

Deadly Strike

by Adnan R. Amin

"SERIAL Killer Strikes Again" — definitely a pretty sensational headline for our moderate tastes. Sarah scanned the headlines quickly while sipping her insipid black coffee. And this was the one, that her intelligent, bright eyes rested on. It literally sent shudders through her back to realize that there could be a homicidal maniac out there, lying in wait just to make her, his (somehow we all assume all serial killers are necessarily males) next victim. Gulping down the last drop of coffee from the cup, Sarah made her way out of her flat.

The work at the newspaper office, where Sarah worked was an usually very interesting. The day passed pretty quickly and soon it was eight o'clock. But on having to do a little extra work, by the time she got out of the office, it was pretty late.

The parking lot was almost empty. Sarah's Toyota awaited her arrival in a dark corner. Sarah hopped in and turned on the stereo. Though she hated to admit it, it was a fact that she was scared, a as the drive

she could make a phone-call. She was debating whether to go and look for a telephone, when a car's headlight showed up. The car slowed down before Sarah could even get down. As the car came to a halt the headlights were carefully turned off. A silhouetted figure surreptitiously got down from the car and made it's way towards Sarah. Suddenly one thing flashed through Sarah's mind. The serial killer she had been reading about earlier this morning, had chosen all his victims from similar situations. She shuddered and droplets of perspiration began to form on her forehead. She, for an unknown reason held tightly onto the steering wheel. All the doors were securely locked. Though it was not as if she hadn't considered running for it, but she knew that wouldn't be really wise. Rather she'll just turn into the perfect prey, frightened and vulnerable. Sarah vowed she would put up a fight. The figure was almost there. Sarah tried to regain her composure. But her nerves were on the verge of a breakdown. As the person came up to her, Sarah's hands gripped

The Plight of the Street Children - II

by Shaila Huq Mitul

Remedies to the problem of Street Children in Bangladesh:

STREET children are thought to be sensitive, dependent and vulnerable like most other children. Some of their families have disintegrated due to lack of family bonds and some of them require social and personal protection. They need to be given a sense of self respect and self confidence and they deserve their share of opportunities. This can be best achieved through the services of social workers and non-government organizations. NGOs need to be on the front line so that they can contact a child on the street and wait for the government to assist them in any way possible.

Prevention:

Children travel to urban areas mostly by train and they are normally escorted by the police and placed in observation camps.

(a) A good step is to monitor their activities and counsel them after their release before they are absorbed into gangs of street children.

(b) Normally children are released after their parents are located and after the parents pledge their commitment to the children in writing. But in many situations, children merely return to parents who are quick to exploit them. NGOs can alter the situation by counselling the parents and monitoring their interaction with the children.

Welfare Measures:

Children must be led into institutions that will provide them with a sense of belonging, nurture their ambitions

and help them realize their objectives.

Shelters: Shelters are important to these children because they have the ability to tell him/her that someone cares.

To protect them from natural calamities

To protect them from the street gangs

premises of both public and private schools of the collaborative venture lies from being a large undertaking, it is also low in terms of the costs involved.

Vocational training:

Vocational training should be introduced at the primary level, and must deal with the skills that could be utilized in

vinces.

Police:

Police stations should have a professionally qualified social worker who can deal with children brought to the station on a charge. Through personal interviews they ascertain the problem and needs of the child and suggest the appropriate agency for help.

Banking facilities:

Most street children engage themselves in a number of odd jobs and would wish to save their earnings. Yet they do not know how or where to save their money. Some national banks could be persuaded to have mobile banks go over to specific locations populated by street children and open special counters for them. Bank officials could also educate the children on various investment schemes.

Reaction of Public Awareness:

It is important to stimulate public awareness when it comes to the plight of working or street children so as to bring about a positive response towards their development. Media outlets such as television, radio literature, posters etc. could be used in order to bring about public awareness on a grand scale.

Finally, in order to tackle this growing urban tragedy, we must take into consideration as to how child labour can be eradicated so that children can enjoy a full, happy, healthy, and secure childhood. This can only be achieved by ensuring that every person has access to the basic necessities of life, food, shelter and full employment.

condensed by- Shazaad Ahmed



Every child should have the right to education

To provide them with an education

In the case of girls, to avoid placing them in the category of street girls, and

To allow them to grow up in an ideal and homely environment.

Non-formal education:

Municipal corporations with NGOs and interested private schools could plan non-formal education, classes in the evenings as this seems to be the most convenient time for street children. In addition to that, by holding these classes in the evenings, the existing

market for jobs. In order to accomplish this goal, there must be a way to assess and forecast the skills required in the market. The concept of learning while earning must also be taken into consideration so that a child who it also a potential worker in the family can earn a remuneration that helps in the survival of his/her family.

Health care:

Mobile health teams could make regular weekly trips to areas populated by street children. The scheme must also include relevant back up ser-



back was a pretty long one. Soon she manoeuvred the car onto the highway and sped off. The day was a wet one and Sarah drove carefully because of the slippery roads. Several vans and trucks overtook her in quick succession. The traffic now was not only far from dense, but rare. All along the ride the rhythmic sound of the wipers seemed to be trying to take her into a state of trance. The monotone was suddenly broken as with a jerk Sarah's car engine came to a halt. It slowly rolled down to the roadside as the driver swerved the vehicle to avert the mainstream of traffic. Of course, at this time there was no traffic at all. Wiping her perspiring forehead Sarah got down to check what was wrong, though this was not exactly what she did best. But somehow, with the very first look, she could tell the fanbelt was gone. There was no use trying to fix it, and she couldn't push the car all the way to the garage either. So Sarah figured the best choice would be to remain in the car, look for a cab or a lift. Warily she retreated back on her seat, on retreating to the car.

There was literally no sign of any traffic. The poor car saw no choice but to wait till morning. She couldn't walk back either. Her home was eleven miles away. Unfortunately there weren't even any houses within her sight from where

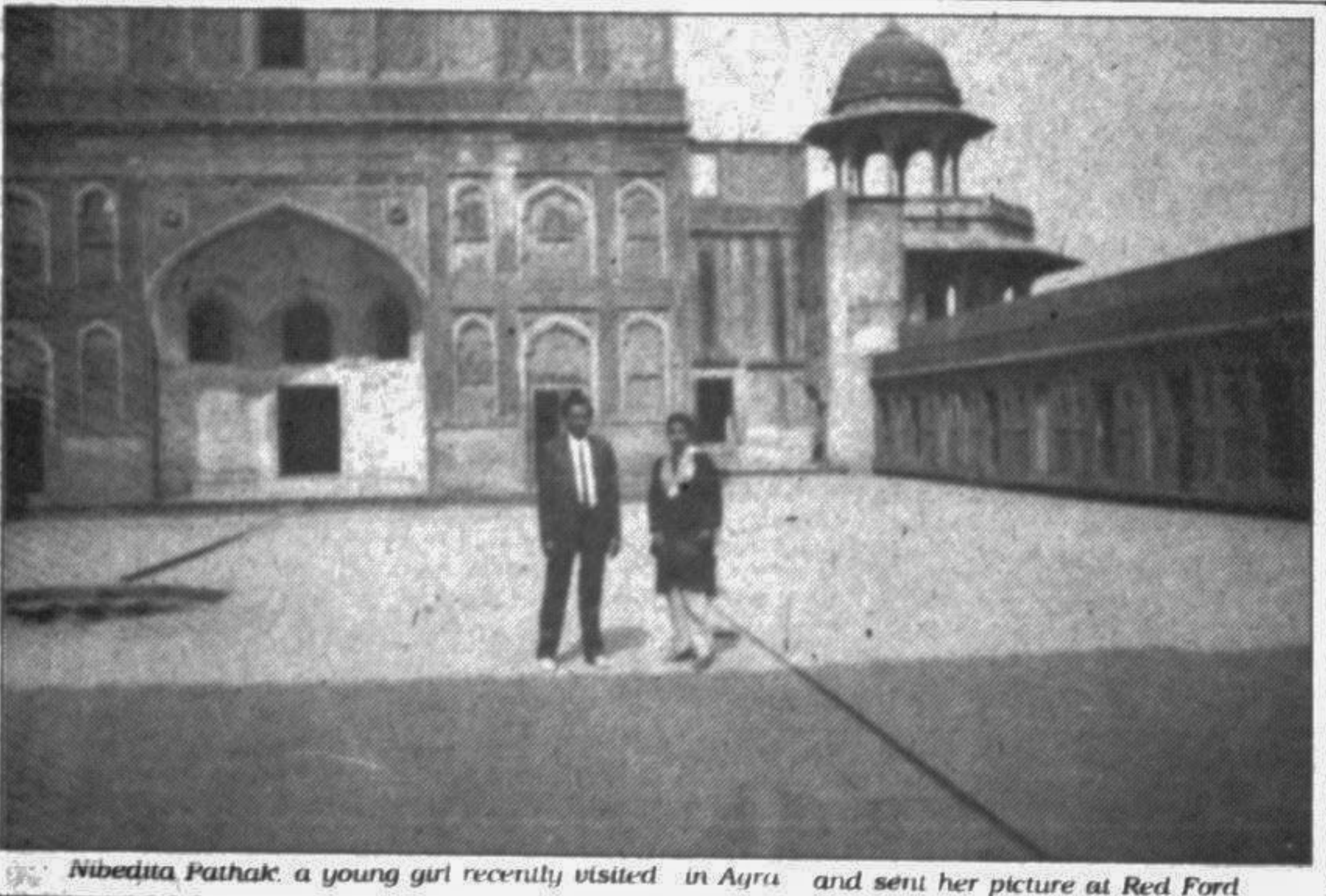
the steering wheel so tightly that her knuckles turned white. Then there was a soft knock on her window. Sarah felt her pounding heart miss a beat. Mesmerized — she looked out — and her eyebrows rose in utter disbelief and relief. The moonlight showed the person outside to be a very motherly looking old lady. Letting out an enormous sigh of relief she quickly rolled down the window. The lady said in a loud crackling voice, "Hi little missie, what're ya doing in the middle of the woods?" Sarah quickly explained her position and gave her an imploring look. The lady had already anticipated that much. She said so herself and showed Sarah that she had brought a range with her in case she had flat tyres. Sarah chuckled and said in an apologetic manner that her tyres were perfectly alright. The old woman smiled too and said quietly, "Well — you never know what might come in handy" she pointed at her range. Sarah noticed her hands were gloved. "Get your purse miss, and I shall be glad to give you a ride home" said she. Sarah smiled. It had been a long day — or rather a long night. She turned to get her purse which lay beside her. The old woman coldly raised the range and brought it down with all her might on Sarah's head. "Goodbye child" — she said.

THIS is indeed a difficult choice, is it not? Brian Lara, Sanath Jayasuriya, Mark Waugh and Sachin Tendulkar are some of the most powerful batsmen in the subject of cricket. Here are my thoughts about these batsmen.

Brian Lara — The most, sensational batsman of all, the cheerful Caribbean left-hander is out to prove to his fans that he is still the best in the World Series being hosted by Australia later this year after a not-so-good performance in the World Cup 96. He is the batting nucleus of the West Indies. Determination, it is said, is the key to success. That is the case with this man. The truth is that Lara was not in good form this World Cup. We have already seen Lara in action in the New Zealand's

tour of the West Indies where he was sensational with two sparkling centuries, one of them in the electrifying final with the tourists level with the Windies 2-2. As team captain Richie Richardson retired after his defeat to Australia in the WC 2nd semi-final, Lara is the only major hope for the West Indies if they want to be top in any tournament.

Sachin Tendulkar — The little Indian right-hand batting wizard, the young Bombayite has turned into one of the best players in the world. Starting his career at sixteen, he is the youngest player in the one-dayers. Sachin Tendulkar is ready to give the best bowlers in the world a challenge. He is



Nibedita, Pathak: a young girl recently visited in Agra and sent her picture at Red Ford

I can't take it anymore! Mrs. Smith pleaded on the phone you must help me. Every Sunday night I'm terrorized by a black hooded phantom who brings along my husband, they make a ruck out of the house."

"I was listening to a tape recording of Mrs. Smith's distress call. Mrs. Smith was a short, conservative woman in her forties. She believed she was purposely terrorized every Sunday by a phantom priest. I agreed to stay on a Sunday night at her place to see if history repeats itself. — again."

When Sunday finally arrived I decided to leave for Mrs. Smith's house early. When I reached my intended destination I was left speechless at the sight of the huge 'Palace' in front of me. The walls were made of blocks of stone and the floor was tiled outside and marble inside.

The butler at the front door announced my arrival and as I stepped inside the luxurious mansion the first thing I noticed was that my feet sank ankle deep into the carpet which was proof enough that Mrs. Smith was a millionaire. As I was escorted to the living room I noticed a bald headed man talking to Mrs. Smith. "I think you should leave this mansion and look for another place to stay," said the bald man. "Oh, you must be the de-

Story Writing Competition - II
The Bizarre Supernatural
by Md Ali Siddiquee

slamming him to the wall causing his hood to drop and all was revealed it was Duane Barry! Although, dazed he charged back at me but seeing him in such a dazed state, side stepped him hence allowing him to crash head-long into a table. This left him unconscious. So I banded his arm around his back with a strap of canvas and dialed the police.

After taking away Duane Mrs. Smith looked as if she was in shock, she slumped down on the couch "I can't believe Duane would do such a thing" uttered Mrs. Smith. "Well it seems his greed has overdone him finally" I said. "But this still doesn't explain the presence of my husband..." she said wearily. "Well, it could have been a projector or maybe..." I cut-off.

"Maybe what" she asked eagerly. "Well, there isn't always an explanation for everything" I said referring to an incident in which I — myself — got entangled in the world of the supernatural... may be of the third kind, who knows the truth is out there.

a beauty to watch when at full flow. A strong contender for the Indian captaincy, so it is said after Azharuddin leaves in September. He has started off 1996 beautifully, being the highest scorer in the World Cup scoring 529 runs, along with two magnificent centuries against Kenya and Sri Lanka. He led the team in their tour to England and hit a masterly 85 of only 72 deliveries. He, like Brian Lara gives the most support to India. There are plenty of other fine batsmen in the Indian squad such as Jadeja and Sidhu but they are not as reliable as Tendulkar. Who knows, maybe one day the chant, "East or west, Tendulkar is the best" will come true.

Mark Waugh — certainly one of the greatest players in the world. He scored three centuries in the World Cup this year. He is the only player to score back to back centuries in the history of the WC. The younger twin of Steve Waugh, he admits that Steve had appeared in the squad before he did and he wanted to be better than his brother. Undoubtedly the most stylish batsman in cricket today, Mark Waugh adds elegance and power to every stroke he plays. He showed his brilliance with a magnificent hundred against Sri Lanka in the World Series last year in Australia. Mark Waugh is definitely the main player for Australia.

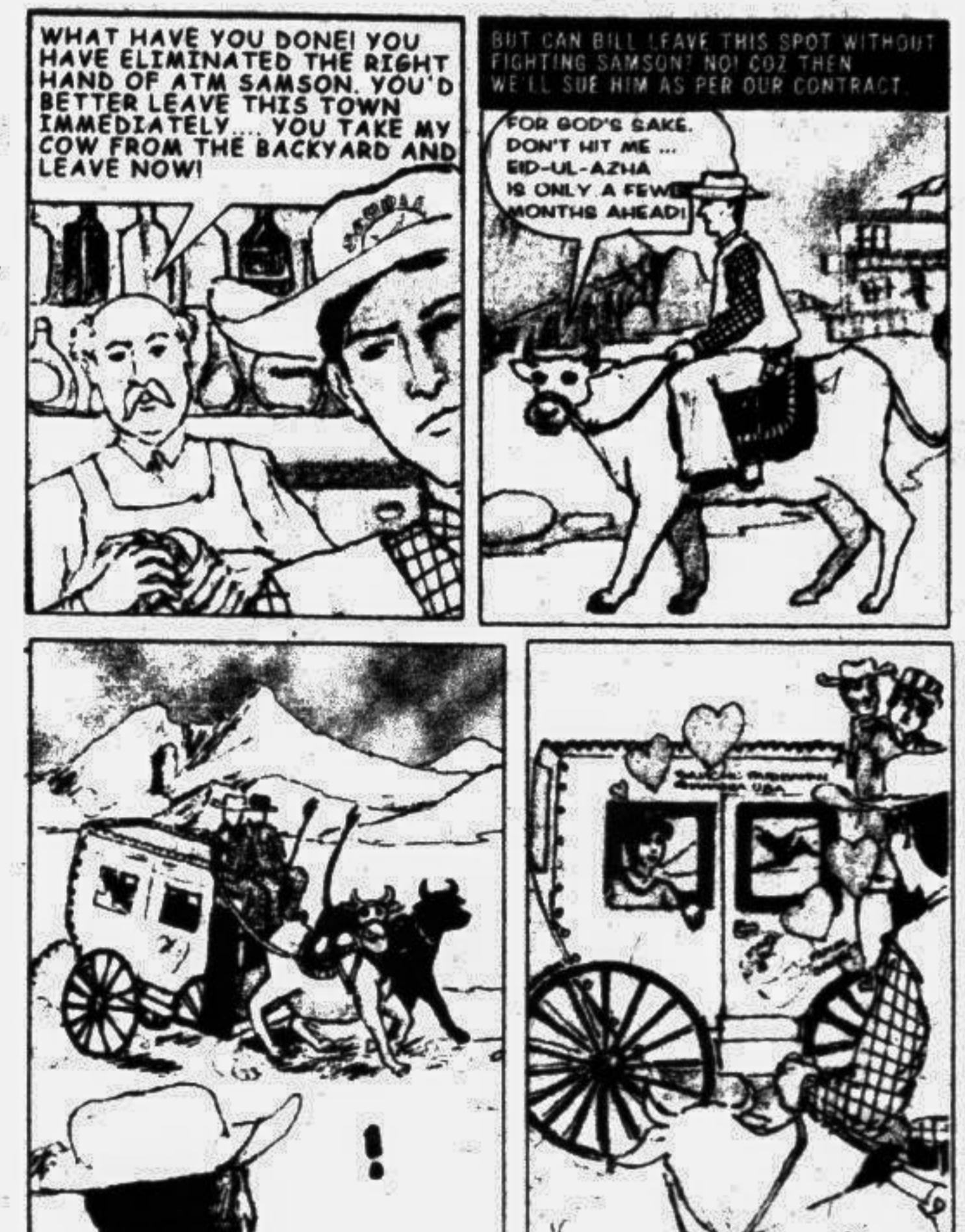
Sanath Jayasuriya — Ah, last but not least, we come to the player to prove it all, Sanath Jayasuriya. He has had a tremendous World Cup and has followed it up with even a more terrific Singer Cup, but unfortunately Sri Lanka could not win the trophy because Pakistan, the former world champions defeated them in the final. Their victory was considered a fluke by their own fans but they might have won due to bad umpiring by British umpire George Sharp. But let's not go into details about that. Jayasuriya however became the man of the series in both tournaments. His brilliant performance this year will be remembered by all people because his performance was yet to be seen in the Singer Cup. The trophy got off to an explosive start in the opening match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Jayasuriya broke the World record of holding the fastest one-day hundred. The record is not now of Mohammed Azharuddin who achieved this feat of 62 deliveries, but of Jayasuriya getting it in only 48 balls. He also holds the record for the highest number of sixes in a one day innings (11). That match held the world's highest aggregate of 664 runs. Also in the finals, Jayasuriya seemed to be in a devastating mood cracking the world's fastest half-century in a mere 17 balls. The previous record was held by Simon O'Donnell of Australia getting it of 18 deliveries in 1990. Jayasuriya spared no Pakistani bowler, till at last Waqar Younis got the break through for Pakistan.

If Jayasuriya can keep up this kind of performance in every tournament he will very soon become the best batsman in the world.

And now that I have given you my opinions about these batsmen, I am still not sure out of these four who is the best. Who do you think is numero uno?

Bill Howladar of Newkali

story- Hamid-Ur Rashid
cartoon- Sharier Khan



To be continued

Notice
A caption which went along with the write up 'We who are not as others part-II', on June 14, stated that Gibran Tanwir is a member of Misanthrope. Actually he was a member of Death Row before the band split up. We sincerely regret the mistake

Quiz Club

- Answers (21.06.96)
1. Benjamin Netanyahu
 2. Mahbubur Rahman
 3. Ameter
 4. 53
 5. Title of Russian Monarch
 6. Asuncion
 7. 1982
 8. Philippines
 9. Charles Dickens
 10. Hungarians
- Ten quizzes, as usual, to be cracked send your answer by the end of the week and win away our special Quiz Club Prize
1. What are interferons?
 2. What is an electroscope?
 3. Malachite is an ore of —
 4. When was IMF established?
 5. What is the full form of DOS?
 6. The state language of El-Salvador is —
 7. Approximate area of Mediterranean sea is —
 8. Who is the President of the Czech Republic?
 9. Who wrote the book, "Resurrection"?
 10. In the country repelling in 122 centre was held on —