

Monark of World Cricket

by Ishrak Ahmed Siddiky

THAT the Sinhalese became the world champion on 17th of March, year one thousand nine hundred and ninety six, will be written on the golden pages of History. I, myself, can't believe they are the winners. But they deserve to win because they performed well throughout the tournament; they didn't take any game lightly. 21 years ago in their first World Cup match, they were 87 all out against the West Indies, and 21 years later they are the World Champion. What a tremendous progress Sri Lanka in the finals defeated the Aussies by 7 wickets.

They took sweet revenge against the Aussies, because they themselves were beaten in the Benson and Hedges finals. Sri Lanka, in January, were rocked by many problems. First of all the Australian umpire accused Muttiah Muralitharan of chucking the ball, which the Sri Lankans denied. The Australian umpires were busy supporting their own team, rather than doing justice to the Lankans.

The Sri Lankans really started their campaign like world champions. They also became the first team who batted second in the finals and won the World Cup. So on the 17th of March in the Gaddafi Stadium, the Lahore duel took place. The Sinhalese were just marvellous to see. Meanwhile the Aussies were sloppy on the field and missed many chances of run outs and catches. Altogether it wasn't Australia's day.

Ranatunga won the toss and made Australia bat. Australia started well and at once were on a stage from where they can make 300 or more. But the tide began to turn after Mark Taylor's dismissal. Australian cricketers who were professionals played 'brainless cricket'. They just threw their wickets. Australian batsmen, couldn't play the spin of De Silva and Muralitharan properly. At the end they made 241 runs. It was a piece of cake for the Sri Lankans. But at first they were in trouble when they lost two of their dynamites, Jayasuriya and Kaluwitharana. But a stable 140 runs partnership of Gurusinha and de Silva enabled them to win. Alas they won by 7 wickets in hand. Aravinda de Silva made 107 runs, and won the man of the match award. While his compatriot Jayasuriya became the most valuable player in the tournament he made 221 runs, took 7 wickets and held to 7 catches. Mark Taylor's looks at the end of the game made me remember a few lines of Shakespeare:

In sooth I know not why I am so sad,
It wearies me, you say it wearies you,
But how I caught it, found or came by it,
What stuff it's made of I am to learn; And such a want
Will sadness makes of me that
I have much ado to know myself.

Sri Lanka won due to the sincerity of their players. Their passion towards the game can be understood by the way they play. The man behind their success is their coach Dave Watmore. He did a lot for the Sri Lankan team. The next World Cup will be held in England in 1999.

- Century makers of this year's World Cup:**
- Nathan Astle (NZ) 101
 - Gary Kirsten (SA) 188
 - Grame Hick (Eng) 104
 - Sachin Tendulkar (Ind) 127
 - Sachin Tendulkar (Ind) 139
 - Mark Waugh (Aus) 126
 - Mark Waugh (Aus) 110
 - Mark Waugh (Aus) 111
 - Brian Lara (WI) 111
 - Rickey Ponting (Aus) 102
 - Andrew Hudson (SA) 161
 - Aravinda de Silva (Sri Lanka) 145
 - Aravinda de Silva (Sri Lanka) 107
 - Chris Harris (NZ) 130

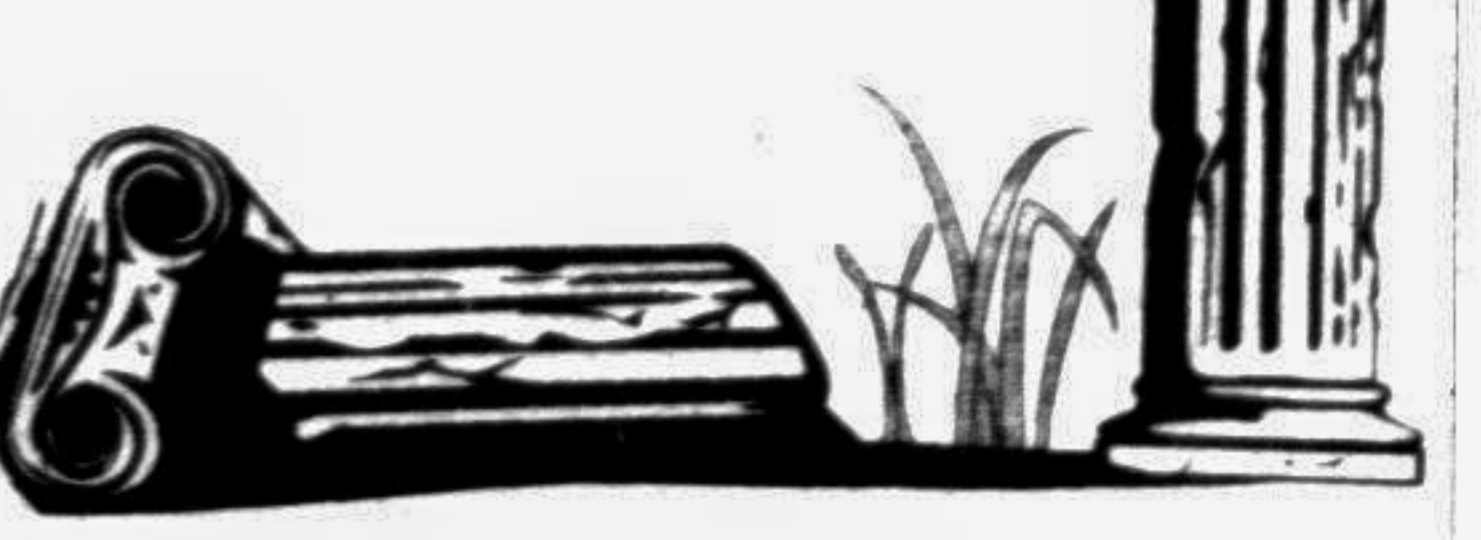
'She Walks'

by Mariam Kabir

She walks in silence, her steps, coy,
Her lips smile softly, as if in joy
Her eyes glow with warmth - with love unbound.
The radiance of her face reveals her mind-so sound
She walks on and on, like a river flowing past.
Her steps are firm, for weakness she must cast.
In darkness and in light, she bounds on like a kite.
While bit by bit her might soars to a height.
Invincible, she is with her charm and dare.
Triumphant, she is in the midst of those who glare.
On those who whisper in jealousy and vice.
She smiled benignly, for she is always wise.

Yet when the wind furries past,
Trying to force her back,
With her prowess she can last
For spirit she doesn't lack.

In turmoil and tranquility, her strides are the same
A power possesses her which is wild, yet tame.
She is the carrier of life-a conveyor of hope
With either comity or love, she can deftly cope.
She walks on and on, arm in arm with fate.
Yet she dotes on life and lives it at any rate.



Water repellent coating

JAPANESE scientists have invented a coating system which repels water. If this coating is applied on any object then water would not stand on it. Due to the gravitational attraction between the atoms of water and the flat surface, the water drops tends to stick to the surface. But if this coating is applied on a flat surface then the attraction between water and surface becomes weak and the water drops not being able to overcome the gravitational attraction, would ultimately fall down. The problem of reviewing electronic signals due to remaining water or snow on the dish antenna can be averted by using this coating. Besides the inventors of this coating say that the application of this coating on the outside of a ship can reduce friction and will increase the ships speed as well.

Tele-talisman

THE phone protector machine manufactured by Tele Screen Organization really works as a tele talisman. Often unknown persons make crank calls with a view to harass and disturb other people. 'Phone protector will put an end to this practice. The owner will choose a four digit password and will inform all his friends and relatives of this password, after the telephone call arrives the computer will ask the caller to dial the password if the caller fails to dial the requisite number then the protector will disconnect the line. With this machine the phone can also be kept inoperative while studying, or doing something important. This device includes a key pad with which the digital passwords can be changed.

Courtesy, Anandamela

Yesterday's Babes — Today's Giants

by Ayesha Farzana



This is unbelievable! My God, the Sri Lankans have actually won the World Cup! Yesterday's babes have grown into giants and my, are they savouring their triumph.

Sweet victory indeed, for they have not only upset all calculations and broke three WC (world cup) records, but have avenged their humiliation against those very kangaroos who refused to hop among the tigers in Sri Lanka. The hope was always there but we never thought they could really pull it off so easily. (I hadn't really given Hadlee's prognosis much weight) and the South Asian support was truly unique.

Even though, I do wish the final was held elsewhere, as the Lahore crowd got nowhere to match the atmosphere seen in a final. It was almost as if they were watching a Holland vs UAE match, which would have attracted more hooters in India.

There's a lot for the other teams, who missed their claim to the title, to learn from Sri Lanka. Especially the tall-talking, over-confident Pakistanis (Wasim Akram used to say 'Yes, the boys are relaxed and confident' like a mantra after every match). Perhaps, they are the most over-rated team in their official media and, unfortunately now the most disgraced! From appointing 'faith-healers' and psychiatrist to making three pop videos (all trying to show that they won their cup without a captain — you must remember that Imran Khan's a contraband for PTV), the Pakistanis had left no stone unturned. No wonder heaven crashed when they lost to arch-rivals India.

No host country has ever won the WC, we'll break that jinx. Akram would promise, while his big-mouth manager Intikhab would claim "the South Africans have no batting depth." Of course, he's proved wrong and rather shamelessly admitted, "we've learnt a lesson". Which also raises the question as to why nobody (as after Bangalore) claimed that they'd been bribed to lose.

By comparison, the Indians hadn't jived as much with "hum jittenge" until that quarter-final victory. For the Indians,

it was like "winning the WC" — then why pelt the Sri Lankans at Edens? It was quite unfair to blame the joint-team decision to bowl first solely on Azhar. Emotions overran logic and India was disgraced not by their cricketers, but by their lovers — and I am not referring to any *Bylanis*! Some Indian fans, actually believed — not in one PC Sarkar (by the way, I'd like to have a word with him) — that their loss was actually a consequence of Norreen's wrath!

One other man who'd been dumped into the same soup was the West Indian skipper Richie Richardson. It was a pathetic sight to watch him stand helpless as his batsmen made guest-appearances during their semi with the Aussies — undoubtedly, the best match of the tournament, which lacked nail-biting finishes but never short of controversy, ranging from a flop opening and forfeited matches to Javed Miandad's selection.

That man should've never been in this WC. He still looked to be suffering from the diarrhoea he contracted in the last WC! Saqlain Mushtaq would definitely be a safer bet as their fifth change bowler for the quarters than making him a bottle carrier! At one stage, we feared Javed might have already rankled the team with his unhappiness over his batting position, but team dissention was more West Indies' headache than PK's.

South Africa was rather unlucky, but the most non-controversial. How gracefully they took their defeat! In retrospect, the defending champions were never really ideally prepared. Playing practice matches with their Abahani-versions can never be the real test for assessing their capabilities. I felt group B had a weaker share of teams, which probably explains why all semi-finalists were from group A.

As for SL, the real test begins now. They've to prove their success was not just a flash in the pan, but they've already been a great inspiration for all up-and-coming teams. It's no credit to have 12 teams only in the WC and forget about them for the next four years.

The Caribbean Tale

by Daniel Afzalur Rahman

WEST Indies were one of the major attractions of this year's cricket World Cup with the likes of Lara and Ambrose in the team. The team was very inconsistent, creating a storm by not going to Sri Lanka but making a great start with a convincing win against Zimbabwe. But they went down against India and finally reached the nadir with a defeat against Kenya. They however came back with a bang by defeating the so-called 'mighty' Australians and South Africans and just when it seemed as though everything was going their way, they unfortunately lost to Australia in the semis.

This was a strong West Indian side with ten great players and four passengers in the form of Campbell, Holder, Arthurton and Cuffy. In every game that Campbell played, he went on to prove that he was a dependable batsman (unfortunately he ailed), but went out in a foolish way cursing himself down to the pavilion. Cuffy and Holder were passengers' almost literally while Arthurton was always there to tarnish the Score Card with scores of 0.1.0.1.0.

The most impressive players for the Windies in the World Cup were Captain Ritchie, Ambrose, Lara Harper and Chanderpaul. Ritchie batted beautifully throughout the Championship and also captained the side brilliantly. His ploy of opening the innings with Brown paid rich dividends, and Richardson was there till the last minute of his team's existence in the World Cup. Ambrose was arguably the best bowler in the Championship and unarguably the best fast bowler who even managed to extract heavy bounce and swing from the grassless 'dead' subcontinent pitches. Harper and Chanderpaul were very consistent at the end and played with discipline and character, while Lara himself didn't play that well (that is, compared to his own standards).

The West Indies played great cricket throughout the World Cup. Against Zimbabwe the bowlers bowled with venom and blew the opposition away. The batsmen continued the good work as they clobbered and toyed with the Zimbabwean attack and romped home easily with twenty overs to spare. In the next match against hosts India, Windies were setback by a controversial LBW decision resulting in the dismissal of their star batsman Lara (thanks to Umpire K Hayat from Pakistan). West Indies never recovered from there but showed good fighting spirit in making a match out of it. In the third game against Kenya



something terrible happened and... (We can discuss that some other time). West Indies came back from the hole with all guns blazing and thrashed the Aussies convincingly in the next game. In the quarters, the South Africans received a similar treatment from the West Indies with Lara in a smashing mood. West Indies reached the semi-final with high hopes and were on their way home comfortably against their ordinary opponents, but their hopes were foiled when the unsporting act of Ian Healy, partial umpiring and sloppiness came in there way and they were forced out of the tournament. The West Indian World Cup campaign came to a sorry end, and as a result much of the glamour was taken away from the Championship and in turn it produced a one-sided final with the Aussies eventually running out of luck.

The Third World War !!

by Aditi Chowdhury

WHEN is it going to happen? We don't know or do we? If you ask for my opinion, I will say it is not far away. During the second world war, the world was against Hitler and may be the third world war the world will be against the Serbs. The war in Bosnia is now more than three years old, will it be another Iraq-Iran war and last for ten years? We don't know when this war is going to end or will it ever end? We have so many questions in our mind but so less answers from them.

Sometimes I believe we are lucky, we don't have to wake up from our sleep, hearing the sounds of gunshots, bomb blasts, people screaming and shouting. We can hear the birds sing, watch the flowers bloom, view the beautiful nature, but can you think what the people in Bosnia are going through every single day of their life. It terrifies me to think about that. Why are they suffering like this, what do they do? Like I said, we have so many questions but so less answers for them. Even our next door neighbors India and Pakistan are having a war, going on between them in Sri Lanka, the Tamils are fighting for an independent land.

Breaking The Bars

by Munasir Kamal

My pet Cuckoo sang sweetly from its cage as I drifted off to sleep on the night of 25th March. In the middle of the night I was awakened up, all felt confused and afraid.

Where were my mother, father, sisters and brothers? I began to cry. Then I noticed I was being watched by several pairs of eyes, not the eyes of people, but of giant birds! I was so surprised that I stopped crying. "Why did you stop singing?" One of the giant cuckoos asked me.

The next few days were very dull for me. I was a captive and was possessed by these giant cuckoos. I tried to break the bars of the cage, but they wouldn't. I looked at the bars in despair and cried, cried and cried.

Disha! Disha! Wake up. My mother was calling me. I opened my eyes in the morning of 26th March. I had an awful dream. I got up from bed and ran to the cage where my cuckoo stood singing. I now knew that it was not really singing. It was actually crying, crying for independence. I opened the cage door and let the bird free.

As the cuckoo flew into the blue sky I remembered how my uncle, a freedom fighter, had described the way he felt during the Independence War. I wandered how the freedom fighters must have felt, while fighting — away from their families. I respect them because they did not care whether they lived or died, I respect them because they were able to break the bars of the cage and get us all free.

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What is Ikebana?

IKEBANA is a Japanese term. It is used for the Japanese art of flower-arrangement. It is done in various styles according to highly developed traditions.

It is believed that this floral art had its birth in the custom of offering flowers to Buddha during the seventh century A. D. The Japanese ambassador to China had brought it from that country where the Buddhist monks, nobles and warriors practised it.

This art of flower-arrangement went on till the end of the 19th century at its natural pace. But in the opening years of the twentieth century (after Japan's victory over Russia in 1904), Japanese women took it up with gusto. It became an important hobby in almost every Japanese family.

In due course, Ikebana caught the fancy of women in other countries and it came to be something like a profession, the world over.

What is Bonsai?

BONSAI is the art of arranging plants just as Ikebana is the art of arranging flowers. It is a Japanese word which means — tray-planted. It is an art older than the art of Ikebana.

The art of bonsai had its birth in China. It is the art of growing fully developed plants but in miniature (short size). The plants remain small in size though they look like real big trees in form. This art also involves the arrangement of plants in certain decorative shapes so as to look charmingly attractive.

Bonsai is a difficult art and requires a lot of labour, care, patience and time. Growing a dwarf tree, 30-40 cm. in height, may take a number of years on end.

The art of Bonsai passes on from father to son and the same trees (plants) go down from one generation to another as a valued property of the family.

What is Deaf-and Dumb Language?

DEAF-and-dumb language is meant for those who can neither speak (the dumb) nor hear (the deaf). This is a way of talking through the use of hands and fingers. It is called sign language also.

Use of one hand or the both and the placing of fingers in different positions lead to the formation of different letters of the alphabet. The words are spelt out letter by letter in this language. Evidently, it is a much slower way of conversing. You must have viewed the news being televised in this system on the TV.

Deaf-and-dumb people use other body movements and face-expressions also to converse in a better and faster way.

The use of lip-reading also helps the deaf a lot as also the hearing aids do. As for the dumb, many of them become able to speak as a result of medical treatment. In such cases, they no longer need the use of this language.

Why Do the Illiterate Count Upto 20 Only?

PEOPLE in the distant past could count things upto twenty only. It is the case with people of most backward tribes even today. Why, after all?

To begin with people could count upto ten only, using the ten fingers. Later on they started counting upto twenty.

The reason is very easy to follow. A man has ten fingers on his two hands (including the thumbs) and ten toes on his two feet. The primitive people counted with the help of these organs. As mentioned above, people could count upto ten only using the fingers to begin with. But later on, they began taking the help of toes also. Thus they were able to count upto twenty (20). At this, they stopped.

To count further, these people started again from one and came upto twenty. Thus they sold and bought animals and things quoting their prices in twenties. In remote areas, we can find people who count by twenties even now.

Who are Eskimos?

ESKIMOS are related to the Chinese and the Japanese. Their fore-fathers probably migrated from these countries across the region surrounding the North Pole — Arctic Region.

Eskimos are well-built people with short stocky bodies. As a result, their bodies can brave the icy winters of the Arctic Region.

Eskimos wear fur coats to cope with the winter. They build houses that are half-hidden underground and have turf roofs. But during hunting trips, they build snow-houses which are called igloos.

Eskimos go hunting in slim skin-covered boats called kayaks. On land, teams of dogs draw sleds that carry hunting-equipment and the game. Eskimos live around the shores of the Arctic Ocean, coasts of Greenland and Labrador and in the northernmost parts of Canada. Eskimos are shedding old ways of life gradually. Of late, they have started living in wooden houses.

Who are Lapps?

LAPPS, like Eskimos, are the people who were natives of Central Asia to begin with. Thousands of years ago, their fore-fathers migrated to cold regions of Northern Europe.

The Lapps are strongly built, short and stocky people with straight black hair, high cheek-bones, flat noses but thin lips. They are fond of colourful clothes made of wool or reindeer skin.

Lapps live in Lapland that covers northern parts of Sweden, Finland and Russia. They live in four different groups in different surroundings. Mountain Lapps lead a wandering life roaming about with reindeer herds. They pitch tents where they are to stay for the night.

River Lapps live a settled on river-banks. They keep sheep and cattle and hunt fish. They also grow a few crops.

Sea Lapps live in coastal areas in wooden huts with turf-roofs. Their chief occupation is fishing.