

Sport

By default, my foot!

By Zayd Almer Khan
Sri Lanka's victory against India on Wednesday cemented their position as one of the top cricketing nations in the world today.

From hero to a zero

From Nizamuddin Ahmed



CALCUTTA, Mar 14: It is not very often that a coliseum-full citizenry, yearning for the blood of missing gladiators, are transformed into a volatile throng as their heroes and all, fell from grace within a span of six hours.

making. But that was not to be happened as the partisan crowd, draped in orange, white and green stripes discovered them into the depth of despair like a lunatic chained to the wall of a sanatorium when India suffered a dramatic collapse.

The crowd vented their fury by throwing bottles and stuffs but only a few among the plus 100 thousand capacity. Most of their anger came in the form of verbal abuses, targeted at Azhar, the name Bijlani addressed.

Incitement thru' Internet

COLOMBO, Mar 14: Expatriate Sri Lankans sent messages across the world on the Internet expressing pride and joy at their country's success in reaching the cricket World Cup final, reports Reuter.

mixing every now and then. Accusation of bribery, spending time with women friends and lower samples of moral turpitude have been levelled against the Indian cricketers by the local press and the cricket samajdhara, on the street.

Extra police protection and delayed departure from the stadium were necessary to avert crowd trouble outside the Eden last night.

Whereas the day before the match, the Calcuttans were perhaps too tense to discuss cricket, today the weight is off their chest. Every nook and corner of the city is today reverberating with unkind words for Dalmyia, Azhar, Jadeya, Mongia, and Sangita Bijlani.

The slogan in the street today is Gali gali me shore hai, Azharuddin chor hai. That sense at all up.

Shocking!

NEW DELHI, Mar 14: An Indian cricket fan committed suicide in the eastern state of West Bengal after Wednesday's World Cup semifinal loss to Sri Lanka, police said today, report agencies.

Ashoka Roy 35, hanged himself in front of his television set in the West Bengal town of Debnagar moments after violence erupted following an Indian batting collapse at Calcutta's Eden Gardens.

The Press Trust of India news agency said scores of cricket fans in Debnagar took out protest processions following the Indian debacle.

In New Delhi, angry fans burned effigies of captain Mohammad Azharuddin tonight.

Groups of fans gathered on street corners in Calcutta shouting "down with Azharuddin" and "down with India". World Cup banners were set alight.

Police had intervened in some southern areas of the city to bring the situation under control but there were no arrests.

Some (fans) even shouted slogans in favour of the Sri Lankans," said the agency.

Salute to Lankan spirit

By Mahfuz Anam



The team brought India defeat, but the Calcutta crowds brought it shame. The forced cancellation of the game before the planned overs were complete was a shame that the Calcutta audience will have to live with for a long time.

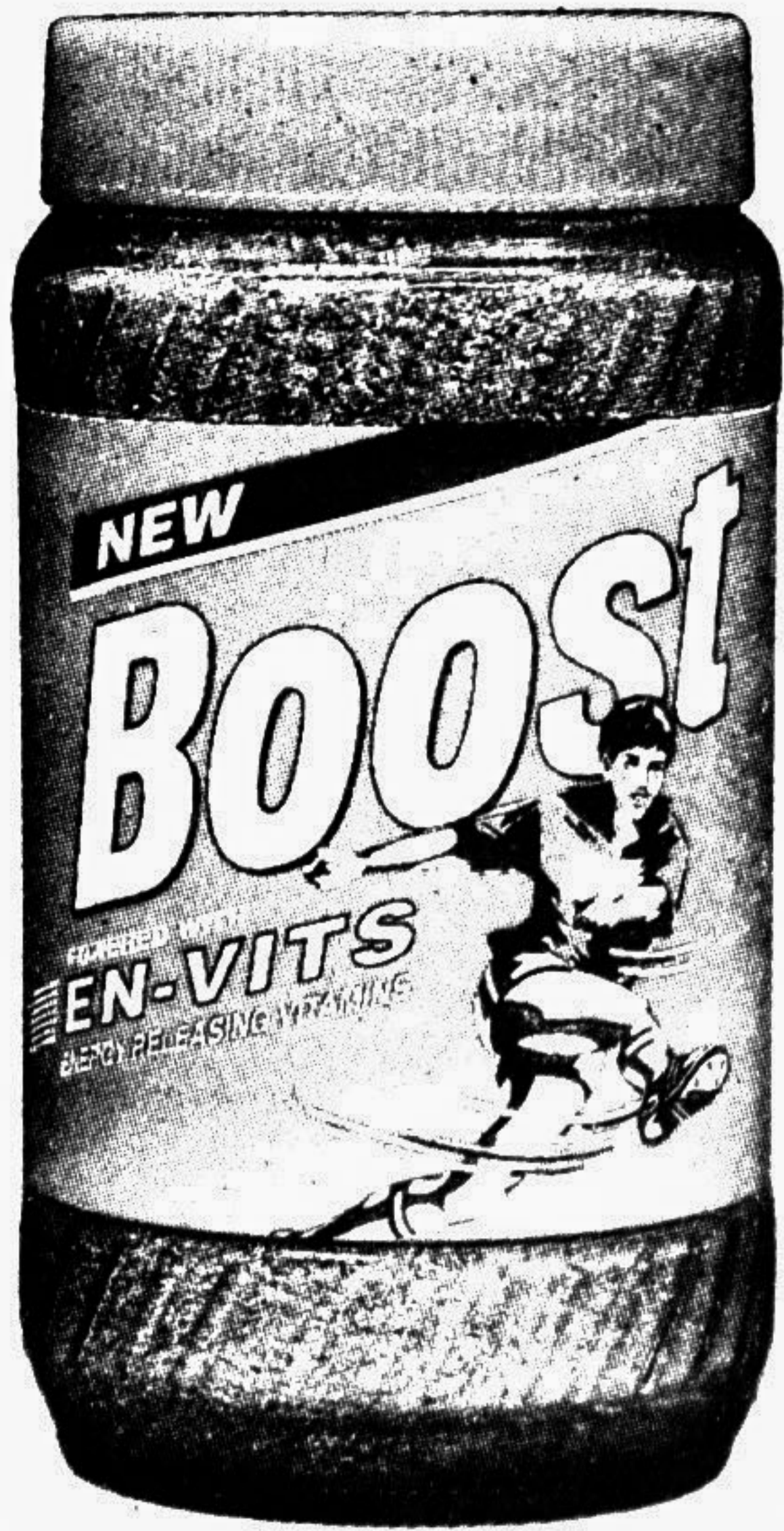
I am a total novice about this fabulous game. The reason I dare to write today is not to discuss the technical excellence or the lack of it, of the game, but to salute the spirit of the Lankan team.

Ranatunga's boys. Aravinda de Silva captured the imagination of the viewers with his positive game and entertaining style. All his team mates followed it. What made the Lankan game so very enthralling was that they kept losing wickets and yet did not allow the spirit of the game to sag.

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-Kapil Dev

New Boost now brings you even more power, energy and stamina. The energy releasing vitamin EN-VITS gives you that extra pep for the whole day.



Of the tested tormentors

CALCUTTA, Mar 14 (AFP): Sri Lankan Sanath Jayasuriya had already left his mark on the World Cup before the semifinals.

If you had told him, before the game here on Wednesday that he would play a key-role in inflaming the crowd, he would have imagined making a few quick runs at the top of the order.

He would never have expected to spark an Indian batting collapse with his part-time left-arm spin - nor spark a full-scale riot.

The 26-year-old left-hander, who made 79 off 76 balls against India in their earlier tournament meeting at New Delhi and an extraordinary man-of-the-match 82 off 44 balls in the quarterfinals against England, is an opening batsman who bowls a bit.

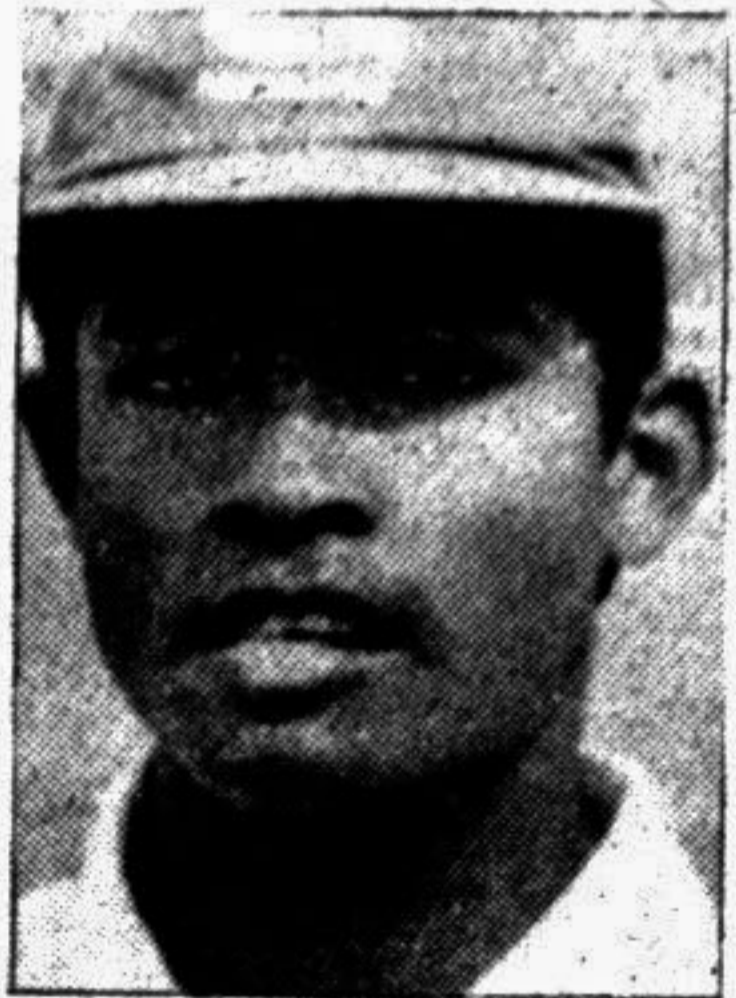
At Calcutta, he batted a bit - three balls, to be exact - before slashing to third man and joining opening partner Romesh Kaluwitharana in the pavilion after just four deliveries of the match.

Ball in hand, however, the bit player took on the leading role as he removed Sachin Tendulkar, Sanjay Manjrekar and Ajay Jadeja during seven extraordinary overs that cost just 12 runs.

That performance - with Jayasuriya adding a catch as well to dismiss Nayan Mongia - was instrumental in taking Sri Lanka into their first World Cup final, as seven Indian wickets tumbled for 22 runs all but ended the contest. The finish, when it came,



SANATH JAYASURIYA



KALUWITHARANA

was provided by rioting fans at Eden Gardens, a full house of 110,000 spectators had seen enough of both Jayasuriya, celebrations and downcast Indian players with their bats between their legs and they unleashed a barrage of missiles that forced match officials to abandon the contest and award a Cup final place to Arjuna Ranatunga's jubilant side.

Jayasuriya and Kaluwitharana, the only double pin-hitting combination in the tournament, will be hoping to get back among the runs again in Lahore on March 17, be it against Australia or the West Indies.

That remains their forte. Their exploits as the most devastating opening partnership at this World Cup have included 43 runs off three overs against Mohammad Azharuddin's side in the Group A game and 50 off four overs against Kenya.

England skipper Michael Atherton said the duo had helped take the one-day game to new heights with their policy of "Playing the first 15 overs like the last 15."

On Wednesday, they managed one run between them. Their first-over dismissals seemed to have totally undermined their side's chances.

But then the pair teamed up to remove danger man Tendulkar, Kaluwitharana stumping India's top batsman for 65, to turn the game's fate in their favour on Wednesday night. The Sri Lankan pair, it seems, cannot be kept out of the news, whether at the crease or in the field.

Lankans over the moon



COLOMBO, Mar 14: War-weary Sri Lankans today found some much needed respite in their cricket team's whirlwind world win over India, report agencies.

Jubilant fans lit firecrackers and toasted their cricketing heroes late into the night after Sri Lanka completely outplayed India to enter the World Cup final.

Expatriate Sri Lankans shared their joy over the Internet with congratulatory messages streaming in from all over the world.

Sri Lanka has been beleaguered by an ethnic conflict with Tamil Tiger separatists since 1983.

The rebels blew up the central bank on January 31 killing almost 100 people and prompting the Australian and West Indies cricket teams to forfeit their World Cup games

against Sri Lanka rather than visit the country.

The rebels, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, are fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east of Sri Lanka. But cricket is played all over and by both the Tamils and majority Sinhales.

"Generally people here have separated the cricket from the war," said human rights worker father Harry Miller in the eastern war zone town of Batticaloa.

He is based at St Michael's College for Boys, the vast majority of whom are Tamils. "They all wanted Sri Lanka to win," he said.

Sri Lanka's press banner-headlined the national side's spectacular achievement of reaching its first World Cup final - than offered Indian spectators a few tips on good behaviour.

Sri Lanka's Industries Minister CV Gooneratne said he considered it was a compliment that rioting Indian fans, who forced match offi-

cials to abandon the semifinal on Wednesday, had thrown bottles, cans and fruit on to Eden Gardens.

"The spectators' brickbats were Sri Lanka's bouquets," the minister said. "Apples thrown will not keep the Sri Lankans away."

That state-run Daily News berated India's rioting fans on its front page for starting fires in the stands and throwing missiles at Sri Lankan off-spinner Muralitharan.

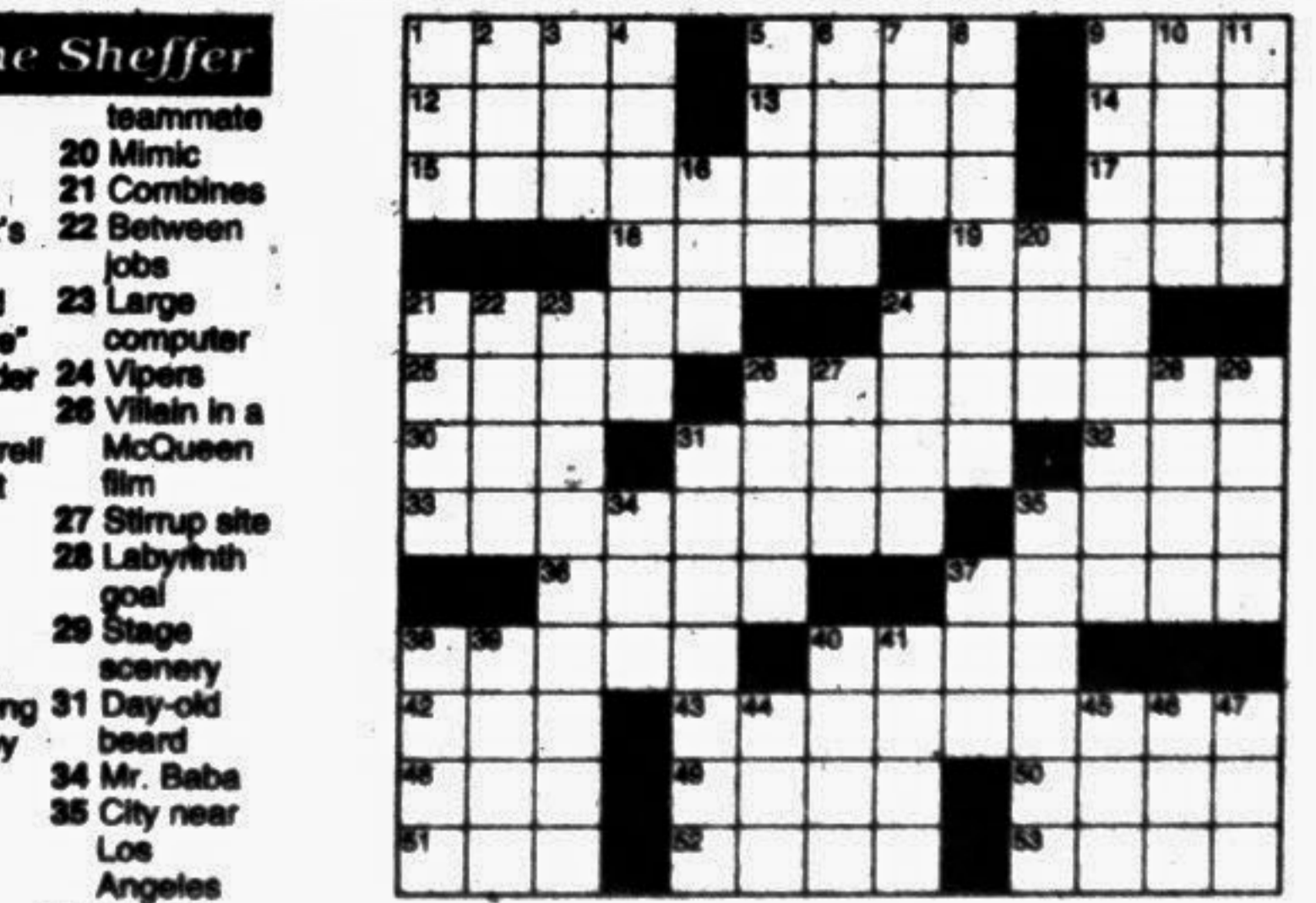
"We invited the Indian spectators to come to Sri Lanka and watch our cricket fans behave not only in victory, but in defeat," the Daily News said. "Well done Sri Lanka we are proud of you great sons."

President Chandrika Kumaratunga was the first to congratulate the team, hoping Sri Lanka would be able to go all the way.

Businesses were at a standstill and some offices had deserted after the game began with almost every Sri Lankan glued to the television or radio.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Nowhere near the treasure 5 Dis-mounted 9 Male swan 12 Buckeyes' home 13 Archie Burnier's creator 14 Color 15 Where Rockies coached 17 180 degrees from WW 18 Child's play 19 Doesn't wear out 21 Picked a target 24 Heidi's height 25 Decisive time 26 Attacks from all sides 30 Roman 551 31 Insults 32 Chopper 33 The other team in "Damn Yankees"



CRYPTOQUIP
FBOR VIN FRBZS? SERWX
BZR \$RTELEWRDV
WZENGJFX IT GELSX
I ORZ JDBWWRZX
Yesterday's Cryptquip: 19TH-CENTURY AUTHOR AMAZINGLY ADAPTED TO COMPUTER AGE: E-MAIL ZOLA.
Today's Cryptquip clue: V equals Y
The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.