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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 wit-

nessed 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 eye 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



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,

million people, Bangladesh must boldly chalk out a programme that welcomes private entrepreneurs, the unfailing engines of development, with their right to produce power without government intervention.

Abdullahel Mahmood

Retired from BSCIC

Private coaching

At present the private coaching centres are mushrooming in the country. They have taken the place of schools and colleges. It is shocking that the students do not attend the classes regularly, they prefer private coaching to schools and colleges. Some teachers are not sincere in their profession. They encourage the students to go to their homes for teaching. They give them notes and prepare them for

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 un-dotted 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 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

Tigers might roar

On Sunday it seemed the monsoon of Bangladesh had converged on Trinidad. Rain continually delayed the Tigers' fatal match against Bermuda. Despite a late scare, Bangladesh won the game convincingly to secure a place in the second round of a World Cup, for the first time.

Many critics will be saying that Bangladesh are only making up the numbers in the Super Eight stage. This is definitely not the case. They have played in a professional manner and deserve their place. Sneaking into fourth spot, and securing an unlikely semi-final berth is not out of the question.

Within the past two years, Bangladesh have improved leaps and bounds. When they have come up against stronger opposition they have played much better, and have made the opposition work hard for their victories. These factors will not change in the next few weeks.

Almost every team that Bangladesh will be up against, will have second thoughts about an easy victory, contrary to four years ago. They will be favourites against Ireland. They recently beat New Zealand in the warm-up match. Victory over the West Indies or England is not out of the question anymore. As for Australia, well it's a long shot, but who could forget Sophia Gardens in 2005? South Africa may struggle against spin, and Bangladesh have three spinners in their lineup.

The Tigers may seem like timid cubs in the big league that is the Super Eight, but they have reason to believe that they can produce more upset victories. If they sneak into the semi-final stage who knows what will happen?

Rayed Mamun

On e-mail

again.
Dr. Debasish Chowdhury

Fellow, Department of Gastroenterology
AIIMS, New Delhi, India

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. Superminnows 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

wickets that fell; only in five overs giving away very few runs! Imagine what would have happened if he had bowled 10 overs in a regular one-dayer! The excuse of taking it easy is not acceptable in the game of competitive cricket.

May be the rain was a blessing in disguise for us; though possibly for this reason; our ground fielding and throw-in was below the level of Bermudan amateur fielders. This despite the fact that ours is a bunch of professional cricketers!

It all goes to show how passionate cricket following is in the sub-continent. Let's hope and pray for the best for Bangladesh in the games ahead.

S.A. Mansoor
Gulshan, Dhaka

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

Deadly Bird Flu

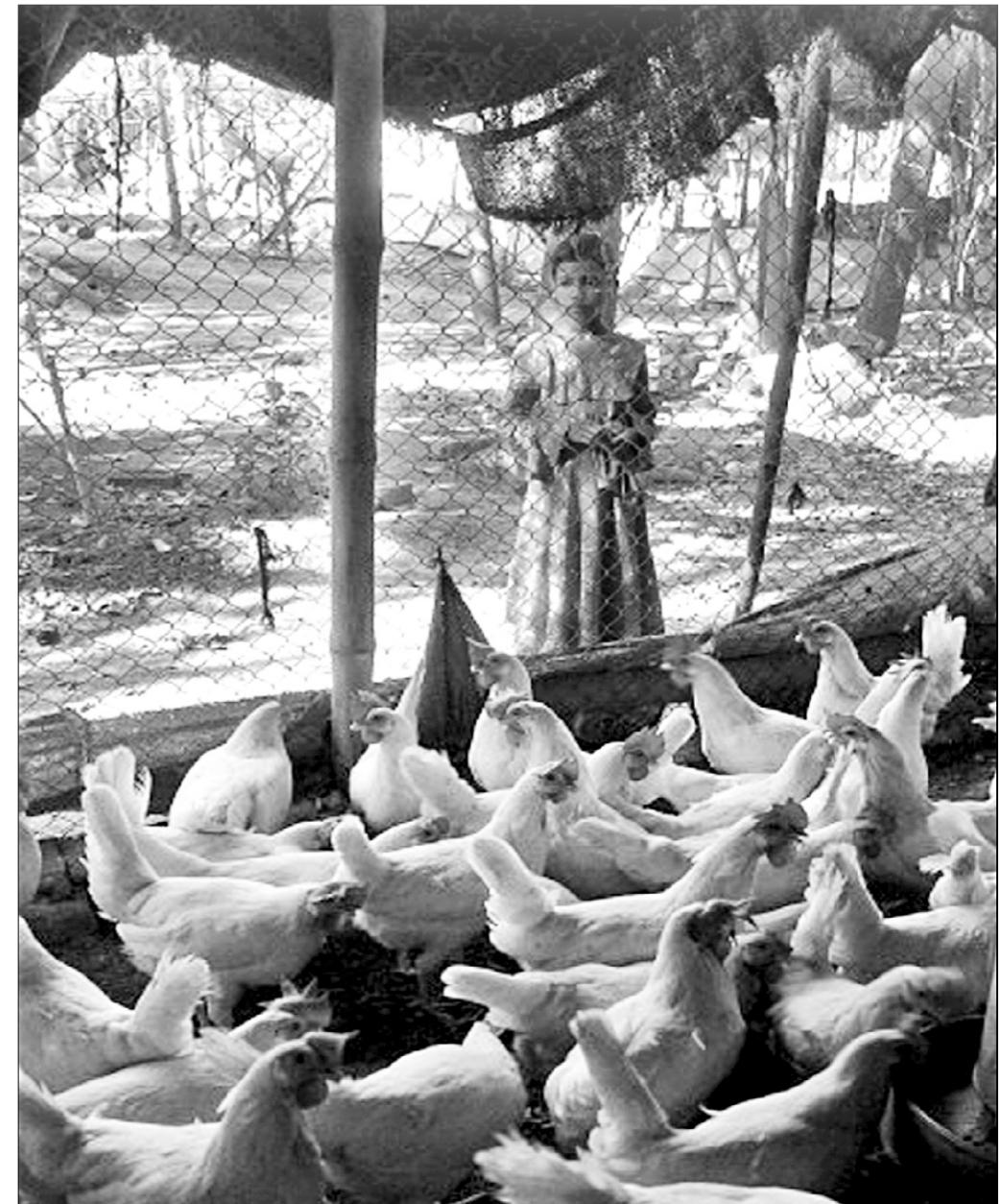
It is very alarming to know that some poultry farms in Savar area have shown the presence of "Bird Flu Virus". I am very worried when I see through TV that our authorities are downgrading the presence by saying that this outbreak would be controlled and there is no need to be alarmed. I would, rather, 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 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 business man.

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

Kazi Ahmed
AIT, Bangkok, Thailand



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 sup-

ply, 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

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

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SI Ahmed
On e-mail

Krishi Bank's interest rate

Our attention is drawn to the letter captioned "Micro-credit and high interest rate" written by Bazlur Rahman published in your newspaper on 28 February 2007. In the letter Mr. Rahman mentioned, "The nominal interest rate of Grameen Bank is only 10 percent, whereas Krishi Bank charges more than that."

Our brilliant boys brought glory for us. Bangladesh will progress forward and we will never look back

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 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

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