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# The bliss of cricket

In the deepest part of the human psyche there is a space for sports. Long before men and women learnt to count and could utter any words there was play; primeval girls running in joy and playfulness, men dueling in earnest or in jest, boys frolicking with wild animals, or throwing stones on water just for playfulness. And in each of these activities soon there came competition, a ferocious zeal to test one's strength against an adversary. We have in us that primal mind, now put in use for the great enthusiasm and loyalty for sports. Much of that mentality is now in display during World Cup cricket games.

Bangladesh has certainly stoked up that competition and made many human beings jittery during the recent games. Citizens of formerly great cricket playing nations are envious and you can tell that from their language, from the shrill tone of their throw-away sentences. In what they do not say in politeness you can fathom in the eerie silence, you see the old human mind showing up. When Bangladesh beat India I found calm and wise people becoming red in ill-concealed discomfort. Such is the strength of the sports-loving human psyche. As Bangladesh played Bermuda at least two billion eyes witnessed the team, earnestly wanting it to be beaten. Indian TV stations did not know what to do with what they considered to be an unthinkable calamity. I had always thought of India as a wise composed country, but my recent experiences tell me every wise yogi has his own threshold.

I found myself responding to this ancient human impulse last night. Close to midnight I was in a local club, its lone patron at midnight cursing the pelting rain falling in Trinidad. My bizarre emotional response to the climate of the Caribbean amazed me; it was as though something from inside myself was acting out a very ancient form of loyalty; I had nothing to do with it. I slept badly, strained, nervous about the prospect however remote of Bangladesh's loss. I was scared of the wish of one billion Indians.

In the morning, the issue was still unresolved. Bermuda was 94/9 but what about Bangladeshi response. I felt like a parent whose child is undergoing life's most important examination, my nerve was as edgy as one encountering the most important job-interview of one's lifetime. Inside me nothing mattered except for this win. Suddenly, I understood the hostility of the cricket-loving

Indians towards Bangladesh.

Knowing how important this game was to me, my wife rang me while I was commuting in the morning on my mobile to tell me of the seven wicket win. Suddenly, the gloomy day dazzled in front of my eyes. I found myself trying to convince my son that one day Bangladesh cricket team would be as great as the team of Australia. In my mind's eyes I saw the limitless bounty of rice fields in my left-behind country, I felt the ancient brain's yearnings to be a proud Bangladeshi, of rising beyond the vagaries of our failures and problems. I even found myself forgiving people's ungracious petty insults towards Bangladesh.

As we slept here in Australia on the night of 25 March, 2007 it rained in the West Indies. And glory came to Bangladesh in the form of sports during what was the small hours of 26 March. Like twenty six years ago we saw redemption, not in blood and fire, but in the sublimated bliss of cricket.

**Abed Chaudhury**  
*On e-mail*



**Break the illegal syndicates**

The on-going drive against deep-rooted corruption and irregularities is welcomed by common people and it is obvious that removing these hazards ultimately will take more time than the so-called politicians' expectations. The overall scenario is improving but still power crisis and price hike are beyond control. So it is high time to break the illegal business syndicates and bring them to book.

**Md. Ahsanur Rahman**  
*Royer Bazar, Dhaka*

**Caretaker government**

The first & foremost responsibility of a caretaker government is to make a level playing field for a free, fair & transparent election. The CTG which was formed before the present one was not impartial. The president & chief adviser took the necessary steps to form a non-party CTG led by Dr. Fakhruddin. As the members of the present interim government have no political affiliation they are accepted by all.

People praise what is praiseworthy. Except for some steps taken by the government, all the work they have done so far is good for the country.

The government should not be misled by what the politicians are saying, rather it should carry on its good work.

**Kamal Uddin**  
*Dhaka*

**Noisy aircraft**

My ailing mother of about 70 years and little daughter nearly collapsed as an Air Force plane flew over our locality at a very low altitude on March 15, 2007 at around 1:30pm.

This is absolutely unacceptable that an Air Force plane would fly at such a low altitude over the populous Dhaka city for the sake of exercise or whatever (may be to mark the Independence Day). We are shocked and think that this kind of noise pollution should never take place in the city.

**SAM Jaber**  
*Shyamoli, Dhaka*

**Misuse of government vehicles**

I want to stress that bribery is not the single means of corruption to exploit undoubtedly a corrupt practice. It decreases vehicles' durability, increases fuel consumption, maintenance and repairing costs, and drivers' overtime. Moreover, the drivers are inhumanly compelled to drive vehicles for about 20 hours a day, even on Fridays, violating the service rules of the government. As a result, the drivers get involved in misappropriation e.g. unscrupulous billing in the name of maintenance and repair primarily with the tacit support of the users of these vehicles.

The existing malpractice of the government officials should immediately be stopped to reduce the huge burden on the government exchequer.

I, therefore, appeal to the CTG to immediately issue an urgent circular to all government ministries, divisions, directorates, departments,

**in flyover**

It has been noticed that the road markings in Mohakhali flyover have not been done professionally. In the middle of the two-lane flyover, the authorities have put a dotted line in the centre, which indicates that a driver can overtake or change lanes. According to traffic rules, vehicles can overtake or change lanes in dotted line areas but should not change lanes or overtake in undotted (all along white painted) areas of a lane divider.

This restriction is imposed in developed countries due to severity of accidents in flyovers. Mohakhali flyover takes a sharp turn which makes it more prone to accidents if overtaking or lane changes are not restricted.

Let all the dotted lined road markings in flyover be changed to undotted lines from starting to the end, and overtaking-prohibited signs must be placed.

**Newaz Noor-ul Wahab**  
*Housing Estate, Sylhet*

**Plots in Uttara**

In the beginning of 2005 the then BNP government gave allotments of 1136 plots in the category of 1) Business men and industrialist, 2) Private service holders and 3) Others in Uttara 3rd phase (extended) project.

It was announced that it was a computer system lottery draw. And in front of many people the lottery draw was arranged. It was done in a very modern way: the lottery draw arranger took random numbers from the audience and these numbers were given in the computer software data and as per these random numbers the results came with the plot winner code number and everyone present was happy with the system. But the sad thing here is that from some people we came to know later that the lottery draw results were pre-determined.

So we hope that the authorities concerned will take necessary steps to investigate the matter.

**Md. Arif**  
*Nababpur, Dhaka*

on behalf of Krishi Bank, we would like to inform you that our interest on agricultural credit is 8 percent which is calculated on yearly basis. For your kind information BKB has taken a special programme suited to the government policy of producing the less cultivated 15 crops (spice, dal, oil seeds & maize items). The interest rate for this items is only 2 percent.

In this respect we earnestly request Mr. Bazlur Rahman to go through BKB's recent circular and website that will remove the confusion about the interest rate of BKB.

**Md Saiful Islam**  
*Chief Public Relations Officer, BKB*

**An unsafe world**

Whenever we turn on our televisions and switch to international news channels some common words as 'bomb,' 'blast,' 'kills,' or phrases like 'nuclear programme,' 'terrorist attack' can be heard. Maybe the world where we live in does not offer us peace. Centuries ago there were wars among empires, and still we have wars. The difference is-- we have become more mechanised with updated warfare tactics.

**Tahsin Hyder**  
*Lake Circus, Kalabagan Dhaka*

**Beating Bermuda**

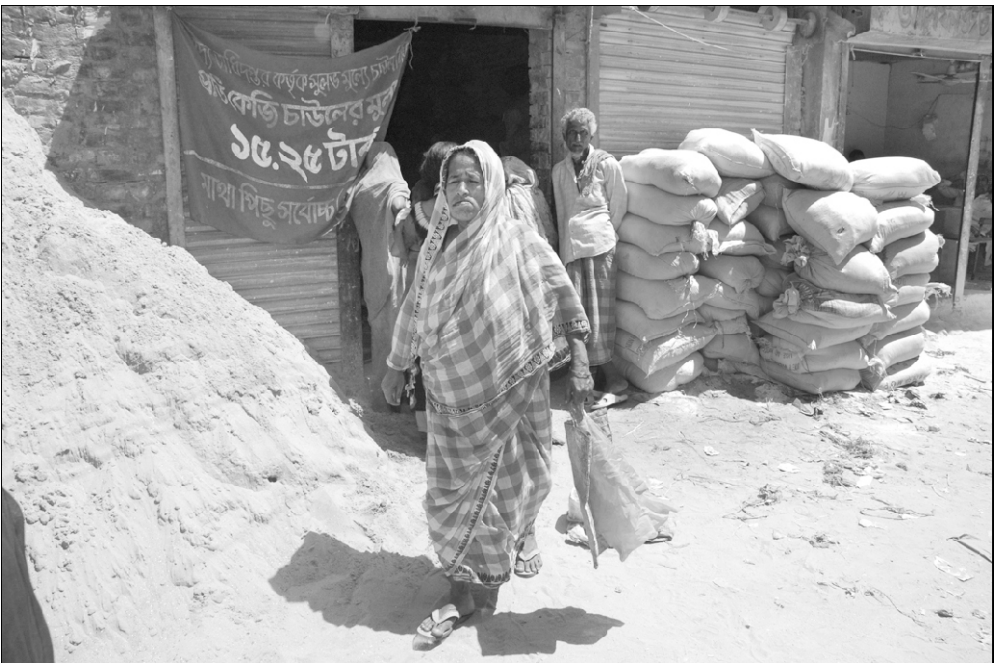
Our World Cup victory against Bermuda, coincidentally on our Independence Day, although by seven wickets, was not very convincing, or satisfying. Critically examining the game as an ex-college team opening bat (1950-54); I felt disappointed. Superinnows Bermuda's lusty hitting was not there when Bangladesh batted. Any attempted big hit ended in fall of a wicket! Also their application was somewhat lacking; as shown by one tidy Bermudan bowler, who took all the three

**World Cup tickets!**

Hi ! I'm an Indian fan who had booked the follow India Super 8 package which includes 4 tickets for all Super 8 games / the semi final and the final. For obvious reasons, I'm now canceling my trip and since these would now be more interesting for Bangladeshis was wondering if you could post these on your website.

I have a close friend in Dhaka and could courier them to Bangladesh if someone is interested in the tickets-- \$75 per ticket for each Super 8 game; \$100 for the semifinal and \$200 for the final.

**Apurv Nagpal, On e-mail**



STAR PHOTO

## BDR sale centres

Good initiatives are replicated in the society when there is an enabling environment. BDR sale centres are a laudable and timely initiative at the time of need to deal with the spiraling prices of essential items. This sort of initiative shows the government's good will and is a manifestation of commitment to the people's cause.

Many of us in handling a problem take steps to identify the cause of the problem and then try to address it in a planned way. The problem of price hike of essential items is such a problem which needs immediate attention. As we commonly understand if demand is greater than supply, prices of the products are sure to go up. Here, there may be other reasons which need to be identified and to do so the Finance Adviser has rightly invited research organisations to come forward to find out the root causes. But, as we are facing the problem of unreasonably high prices of essential items, immediate actions are needed. The BDR's initiative to improve supply of products at a fair price is thus a timely one and should be replicated countrywide. In the meantime, we are encouraged to see that a number of private organisations have come forward to replicate the initiative and have opened

sale centres in different cities.

Since citizens of the capital city are the worst sufferers of price hike, I request the BDR authorities to open more such centres in different locations. Large, open spaces, now freed from the hands of land grabbers, may be used for this purpose.

The freed space of Old Mohammadpur Thana Road touching the southern wall of Dhaka Residential Model College could be an ideal spot for such an open market of essential items at fair prices.

**Muklesur Rahman, MBA (MIS)**  
*Dhanmondi, Dhaka*

**Handling Bird Flu**

It is alarming to see the spread of Avian Flu in Bangladesh and the sad impact it will have on the fowl industry. However, it is even more alarming to see the chicken farm workers handling the culling of the infected birds with their bare hands. There were photographs in your newspaper of the workers crying over the birds and also a worker wearing only a facemask, no gloves or protective uniform, slaughtering the birds. When the same incident occurred with turkeys in the UK, the diseased farm was completely isolated, photos allowed only by helicopter and bird carcasses were transported by sealed trucks.

I can appreciate that we do not have the resources to do this in Bangladesh. This virus spreads by respiration and possible contact too. Therefore to be effective we will have to minimise human exposure or else run the risk that the next set of photos might be more tragic than the death of 20,000 chickens.

**SI Ahmed**  
*On e-mail*

## Deadly Bird Flu

It is very alarming to know that some poultry farms in Savar area have shown the presence of "Bird Flu Virus". I am very worried when I see through TV that our authorities are downgrading the presence by saying that this outbreak would be controlled and there is no need to be alarmed. I would, rather, say that the authorities must let people know how deadly this disease could be and what precautions we should take in handling chicken: 1. If we handle live or cut raw chicken, we must wash our hands with proper disinfectants. 2. We must cook the chicken fully, like we do in cooking curries. 3. We must not eat half cooked fried or baked chicken or chicken tikka, 4. Eggs must be washed and eaten only full boiled (no half-boiled, poached or fried) and must not be given to children. Hands must be washed properly after handling eggs. 5. Must be careful to see

the doctors when flu like ailments appears. 5. Must not feed the fish farms with droppings from the chicken farms.

We must not forget that this flu is fatal and very much contagious. In Vietnam and Thailand, I have seen that the authorities take extra precautions with the children living nearby the affected farms. Children are more prone to be contaminated because they mostly try to play with the birds (even dead birds). In Vietnam and Thailand I have seen that the interest of common people is taken care of in case of Bird Flu outbreak, not the interest of poultry farmers or poultry businessman.

What will happen if Bird Flu virus spreads in Bangladesh? I just cannot imagine!

**Kazi Ahmed**  
*AIT, Bangkok, Thailand*



common citizens, but misuse of government resources is another important evil practice of the government functionaries.

It is known that government vehicles are misused indiscriminately. Particularly senior officials of key government departments and ministries, who are not entitled to use vehicles full time, misuse official vehicles after office hours simply for personal reasons which lead to a huge unwanted expenditure. These officials in the name of official duties even place the vehicles at the disposal of their spouses and children almost for 24 hours. This is

corporations, nationalised banks etc. to stop misuse of the official vehicles meant only for official use.

**Abdul Malek**  
*Green Road, Dhaka*

**Generating power**

I congratulate Mr. Nizam Ahmed for his column titled "Generating power without government."

Mr. Nizam's pragmatic vision is enunciated hereunder "It is time to let the private sector, foreign or local, to invest in Bangladesh's energy sector to fulfill market demands for gas and electricity."

To meet the energy needs of 150

examinations. But there is no denying that class teaching has no alternative. A student may pass or obtain good marks in the examinations by attending the coaching centres. In fact, proper knowledge cannot be acquired in this way.

This unfair practice has created a serious problem in the field of education. The students, teachers and the guardians should think over the matter.

**Zennat Ara Khanam (Zeba)**  
*Mohammadpur Preparatory Higher Secondary Girls' School*

**Road markings**