



## Cricket Victory Celebrations

# POINT ON THE NECK

by Rising Stars Correspondent Photos by: Zahedul I Khan

A few days back I asked a Tokai how he would celebrate if Bangladesh made to the World Cup Cricket. He thought for a moment, rolled his squinted eyes and then with a fiendish smile said "Mansher Goye Rong Lagamu". This idea of celebrating must have been hovering on the minds of many cricket well-wishers of the country. And when the commentator of Radio Bangladesh shrieked out that the 9th wicket of the Scotland team fell, a wave of jubilation reverberated throughout the nation.

Minutes later, in Dhaka city they were there.....in the street corners of DU, Mogbazaar, Dhanmondi, Farmgate..... you name it..... with buckets, cans, even Pepsi-bottles all filled with color water. First of course they had stained themselves, then this throwing-color-fun game extended to the streets where they splashed colored 'elixirs' to anyone in the close range!

And how did the public react??.....Many were too happy to get the instant make up, while some even joined the daring game. A few, however, took umbrage against the pranksters, often vented their anger by execrating at them. But I guess these ragged guys will not be able to hold their anger for long..... Come on man! The victory at Kuala Lumpur is more precious than your Jamdani or Mark & Spencers' white shirt!

And talk about hijacking.... A few youths entered Titas' office armed with only cans of color water. They threw these cans every where and when a few officials begged to be spared, these youths asked for some cash and guess what..... they got a deal!!!!

Yesterday's victory was a milestone in our history. While the country is afflicted with economic stagnancy and political instability, we have at least some thing to be proud of: our talent in the world of cricket. But let's be humble and hope that our cricketers will continue to push the national flag higher and higher in this so competitive a world.



## WAKE UP PARTS takers?

by Raj Kishor Khaware

THE recent unsuccessful case of pig heart transplantation by DR Baruah, an Assam-based doctor has created a furor in the field of bioethics which today is flummoxed over the question of organ transplant from one species to the other. While its critics fear the unknown dangers of this method, its defenders are optimistic that they can be anticipated and overcome.

Critics argue that there is always the remote possibility of a virus or any infectious agent lurking in a pig's kidney or a baboon's liver which might infect the host, causing a vicious disease which may infect the entire humankind. Humans have been known to be susceptible to a variety of animal viruses like the monkey pox virus, the herpes B virus from Macaques and viruses of porcine influenza and the swine vesicular disease.

Prions (infectious particle containing a protein) which cause degenerative brain diseases, are also capable of species-hopping. Although humans are resistant to animal pathogens, transplanting organs directly might create a difficult situation, particularly when patients are given immunosuppressive drugs to prevent graft rejection.

In its latest report, Animal-to-Human Transplants: the Ethics of Transplantation, Nuffield council, an influential bioethics advisory group and independent watchdog in the UK concluded that the risk associated with the possible transmission of infectious diseases as a consequence of xenotransplantation (transplanting organs from one species onto another species) has not been

dealt adequately because it is unethical to conduct clinical trials involving human beings.

The council's report calls upon the UK government to immediately establish an advisory committee on xenotransplantation, to assess potential public health risks, define precautionary measures prior to human clinical trials and protect patients' interest.

Certain viewpoints of the report seem exaggerated and overemphasised. High risk of disease transmission from primates persuaded the council to favour pigs over primates. The report pinpoints the lethal disease causing herpes B virus from macaque monkey draws attention to the similarities between simian and human immunodeficiency viruses. But what the council seems to have missed is the greater risk of disease transmission in human-to-human transplantation.

Earlier, the major source of insulin for diabetics was pig and cattle pancreas. Despite millions of diabetics taking several insulin injections daily, there were very few reported cases of bovine or porcine disease transmission. Insulin, of course, was a purified compound and not a living

preparation. However, it may be recalled that purified proteins have far worse record of disease transmission than does animal insulin.

The Nuffield council also raised the question of animal organs themselves being susceptible to animal diseases, especially in the case of transplanted lungs. The council report highlights the possibility of prion disease passing from species to species, but also states that such disease transmission may also occur due to infected things; bacon and ham should be avoided to keep pig prion at bay.

There are, however, many diseases which are virtually species specific and highly unlikely to cause any disease in humans ever. One may recall several animal pathogens which were beneficial to human beings. From Louis Pasteur who produced the first rabies virus to the modern producer of the influenza vaccine who are still cultivating attenuated virus in chicken eggs, experience indicates that growing viruses in cells of other species can make the infection agent less pathogenic, less fit for its being invasive, disease-causing role, and less likely, therefore, to affect humans.

So far, primate xenotransplantation exercises seem to have worked in a statistically acceptable way. If the trials demand several forms of pre-transplantation monitoring for both the source of animals and patients, it can always be fulfilled.

CSE/Down To Earth Features

## Striking Striker

by SA Inan

THEY call me the striker. Well, if you say only striker, then, you are denying me of my multi-dimensional talents. When I was young, I dreamt of being a football striker (not US version). Observing my football addiction, my Dad bought me one of those real stuff. The ball encouraged me so much that I forgot studying completely. I wanted to be the excellence of execution of football. Dreaming of Chinnu, Aslam I kept on practicing (even while sleeping).

Guess what? One day a few boys asked whether I wanted to play for their club (call me mama & strike me dead, if I say no). That did it, I began to think myself as a national boaster (!). In my first match I played so good that, I netted the ball in my own post (jack-ass) come on have a heart, to err is human. Well, that was my first and last match as well as goal. I was sidelined with much enthusiasm ever since.

One day on the way home by car (not mine) I was stopped by some tough looking boys. 'Who are you?' I asked. 'We are the strikers,' their answer thrilled my hair. 'Which team?' I asked again. 'Political team. Why is your car out on the street?' It struck me that this political group had called on a strike. Well, that day I returned home unhurt but with a pulverized car. At night it clicked my mind that it was easier being a political striker than a football striker.

Next morning the new striker in me emerged and life changed. Within a few months I become one of the successful strikers of the country. During the Ershad regime, I proved myself as the most destructive striker (Bravo!). The next government also fell victim to my strikes. But, despite of my successful career I have been side-lined again by my team. Hey, don't think this is the end of the story. Yesterday while listening to the live commentary of ICC from Kuala Lumpur a thought paralyzed me. Why not stand on the crease at the striking end with a bat and be a strike batsman. Hmm..... not a bad idea.

## Science MAT ERS

### CLEANLINE'S Drive

BRITAIN'S Northern Telecom (NT) has become the world's first major electronics company to eliminate ozone-depleting CFCs from its operations. The achievement was made possible by completely eliminating the

need for solvent cleaning by using an inert atmosphere of nitrogen during soldering. This allows the use of less active fluxes which do not need to be cleaned off after assembly, and the use of an oxygen-free atmosphere has meant less contamination of the final product. The reliability of the product has also improved by eliminating CFC pollution.

### Checking fluid DYNAMICS

PIPELINES have to be continuously monitored and checked in order to estimate damage. Uptill now this was done by installing flowmeters inside the pipe. Now, using a technique developed by Rostock University, it is possible to discover what is going on inside a pipeline from outside. Ultrasonic transducers are clamped onto the pipe wall and ultra-

sonic waves are then radiated through it. An analysis of how the waves behave provides a precise picture of the state of the pipeline. The new technique also provides mobility — the clamp-on system can be attached to any pipeline without the need for complicated installation procedures. Another advantage is the fact that it does not cause any changes in flow rate.

## CHOCO ABSORBERS

SHOCK absorbers made from chocolate could soon be a reality, according to researchers at Michigan State University, US. If an electric current is applied to a milk chocolate bar, the chocolate immediately becomes a thick gel that acts as the perfect shock absorber. Once the electric current is taken away, the chocolate reverts to its original state. Researchers are looking for other materials

able to respond to changes around them. Some liquids form gels within a few hundredths of a second and can be used to make high-speed valves. Ford has already tested a car with smart fluid shock absorbers controlled by a computer. The company found it to be much faster and smoother around an obstacle course.

Courtesy : CSE-Down to Earth Feature Service.

### What I feel, Bobby!

by Yassir Ahmed Arshi

WHEN I see you whatever the day I am drawn to your smile right away. You're lovely and nice. Shall say it twice. And everyone likes you that way. You make an impression on me. You make me feel great as can be. Standing out from the rest. You're one of the best. You brighten my life now you see.

After you, they just threw out mold. You're special, ... more special than gold. You're a one of a kind. Your heart and your mind. Seeing you at a sale I'd be sold. You are with me in my thoughts today....

Recalling sweet moments And imaging future times together. I think of you and smile. It's something to me that's utterly real. About you there's so much appeal. I'm blissful I have told. Your stimulus is pure gold. Oh, Bobby! this tells what I feel.

Dedicated to : Her who is very far from me today...

