

TEENS and TWENTIES

Sherlock Holmes - The Master Sleuth

by Towheed Feroze

"ELEMENTARY Watson" I fail to perceive how you contrived to overlook such an intriguing element: use your observing power, for God's sake." Detective novel readers are very much familiar with the above statement. Yes, it is a statement from one of the greatest sleuths of all times... Sherlock Holmes. Holmes, though a fictional character created by Arthur Conan Doyle, appears to be more lively than the Author himself. Over the years, Sherlock Holmes has secured an unassailable position in the world of detective fiction; his name is like an ever glowing star in the world of mystery and bizarre. Long after the death of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes continues to live... more vividly than ever.

When Arthur Conan Doyle created Sherlock Holmes he did not have the slightest notion that he was creating an enigma, for Sherlock was to become a vital part of his life, and indeed the character has outlived its creator.

Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh in 1859 and went on to study medicine at the university there. It was here that he met Joseph Bell, a doctor and lecturer with amazing diagnostic powers. Holmes would use the same methodical approach to solve cases years later. After the university, Doyle set up a medical practice in South Sea, on the south coast of England. The practice did not thrive and Doyle turned to writing, both for earning some money and for passing his spare time. A "Study in Scarlet" the first Holmes story appeared initially in Beeton's Christmas Annual of 1887. The publisher

bought the manuscript for just \$25. It was the Strand Magazine that introduced most of Holmes' stories to the public and made Doyle famous.

Conan Doyle endowed Holmes with a lot of eccentricities. Holmes has a distinct aversion towards women. He is a cold man with little time for emotions. He believes that women are never to be trusted, not even the best of them. Holmes is a man who cannot function normally without work, for without it Holmes becomes frustrated, depressed. And the depression prompted by idleness drives him to resort to Morphine.

When he works he goes with-

out food, believing that starvation increases the blood circulation to the brain. Idleness exhausts him and causes him to spend days under the influence of morphine. Despite the eccentricities, Holmes captured the imagination of the public.

The people took Holmes to their hearts, so when Conan Doyle killed Holmes in a struggle with Moriarty, when the Reichenbach falls, the public outcry was astonishing. Black armbands were worn in the city, and letters of protest flooded into the offices of the Strand Magazine.

Eventually in 1901 Doyle was forced to resurrect the great detective. The return of Holmes delighted the fans. Conan Doyle (until his death in 1930) continued to write Holmes stories. Many years after the death of Doyle, millions are still thrilled by reading 'Holmes Stories'. By the middle of the 20th Century, Holmes became internationally famous. Books were translated into sixty languages and published in 110 countries. Baker Street, the imaginary residence of Sherlock Holmes, became a much visited place. Sherlock Holmes is one char-

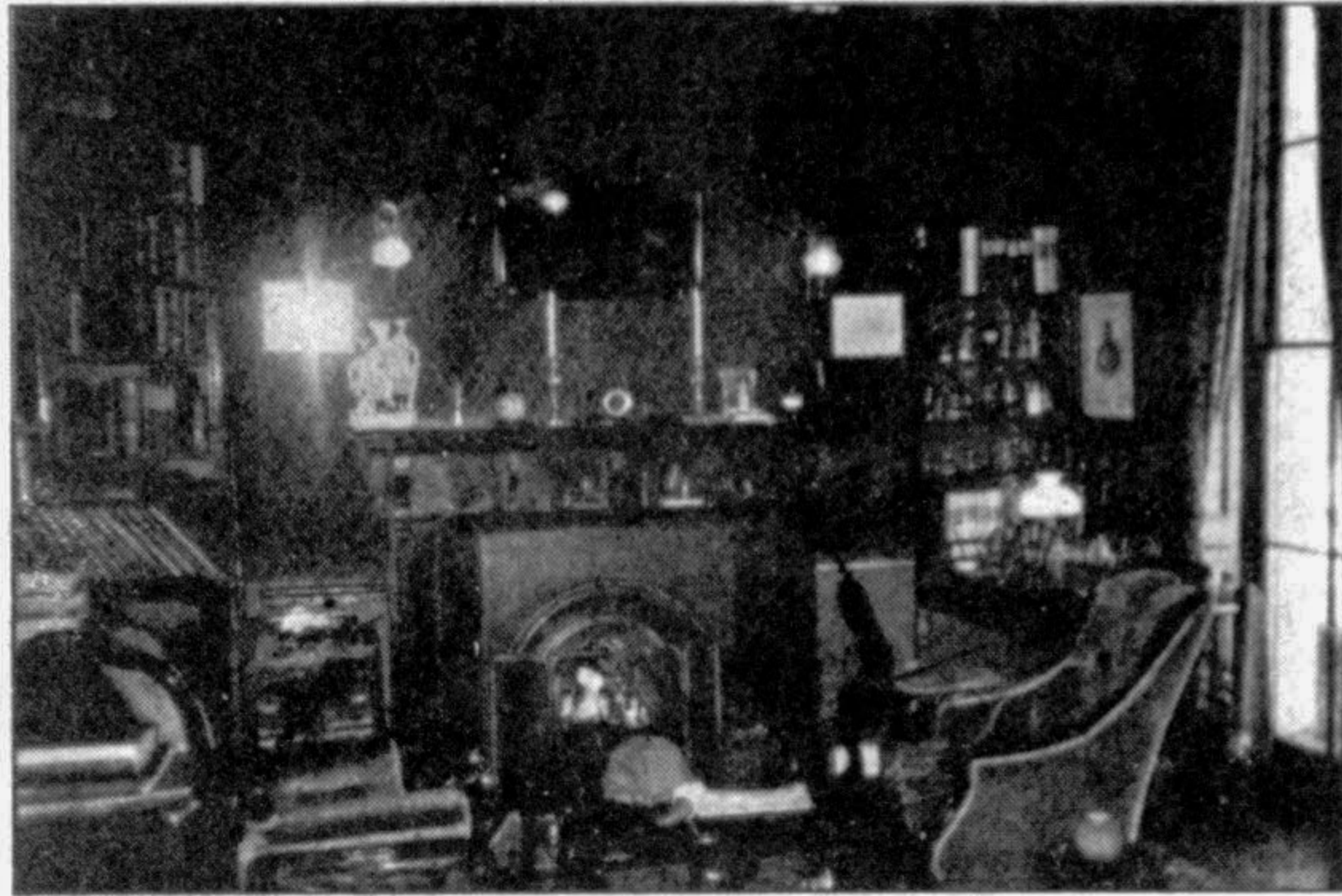


Sherlock Holmes Museum.

acter who has been portrayed by hundreds of actors since 1901. Among them, the most prominent is Jeremy Brett. Jeremy Brett is endowed with all the physical features to play Holmes. He is tall, excessively lean, with a narrow face, hawk like nose, a thin mouth and piercing eyes. By the 80's the British Govt. realized the necessity of building a museum to commemorate the great detective within a few years. The Sherlock Holmes Museum, located at Baker Street was opened to the public. During my stay in London I had the privilege of visiting the museum. There is a \$5 admission fee. The museum is absolutely magnificent. The entire building seems to be a part of Victorian England. The drawing room is exactly the way Conan Doyle described in his stories. A fireplace on one side, the violin lying on the floor, Dr Watson's walking

stick and Holmes deerstalker hat lying on a mahogany table...; the room is so lively that it seems that any moment Holmes might walk in and shout "Watson, get your hat and stick. We have matters on my hands of the greatest urgency".

On the second floor of the museum there is a room which contains all the clues used in Sherlock J Holmes stories. All of Baker Street is virtually flooded with Sherlock Holmes souvenir shops. For Holmes fans, a visit to the museum is a must. Just outside the Baker Street Station, a man dressed like Holmes gives directions in the museum. The Sherlock Holmes Museum testifies the fame and popularity of this fictional detective. Years will come and go, but the adventures of an eccentric detective and his doctor friend will continue to thrill millions of readers around the globe.



Holmes' drawing room

A Simple Suggestion

by Nameer Rahman

IT is no secret that over the past three months Bangladesh has gone through a particularly rough time, to say the least. At long last the country has just emerged from three gruelling weeks of non-cooperation that culminated in the total collapse of the government.

For the people who have to survive not on politics, but by earning a living. It was an exercise in isolation virtually cut off from probably the three essentials of modern life, food, medicine and education of their children. It will take a lot more however than only three weeks to rebuild the economy. For the younger generation the seemingly endless confinement amounted to a volatile boredom that could quite easily generate yet another revolution someday.

If a country as politically unstable as Bangladesh how can we possibly hope to avoid a similar scenario, the next time our leaders decide to bring an entire nation to a standstill? I have a simple suggestion.

Our politicians seem to take themselves more seriously than their role in society warrants. Ego is the driving force. It seems that the more their antics are mentioned in the newspapers the more they go out of their way to be noticed, which would also include frequently contradictory statements as well as scathing and inflammatory remarks against their political rivals.

If however, all the newspapers in agreement with one another quietly stop publishing political news including analysis and commentary, for a period of two months, one would see that all the political high jinks will drastically, if not completely, reduce. The politician's sole aim in life will have been defeated.

He will not have easy access to cheap publicity, and whatever he says or does will pass unacknowledged. There is enough international news to fill up the empty space and the absence of political sensationalism would prove an added advantage.

By sparing the public from the voracious egos of the politicians for a couple months, the media would also be performing an invaluable service to society.

Bye Bye Democracy

by Tasin Ahmed

We actually don't deserve to be honoured. As whatever we gain, we throw it away. When the blood-stained shirt of Nur Hossain - indicated our achievement of Democracy - We again foiled it with many more new dead bodies.

The long cherished democracy. - The cry for freedom of speech. All ended in level best vain.

Like a derby horse the democracy vanished. Or frankly speaking it never truly came. All the promises of the politicians. All the big speeches inflating big hopes - Turned out to be false and of self-interest.

The country remains focused - To all the people of the world - A country of never ending political violence.

Thirst for power - And also some stubborn counterparts. Has demolished the seed of democracy - Sowed by the blood of thousand Nur Hossain.

We actually don't deserve to be honoured. As we cannot maintain what we gain - And after long twenty five years of freedom We are still locked up in our houses - Craving for some fresh air. Oh Democracy! Oh freedom. You really remain as an unsolved mystery.

While I was Thinking of You

by Kazi K Arafat

I was lying
My back on the cold bare winter floor
My heart warm nonetheless
thinking of you.

When suddenly
I saw a black out
Making it's way across the vastness of a floor tile
Innocent in it's tenacity
But I was irritated by it
And I killed that out
Started thinking of you again.

Later
When your smile was still making me cry
My conscience
An unnecessary disturbing element
Interrupted my reverie
And an alien part of me
Hated me
For the murder of innocence.
And even though I tried to put it away
My conscience still kept bothering
Like a toothpick in the wrong part of the body
And I got annoyed at that
So I killed my conscience, too.

'Jhalak' -- A New Attraction

MODELLING is a popular media ail over the world. Even a poor country like Bangladesh is not lagging behind in this respect. For promotion of products, advertisement is vital; and for advertisement modelling is necessary. Therefore, the new generation is very enthusiastic about modelling. One of such young model stars is - Zahid Ahmed Chowdhury.



Zahid Ahmed Chowdhury

Zahid Ahmed's father, who is blind has established himself as a competent and ideal human being by dint of his own qualities. Presently, he works as the Director of Impact Foundation Bangladesh. He has also helped established the Sir John Wilson School at Gulshan. Recently, he has been involved as a visiting lecturer in the Department of Special Education at the National University. Zahid's mother, Jesmin Rahman, a popular TV an-

nouncer, suffered from cancer and died last year. The premature death of his mother brought Zahid to the field of modelling. His mother's wish was to develop an institute for

promotion of modelling and drama. To materialise his mother's dream, Zahid started working for building such an organisation, which he has named 'Jhalak'.

With his sole initiative, Zahid has motivated many new models and organised modelling workshop. Zahid recalls that there was a very good response from the first workshop. This response has encouraged Zahid to work future to materialise his mother's dream.

Zahid spent most of his time in New York. During his stay there, he became successfully involved as programme organiser with organisations like Raj Sun Entertainment, Gobin Entertainment. Presently, he wants to develop his career in his own country, and therefore he has involved himself with cultural activities.

His father's encouragement and his self confidence will take him a long way. Zahid believes, Zahid is busy in creative thinking and modelling and acting. Already he has been placed as a model in a calendar. He has also acted in stage dramas like, 'Nirapad sarak', 'Chompakanna' etc. He has also organised and participated in fashion shows; he has also entered into contract in a feature film 'Shitrookannaya' directed by Shibly Sadik.

Zahid's plan is to develop a package drama, 'Jiban Tari' on his family life. The Executive Editor of the Daily Ittefaq, Rahat Khan will be the Playwright. Zahid also plans to establish a Drama School. Renowned playwright, Atiqul Haque Chowdhury has promised to help. Zahid thinks he can develop his career with the inspiration from these people.

The Power of Music

WHAT started out as another trailblazer in the evolutionary world of dance music; has actually evolved into the most controversial, influential, powerful and commercial musical styles to hit the core of American culture.

and a controversial one at that. Criticised by conservative figureheads and feminists for its violent, sexually explicit and often, misogynistic contents. critics have turned their attention from heavy-metal acts, such as Ozzy Osbourne and Judas Priest, whose lyrics have driven teenage fans to attempt or commit suicide, to Rap.

The history of modern music has shown that musicians and their "product" have often been linked with crime and violence. Before Rap it was heavy-metal, with bands like AC/DC pulled into a whirlpool of debate and controversy after serial killer Richard Ramirez professed that he had been influenced by the song "Night Follower". And before that, Charles Manson claimed that

songs like "Helter Skelter", "Piggies", and "Revolution" from the Beatles' "White Album" contained an implicit message for Manson to start a race war.

Rap has brought this "trend" into the Nineties. In 1992, after Texas trooper Bill Davidson was senselessly murdered by nineteen-year old Ronald Ray, the boy went on record as saying that he had been influenced by the lyrics of the album "2Pacalypse Now" by Rapper 2Pac Shakur. The furor reached its peak that same year when Rapper Ice-T released "Cop Killer", a musical backlash against the police force in the wake of the Rodney King scandal and the debate over police brutality. Attacked by conservatives and law enforcement officials who no doubt felt that the lyrics provoked unwarranted violence against the police, the song was eventually pulled from the shelves.

The term Rap has now been, almost completely replaced by the more appropriate title "Gangsta Rap", and the ensuing allegations of violent and sexually blatant lyrics, and their resultant consequences has brought about little change. The more recent videos by Rapper Dr Dre depicts everything from a Meendez style murder to a plane heist.

So the question remains: Have artists gone too far? Who is to blame when lyrics drive teenage fans to suicide? Do artists possess too much power and too little initiative? The fact is there is and there never will be a singular answer.

All we have are different factions of people, driven by different beliefs, voicing their individual opinions. As for myself, as a person who listens to, and appreciates the art of Gangsta Rap, I feel that at the end it's all up to us. How we as listeners choose to interpret the lyrics, and moreover, how we evaluate the power of music.

Ice Cube: Is this best-selling artist a rap hero or a rap racist?

