turn out to be the well behaved - "standard" - audience NSB hoped for.

Even with all the barriers, the group will strive on. NSB's band leaders said, "There are many more difficulties to face. This is just the beginning we will just have to be patient with, the rowdy male members of our audience and let them get used to seeing female groups on stage." All new bands need support - support of their guardians, relatives and most importantly, the support of their audience. In the case of female bands, this need is even greater because they are likely to face far more problems. The big, well-established bands should give them latitude and encouragement so that at least the new bands have an opportunity to try their best and maybe, just maybe, be successful.



The Noble Sentiments Band with RS members.

The drummer, Ruposhi - also the band leader - was the best performer in the band. The band however, was not able to play to its full potential because of various problems that arose from the musical equipment, which was supplied by "Sound Storm" - supposedly a very reliable source for music equipment. This was a major drawback for the band because whenever the band was in a roll with its music along with the audience clapping and cheering, the sound system would mysteriously wind up with a problem, thus losing the momentum the band had built up. During such times, the audience - predominantly male - started passing comments that were downright rude and insulting about the

already good friends at college and each had talents of their own, the simple thing to do was to form a band. They sold tickets to finance their show at college and sang up to 35 songs calling themselves the "Raw Musical Band". Later on the name was changed to "Noble Sentiments Band".

When asked why Sheraton was chosen for the concert, NSB's band leader responded that Sheraton was chosen for its security as well as for its atmosphere.

Notice

Due to unavoidable circumstances Mystery could not be published this week. We regret the inconvenience.