

ICC World Cup 2011

We look forward to some exciting cricket

WITH much pomp and in remarkable grandeur, the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 got underway at Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka last evening. As the world looks forward to a new spate of excitement to emerge from what has traditionally been considered a gentlemen's game, we in Bangladesh can certainly feel happy and proud that we have had the opportunity to inaugurate this World Cup series on our home soil. There is a sure sense of achievement here for the people of Bangladesh considering that within a mere twelve years of our qualifying as a Test playing nation, we have had this remarkable chance of seeing the ICC launch the 2011 series in our country.

A festive atmosphere has been generated by the World Cup among cricket enthusiasts in Bangladesh, which in itself is a sign of the increasingly deeper roots the game has been digging in the country. This enthusiasm is, in a larger sense, an expectation of the people that during the games as well as after them the national cricket team will break new ground through demonstrating its mettle in the course of the matches it plays against other teams. Overall, however, the fact that this year's World Cup has been inaugurated in Dhaka is symbolic of the desire of Bangladesh's people to see some of the best sportsmanship relating to cricket to be on display in this country. Ours has always been a hospitable society and this trait in the national character has once more been amply demonstrated by the zeal and euphoria with which we have welcomed so many foreign teams to the country.

With the inaugural festivities now behind us, we can all sit back and experience some exciting moments in global cricket. Yes, there have been the many disappointments where coming by tickets is concerned. But that has done nothing to dampen the mood of the country.

To all the participating teams, we say 'Welcome to the land of poetry, to Golden Bengal!' For ourselves, across the spectrum and beyond all barriers, we know this is one moment which brings us together as a people in all our vibrancy of spirit. Let the bugles be sounded!

Cruelty against domestic helps

HC's rule timely

IN the face of an increase in the incidence of violence against child workers employed in households across the nation, the High Court's ruling declaring such act illegal is a welcome and timely step.

Unquestionably, the set of HC directives to the government that include taking anticipatory measures to stop such employment, legalising non-minor domestic helps as workers, issuing identity cards for such workers from wards, municipalities and union parisads before giving them any job is clearly laudable.

Limiting their daily working time to five hours, forming a national child labour welfare council and so on would go a long way in protecting rights of working children. Now securing compliance would be a big job.

Unfortunately, violence against female and minor workers in the households has remained a permanent scourge despite the existence of laws against repression of women and children and policies to protect domestic workers and eliminate child labour. We hope the government will be activated to implement all the relevant laws and the HC rule to wipe this blot off society.

In May last year, too, the HC had issued a rule on the government to look into such offence on domestic helps. It baffles us why the government itself has been failing to promptly act and address the issue without obliging the highest court to rise to the occasion to protect the relevant constitutional rights of the citizens.

In spite of the HC's commendable activism on this score to yield the desired result, the enforcing organs of the government will have to be more active and efficient. Otherwise, however brilliant and useful our legislation may look on the face of it, it will remain just in the book to the dismay of the victims of the abuses in society.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

February 18

1873

Bulgarian revolutionary leader Vasil Levski is executed by hanging in Sofia by the Ottoman authorities.

1885

Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is published for the first time.

1901

Winston Churchill makes his maiden speech in the House of Commons.

1932

The Empire of Japan declares Manzhouguo (the obsolete Chinese name for Manchuria) independent from the Republic of China.

1969

Professor Shamsuzzoha, a teacher of Rajshahi University, was shot dead by Pakistan army soldiers while a demonstration was going on against the regime of President Ayub Khan. His death gave a new and more serious dimension to the mass upsurge against the regime.

1979

Snow falls in the Sahara Desert in southern Algeria for the only time in recorded history.

2007

Terrorist bombs explode on the Samjhauta Express in Panipat, Haryana, India, killing 68 people.

PLEASURE IS ALL MINE

The second triumph



SHAH HUSAIN IMAM

the opening of World Cup Cricket 2011 in Dhaka. That was our finest hour, this is our second triumph.

In the interlude, of course, Bangladesh became a country with its first Nobel Laureate. For right or wrong reasons more wrong than right -- we have hogged international news headlines. Yet, the experience of hosting World Cup Cricket after 12 years of attaining Test status is in a class of its own.

We are honoured to be co-hosting "the world's third largest international sporting event" with India and Sri Lanka courtesy of the International Cricket Council (ICC). We are grateful for it all the more because Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were the two countries left to host World Cup Cricket in South Asia, India and Pakistan having done so in the past decades.

But what has a particular cheery resonance with us is the choice of Dhaka as the venue for the cricket grand show's inaugural. We take it as a tribute to the cricket knowing, loving and crazy people of Bangladesh. From increasing the popularity of cricket to improving its standards in Bangladesh, the whole range of potential looks set to be nourished.

The warm-up was set in motion with competitive school cricket and a hectic series of domestic cricket competitions, let alone the practice matches between some big international sides in different sub-continental locations. And with the coveted World Cup trophy on a ride through the Dhaka streets cheered and clapped en route to Shaheed Minar where it was thoughtfully taken before it reached its temporary destination, it left little to imagination. A balmy breeze of internationality wafting our senses, though.

The ticketing controversies could not have dampened the spirit, a realisation sinking in the mind though that the big bowl we call the national stadium, named after the architect of the country Bangabandhu has a seating capacity of 25,000 only. For a popula-

tion of 160 million!

Even Melbourne Stadium in Australia, a continent which only a decade ago had a population of the size of Mymensigh district, has a capacity of 90,000. Eden Gardens, nearer home, has had a capacity of nearly a lakh which, however, has been reduced lately in a modernisation bid. The Chittagong, Mirpur and Fatullah, the first two where the matches proper will be played have satisfied the stringent requirement of ICC. The sports infrastructure needs to be constantly updated if we are to organise more of big events which are sure to come our way.

The sonority of the ICC theme song -- De Ghumake -- with its Bangla and Sinhalese renditions and the lyrics

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IQBAL AHMED/DRIK NEWS

and music of Bryan Adams as well as Bangladesh, Indian and Sri Lankan singers keep rhythmically humming. The Colour Celebrations of India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka showcasing their society and culture blended with the calisthenics and pyrotechnics were simply spectacular.

So the stage is all set for the best of combative World Cricket to play out till April 4 when the final takes place in Mumbai. For Bangladesh's part, Dhaka and Chittagong will stage eight of altogether 49 World Cup matches.

The pressure of the opening day's event management fell perhaps lightly on BCB as the ICC-appointed Wiz Craft of India with the Asiatic partnering locally, staged the inaugural.

Our emotions apart, the practical dividends would be sizeable outstrip-

ping investments in money and energy. Its opening was a \$30 million project with Bangladesh and private sponsors spending a few hundred crores and \$200,000 earmarked by the ICC for each of the eight matches to be played in Dhaka.

Indeed, we have a precious opportunity for branding Bangladesh differently for over a month when Dhaka and Chittagong in particular will be under global spotlight with our tourist attractions hopefully claiming visitors during intervals between matches. Our tourism corporation and private group travel organisers have their jobs cut out to keep the visitors beholden to Bangladesh on match-free days.

A good measure of public spending has already taken place due to wide ranging preparatory, infrastructure and service-related activities. Money has dripped into pockets of working people and more is to come. Overall, spurts in tourism, hotels, local cuisine popularisation and sales of clothes, mementos, handicraft and other local products could have a lift-pump effect on the economy. This will be largely dependent on private sector initiative with the public sector gearing up facilitation where needed.

There is likely to be enormous sports sponsorship pay-offs including corporate dividends in various forms. In our enthusiasm for watching World Cup Cricket, we should not allow our work schedules to be compromised and the targets flunked on. On the contrary, we must strike a balance between work ethic and joy of

watching cricket.

Bangladesh is no stranger to organising international events; she staged a major cricketing event in 1998 with nine top world class sides participating. Besides, we hosted the eight-nation South Asian games in January, 2010.

With our exposure to and experience with event management in the context of Cricket World Cup 2011, our skills to organise massive events will have been sharpened and deepened by the time the curtain is drawn on the show. In fact, we should have our sights set on organising the mini World Cup cricket that the ICC has decided to hold every two years.

It is time we aim to exclusively manage big international events -- our turn is just round the corner. All we need is

to provide hospitality, competence and efficiency in services backed by creative planning and customised but inherently magnetising by something of our own.

It is our strong belief, that our part of the World Cup being a huge affair, spread over a month, with foreign cricket teams and visitors moving in and out of places, we have made arrangements for an impervious security blanket to be spread across the cities. Essential public mobility, however, should not stumble along the way.

It will be icing on the cake if Bangladesh eleven perform markedly better than they had in the last World Cup.

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Towards an Indo-Pak nuclear lexicon

TANVI KULKARNI

INDIA'S nuclear weapons policy is identified with the posture of Credible Minimum Nuclear Deterrence (CMD). The principle entails quite a different interpretation than that understood in the western nuclear lexicon in that western theories and constructs, particularly from the Cold War, cannot be applied effectively to the Indian context.

K. Subrahmanyam has defended the CMD doctrine by stating that it has been adapted to suit India's requirements and thinking on nuclear weapons. Bharat Karnad defines it as a self-explanatory, moderate, limited, reasonable and legitimate posture that justified India's nuclear weapons and missile capabilities after the 1998 tests.

The CMD doctrine highlights that India does not seek an open-ended nuclear arsenal and pillars other postures like the second-strike capability and no first use. Both terms, credible and minimum, are important individually and their equation makes for the credible minimum nuclear deterrence policy.

Odd as it seems, as a key feature of nuclear deterrence, "credibility" is a dynamic, ambiguous and controversial concept. A theoretical understanding of credibility often embroils into a political and technical debate and its definition then depends on which decision-making community, school of thought and context one chooses to represent.

The Indian nuclear doctrine looks at credible deterrence as a political-psychological concept and serves as a prime means of communicating to potential adversaries that India maintains the will and capability to inflict unacceptable punishment through retaliation with nuclear weapons. An effective second strike capability and survivability become important ele-

ments of credibility.

Credibility must be maintained by robust command and control systems, safety and security of arsenal, operational force preparedness, planning and training of forces, research and development and effective conventional military capabilities. The doctrine lends dynamism to the credible deterrent by making it responsive to India's strategic environment, national security and technological imperatives.

A state's approach and policy towards strategic weapons as well as the concepts and ideas that define them are affected by the internal politics of the state's decision-makers. In India, strictly speaking, the political leadership, military and scientific communities do not share the same

sary -- a sentiment echoed in the nuclear doctrine -- than with the quality and quantity of weapons.

The psychological approach does not go too comfortably with the Indian military. As a professional entity and the end-user of weapons systems, the military seeks credibility through technical parameters. The size, structure, level of technology, targeting philosophy, degree of acceptability of damage, time component and the temporal and physical reach of weapons systems are factors that decide how credible the deterrent is.

The contentious Cold Start Doctrine, which enjoys little political support, is nevertheless reflective of the Indian army's understanding of credibility in the operational sense. In

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approach to credible deterrence. The difference is however, to use the words of Professor Rajesh Basrur, a matter of "political-technical perspective."

In an interview to the Hindu newspaper on November 29, 1999, the then Minister of External Affairs, Jaswant Singh stated that "credibility lies in the possibility of retaliation and not its certainty." The political leadership in India maintains that deterrence credibility lies in its psychological impact on the adversary and on oneself. This neither suggests that the Indian political leaders are averse to sanction new technological developments, nor that the debate within the political class is monolithic. But from the political perspective, credibility has more to do with the effective communication of the threat of retaliation to the adver-

a September 2009 television interview, General V.P. Malik suggested that India's inability to acquire requisite weapons and missile technology had eroded deterrence. In a USI Journal article in 2008, Gen Malik, who oversaw the Pokhran II tests as the army chief, wrote that a credible Indian deterrent would require allaying doubts about India's thermonuclear weapons capability, fissile weapons policy and the nuclear triad.

A similar conception of "credible" runs into a technical debate amongst the Indian nuclear scientific community. Debates on the partial success of the thermonuclear device and the need for further testing, which became even more pronounced against the backdrop of the Indo-US nuclear deal, have divided Indian nuclear scientists. Many

scientists may not be as vocal as Dr. K. Santhanam, but they would cast doubts on the credibility of India's nuclear deterrent based on a technical and technological yardstick.

Credible nuclear deterrence as a policy allows a range of diverse interpretations under the conceptual flexibility it provides. There is thus scope for a difference of interpretations among members of a country's strategic community. In the Indian nuclear strategic community, experts like K. Subrahmanyam -- a nuclear pragmatist, according to Professor Kanti Bajpai -- would strongly advocate the politico-psychological approach towards nuclear weapons as a credible deterrent. On the other, Bharat Karnad -- often termed a nuclear maximalist by the pragmatists -- argues for a capability credible enough to deter China as the principal adversary.

The context of nuclear deterrence presents us with yet another parameter to assess credibility. Does the level of credibility differ for deterrence against China and Pakistan? Opinions differ. To gauge it technically or politically would also depend on what kind of confrontation is to be deterred, what is to be communicated to the adversary and with what aspect of the adversary's nuclear identity does one associate the deterrent (a mutual no first use policy with China or the size of the Chinese nuclear arsenal?).

How we choose to define credibility further affects the size of the nuclear arsenal and therefore affects the "minimum." This commentary on the interpretations of "credibility" is hoped to be followed by another which would look at how the minimum is debated within India. The number-game is perhaps the most complicated debate for nuclear weapons states.

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