



# No big deal, but yes big deal



NIZAMUDDIN AHMED

**CHINTITO SINCE 1995**

**D**ATELINE New Delhi, 27 February 2015: BCCI's side-lined president N. Srinivasan (World Cup's booted trophy handler) apologised unconditionally to the Supreme Court for presiding over the February 8 BCCI Working Committee meeting in breach of the January 2015 Court order. Suffice it to say,

he has accepted his guilt.

Defiant Srin, as he is known in his circle, isn't a fast learner. Four days later: Dateline Chennai, 2 March 2015: The cements tycoon "committed contempt of a Supreme Court order by participating in the AGM of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)," the world's richest cricket body; no wonder his desperation.

Srinivasan was earlier asked by the apex court to step aside (huh!) as BCCI president due to conflict of interest in him holding both a BCCI position and ownership of two-time IPL champions Chennai Super Kings, a franchise bought for Rs. 480 crore in 2008.

70-year old Srinivasan landed in hot soup when his son-in-law, also Chennai Super Kings principal, Gurusath Meiyappan was implicated in the IPL spot-fixing betting scandal. Chee! Meiyappan was charge-sheeted by the Mumbai Crime Branch. Chee chee!

It is said that there is nothing (criminal) against Srin, and I am no LL.B, but it is my understanding that the court in India does not normally punish the innocent. Ever since the deplorable match-fixing crime was unearthed in his family, 'Srinivasan was under enormous pressure to resign as (BCCI president) on moral grounds.'

Last Sunday Srin caught the headlines again

for the wrong reasons; he had the audacity to violate the ICC constitution to hand over the Cricket World Cup trophy at Melbourne to Australian captain Michael Clarke. According to ICC's Memorandum and Articles of Association clause 3.3 (B), unanimously approved by Full Council in January 2015, "... the President shall act solely as chairman at Conference and Special Meetings and be responsible for presenting trophies at global competitions and cricket events..."

So, a business mogul with merely college-level cricketing background, and considered unfit by the Indian court to adorn the post of president of his country's cricket board, managed by his guile and weird ICC connections to climb to the chairmanship of the International Cricket Council (I chee chee). Since the Cup controversy, there is demand from Indian officials to call Srin back from ICC because he was not nominated by the incumbent Board of Jagmohan Dalmiya. It is getting interesting.

Meanwhile, snubbed ICC president, also Bangladesh's Planning Minister, AHM Mustafa Kamal, did kamal by announcing his resignation soon after the finals award ceremony, which passed as rumour almost immediately, but Kamal did announce his resignation three days later on home soil, perhaps something Srinivasan should follow to return cricket to its stature of a 'gentleman's game'. Not many Bangladeshis have done as Kamal, a move perhaps unanticipated by Srin at first slip.

"I cannot work with them beyond the ICC constitution," Kamal told a crowded press conference at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport last Tuesday. "... these kind of people are polluting the game. It is my earnest request to the ICC to revisit these things..." he added.

While Kamal's *telka* with Srin, although not mentioned by name, is appreciated even by some Indian fans, the former BCB boss's burster, however, following Bangladesh's defeat to India under dubious circumstances 19

March, is not palatable since he was the then ICC president. He could have at best said that he would raise certain issues concerning the match at the ICC board meeting, and let BCB president Nazmul Hasan Papon do the remuneration. After the defeat to India, aided by Aleem Dar's 'No Ball' and Shikhar Dhawan's 'No Left Foot', Kamal had blurted that the ICC "has become Indian Cricket Council." (Dhaka Tribune, 19 March 2015)

Difficult to digest also is the former ICC president's threat to expose 'mischievous' designs of some (ICC) people who had denied him the 'constitutional right' to hand over the WC trophy. Kamal's wait to reveal ICC wrongdoings ONLY after he was denied to hold the cup lacks credibility; he should have revealed the unlawful activities whether he is honoured or not. Kamal, as well as other ICC officials now, it seems have been hiding ICC sins under their belt.

"...I wasn't allowed to do so (give the trophy). My rights were dishonoured. After I go back home, I will let the whole world know what's happening in ICC. I will let the whole world know about those guys..." Kamal told Bangladeshi channels. Kamal insisted that he had not spoken against any country but said that he was denied for 'speaking the truth' about 'poor umpiring'. (Press Trust of India, 30 March 2015)

Srinivasan is a disgraced cricket organiser in his own country. Kamal is not. Srinivasan violated the ICC constitution and the Indian Court order time and again. Kamal did not. Srinivasan has friends in the ICC. Kamal does not. That speaks a lot for the gentlemen, who today man ICC.

Here's hoping that the ugly Srinivasan episode does not sour Bangladesh-India cricketing relationship and that the venom spewing now on the social networks is just the way young blood like to pull at each other's leg.

The writer is a practising Architect at BashaBari Ltd., a Baden-Powell Fellow Scout Leader, and a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow.

# Insensitivity to deaths is mental aberration

SHAHNOOR WAHID

**I**F politicians deliberately create a "situation" in the country, and if that situation incites a group of unruly elements of their party to go about murdering people on the roads, and if those politicians remain insensitive to such deaths and destruction, the state of their mental disposition would definitely come into question at one point of time. We question the level of sanity of the minds of the murderous hordes of Gengis Khan or Hulagu Khan, but they were foreign invaders having no compassion for the people of the countries they conquered. But we would definitely ask the question, what kind of sanity do the political leaders of the opposition party of this country possess as they let loose murderous goons on their own people? What kind of politics is this? Why are they doing this to their own people, to their own voters?

Any sane man would reply, what is happening in the name of politics in the country is deliberate orchestration of a man-made disaster of horrendous proportion, selecting soft targets like daily commuters, school-goers, truckers and private cars. It is a man-made disaster, indeed. Dozens of men, women and children have lost their lives on the roads from petrol bomb attacks by those unruly elements of the opposition political parties. But when confronted, their leaders conveniently remain on the denial mode. Rather they prefer to shift the blame on the ruling party for such attacks. They display no perceptible remorse for the dead and the injured who are groaning in the burn units of different hospitals. Such collective apathy of the leaders in the opposition is not a healthy reaction to the tragic events. Only people afflicted with some form of mental disorder can remain so insensitive and unresponsive to such human plight of colossal proportion. Needless to say, when rationality takes leave of politics, barbarism takes over. A political party that brackets itself as "democratic" cannot follow the examples set by the barbarians of

the middle ages. One wonders how these politicians in the opposition can look the other way when human blood spills on the roads, when human skin burns in petrol bomb fire, when bandaged children groan in hospital beds. Can anyone in their healthy state of mind do this? A senior member of BNP said the other day that they cannot stop imposing the programmes of hartals and blockades because if they do it now that would mean accepting defeat. Good Heavens! You call restraining your men from killing people on the roads "defeat"! Even the leader of the opposition alliance and chairperson of BNP in her latest press meet asked the people to endure the suffering for a little while longer! You call succumbing to first degree burn after suffering excruciating pain for weeks in a hospital mere "suffering"! What kind of leaders are they? Who are they doing politics for? Are they winning many hearts by killing people on the roads? Are they gaining ground in the race for the throne? Are they sure their popularity has gone one notch up in the last two months following the deaths and destruction of so many human lives and property? If they think they have gained anything, they must be out of their mind.

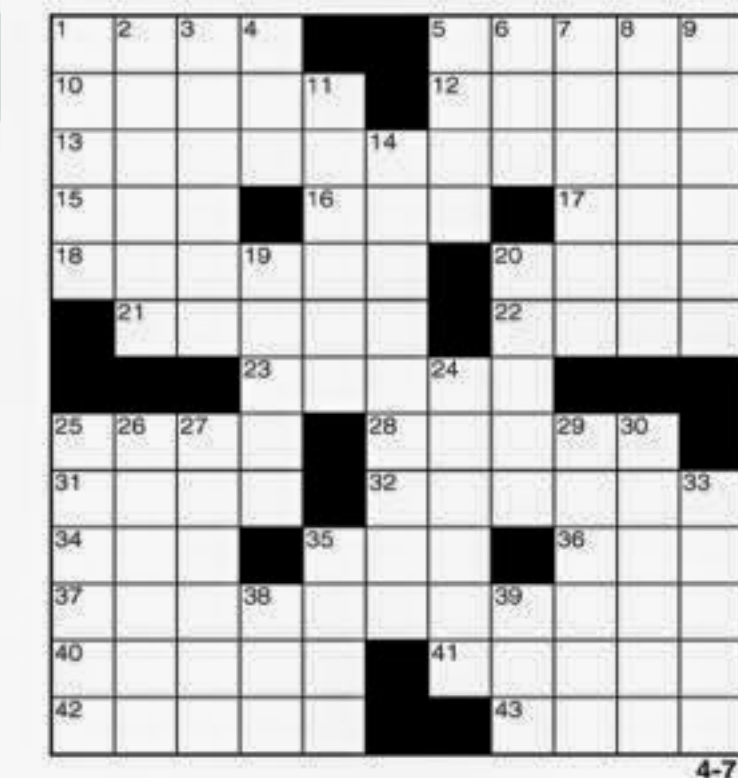
The opposition alliance is trying to stick the label of "democratic movement" on the violence and resulting deaths on the roads orchestrated by them. They say they are doing everything for the restoration of democracy. But we never knew throwing petrol bombs on passenger buses or on private cars was a democratic way of expressing one's voice. We have seen many democratically organised and steered demonstrations in the past, between 1968 and 1990. In no such movements were innocent public targeted and killed to gain points. It is definitely a pertinent point for the political historians to do research on.

The writer is Editor, Special Supplements, The Daily Star.



## CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Leslie Caron Film
  - 5 Indian lute
  - 10 Signs of trouble
  - 12 "Survivor" team
  - 13 Swiss artisans
  - 15 Swelled head
  - 16 Outfit
  - 17 Was inactive
  - 18 Got more mileage from
  - 20 Impolite
  - 21 Hearty dishes
  - 22 Newspaper commentary piece
  - 23 The Jetsons' dog
  - 25 Piquancy
  - 28 Shows disuse
  - 31 Wallet bills
  - 32 Require as a result
  - 34 Table scrap
  - 35 Bitterly cold
  - 36 Hawaii's Mauna-
  - 37 Marriage arrangers
  - 40 Snow house
  - 41 "-- the Top"
  - 42 Must have
- DOWN**
- 1 Degrade
  - 2 Pictures
  - 3 Dismiss
  - 4 Co. abbr
  - 5 Antlered animal
  - 6 Tick off
  - 7 Occupies
  - 8 Rub the wrong way
  - 9 Caught one's breath
  - 11 Scolds
  - 14 Bad place to change horses
  - 19 Plane features
  - 20 Perch
  - 24 Model's spot
  - 25 Go for a close-up
  - 26 Tick off
  - 27 End a lawsuit
  - 29 Begin, as a hobby
  - 30 Rugged range
  - 33 Surgical tool
  - 35 Greek letters
  - 38 Haddock's cousin
  - 39 Ring wins, for short



## YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

ORES CHAPS  
BABA LOLLED  
ANON ALLURE  
MINDFUL MTC  
ANYBODY BAA  
AXE HELD  
DODGY PARSE  
AMIS TEN  
TEA LORDJIM  
ELL ARMBONE  
RESINS ALAS  
STUCCO GINA  
SPIES SEES

**CRYPTOQUOTE** 2-20  
HDB OABNHCBH HBCH MJ  
IMRANOB MW BNAHD TC HM XBNA  
SBJBNH ZTHDMRH VMCTWO  
DBNAH.  
-- AMXBAH OABBW TWOBACMVV

**YESTERDAY'S CRYPTOQUOTE:**  
ONE SEES GREAT THINGS FROM THE VALLEY; ONLY  
SMALL THINGS FROM THE PEAK.  
-- GILBERT K. CHESTERTON

**A XYDLBAXR IS LONGFELLOW**  
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

## QUOTABLE Quote

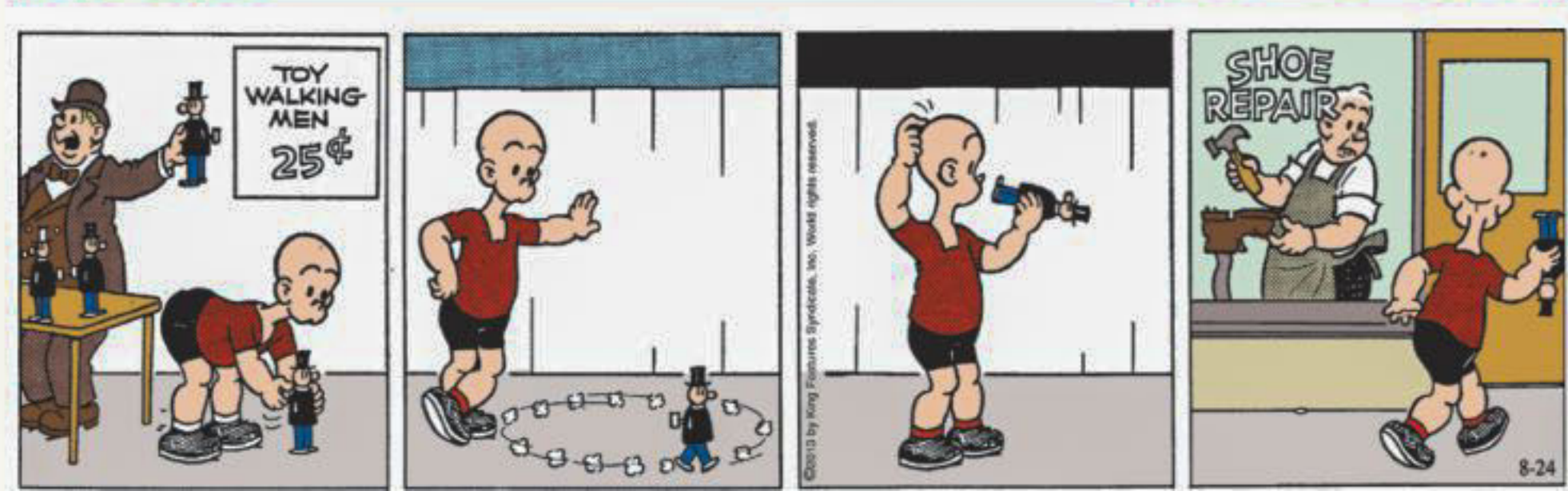
You can chain me, you can torture me, you can even destroy this body, but you will never imprison my mind.

Mahatma Gandhi

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