chintito

There Can Be Only One No 1, But...

CHINTITO

There can be only one No 1. But everyone, well almost everyone, can be No 1 in something or the other.

When we do not realise the spirit of the above statement, frustration can seep in, and most often does. When parents especially cannot and do not accept that we are all born with certain limitations, a child more than another, our children can be put under pressure.

In a class of fifty, or in an exam of a few hundred, or in a selection process involving thousands, there will be only one person who will emerge as the best. But, that does not mean that the other forty-nine other students, or the hundreds who were beaten to second place or worse, or the thousands who were not selected can be written off.

In each of us there is a God-given talent. Honestly! Search in your heart and you will know. While in many the virtuosity begins to show in early life, in some of us the gift remains concealed even up until the middle age due to lack of opportunities. I did not say lethargy out of respect. Again, many among us have been able to cultivate small seeds into some of the most deep-rooted banyan trees. Sadly, in some the genius is lost because of leading a disorderly lifestyle.

If one is good at studies, another is great in kicking a ball. Someone sings Tagore numbers very well and another can recite from Nazrul extempore. *Ami bidrohiranoklanto...* One amongst us is the undisputed organiser of all our social events. *Cholonaghureaashi...*Another is just a good friend; okay, a very good friend. Someone can deliver a good speech. Another can stay up all night beside a patient. Someone... you could go on and on. And yes, some of us do have more than one gift, but one gift each of us has for sure.

Have you ever heard Pele singing any Brazilian hit song, or Maradona kicking up something in Cuban, or either of them worrying their head with the mathematics of what percentage of possession each team had? Did Hemanta Mukherjee ever kick a ball or hold a cricket bat? His relationship with soccer perhaps began with him singing for Bangladeshi footballers when they were hosted in Kolkata soon after our War of Liberation, and it ended there.

Picasso was no good in debating, or else he could have perhaps done better with women. The maestro shamefully called all women "goddesses or doormats" and "drove his lovers to despair and even suicide with his cruelty and betrayal". Maria Sharapova can hold a tennis racquet, but has not heard of SachinTendulkar.

Why is it so difficult for us to understand that not all of us can be No 1?

One of the greatest all-rounder cricketers of all times, Shakib Al-Hasan, has to some extent allowed success to get into his head. But, he may not oblige an audience by picking up a number from Artcell. Can you imagine Babita serving a shuttlecock with as much dexterity as she did as an actor in *"Golapi Ekhon Train-e"*? Usdtad Shahadat Hussain handles a *sarod* with as much ease as a mother nurses her baby.