



THE UN-GLORY OF BANGLADESH CRICKET

IQBAL AHMED

This article is not about the glory of our cricket. It is about the glory Bangladesh has yet to achieve. It can be argued that to achieve that unfulfilled glory Bangladesh need to play as a unit – not just a match-playing team but a team that remains hungry for learning. It can also be argued that it would require humility and reflexivity from the players and administrators.

The series against Pakistan has had everything we expected and everything we wanted to become – a respected cricketing nation with a dominant and an uncompromising valour for winning. After a convincing 4-0 victory against Pakistan, a country that has a superior tradition of cricket and a higher test ranking, our levels of euphoria went through the roof. It is well-deserved for our fans and it is particularly important for

the international cricket administrators to take notice of.

There is more. In Khulna, from the face of an imminent defeat, the Bangladesh cricket team fought back with courage, tenacity, and determination to draw the first test.

But was it enough? What I mean is the intended outcome – a draw – of the match that could have tested without being conceded. We should have pressed for the win. After taking close to a 300-run lead, we should have firmly invited our opponent to bat. And if I am not mistaken there were 30 or so overs left. It would have been a risk, but a calculated one to win the game.

Instead, we shook hands with our opponent, turned our backs to the pitch, and returned to the pavilion, feeling euphoric and accomplished, which did

not last long. Pakistan convincingly beat us by more than 300 runs in the following test in Dhaka. The social media outlets were swarmed with 'well done' and 'great knock'.

What we achieved in the 2015 World Cup cannot be underestimated. But it can be argued that we may have underachieved. Our history is abound with decisions that we made which were insufficient to put pressure on the opponents at the critical juncture of the match.

The Tigers are playing good cricket. But the road to becoming a dominant cricketing nation is anything but the glory of the shots of boundaries and over boundaries.

We need to see more than just the face of a thick willow.

The writer is a PhD student at University of Leeds, UK. He can be contacted at gyia@leeds.ac.uk.

We need to be reflexive.

To shake the grounds of Oval and Lords, Sydney and Melbourne, Christ Church and Galle, or the Ellis Park and The Wanderers, we also need attention, collaboration, and fairness from the international cricketing communities. Turning a blind eye to the weaker cricketing nations hardly promotes a healthy culture of cricket. It infects the integrity of cricket with indifference and indiscretion.

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PHOTO: FEROZ AHMED

MAD GENIUS

AZAM KHAN

28th February, 1950 to June 5 2011

“ I REALLY FELT EMBARRASSED WHEN THE GUITARIST OF MY BAND FIRST CALLED ME BY THIS NAME (GURU).

BUT IS THIS WHAT WE FOUGHT FOR? WE HAD A VISION OF A STATE THAT WOULD UPHOLD THE RIGHTS OF EVERY CITIZEN. HAS THAT HAPPENED?

WE DID NOT CREATE MUSIC JUST TO EARN MONEY, BUT RATHER TO ENTERTAIN THE AUDIENCE AND CREATE AN IMPACT. ”

SOURCE: THE DAILY STAR

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GENDER DISCRIMINATION

A few weeks ago, I was on a rickshaw near Kawran Bazaar and I saw a disturbing incident. A group of young professionals were standing near an office building and smoking cigarettes. There were two women in the group and unsurprisingly, they were attracting unwanted attention. Suddenly, the group had a bucket of water thrown on them from an adjacent residential building and looking up I saw a well-dressed woman and a child standing there holding a bucket on the second storey balcony. She started yelling at the group about how shameful it is for women to smoke and it reminded me once again how much of a role gender discrimination plays in our society. Men can smoke anytime anywhere but when a woman does it, it's considered vulgar. Has anyone stopped to think why that is?

*Junaid Islam
Dhanmondi, Dhaka*



PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO



PHOTO: INTERNET

UNDER YOUR NOSE

A month ago, I was trying to sell my sofa set online and had a few perspective buyers. A couple was amongst them and they wanted to come over to look at it. As they seemed like decent people from what I gleaned from our phone conversation and their facebook profiles, I asked them to come over. On the day of their visit, they were punctual and pleasant and were pleased with the sofa set and said they needed time to think about it. A few days later, the wife called me saying she wanted a second look to which I agreed of course. She came over and after exchanging pleasantries she asked to use my bathroom. I showed her in and went into the kitchen to fix tea. When I returned she was gone, as was my expensive watch that I left in my bedroom, diamond earrings and gold bangles along with some cash from my purse. I filed a GD with the local police station, but there hasn't been any trace of them. They're phones are turned off and facebook accounts de-activated. Needless to say, I have learned my lesson about trusting strangers!

*Zareen Rahman
Banani DOHS, Dhaka*