

FOCUS

Ombudsman: A Component of National Integrity

by Manzoor Hasan

Politicians in Bangladesh are normally overwhelmed by the various issues confronting them and tend to rely heavily on the machinery and machination of the civil service

It is being increasingly felt that one of the ways of improving administrative efficiency and transparency is by the fulfilment of the constitutional provision that calls for the appointment of an Ombudsman...

The Ombudsman shall exercise such powers and perform such functions as Parliament may, by law, determine...

The Ombudsman shall prepare an annual report concerning the discharge of his functions, and such report shall be laid before Parliament.

The Rationale

Constitutional historians have put forward four main reasons for the establishment of specialist bureaucratic control institutions, such as that of an Ombudsman...

accounted for only about 1 per cent of total public sector employees. The remainder were employed by departments and directorates (69 per cent)...

The second and third reasons respectively being that the bureaucracies are politically unresponsive or inefficient and bureaucratic relationships are inherently dehumanising...

In most democratic pluralist societies, a fine balance has been developed between the politicians and the civil servants...

can has to resign under the principle, and commonly referred to as, of ministerial responsibility.

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The fourth reason being that the bureaucracy enjoys strategic power advantages over the traditional government control devices. Since 1971, Bangladesh has experienced more years of military and pseudo-military governments...

the institution. The appointment should be seen as above party politics and non-partisan. The appointment itself should be made on the basis of consensus either by the Parliament or the head of state...

The National Integrity System

The office of Ombudsman is just one more weapon in the stock of armoury to control the arbitrary bureaucratic and administrative action...

The Essentials

The proper functioning of an Ombudsman depends on a number of factors. It is important to stress that the process of appointing an Ombudsman is crucial to the building and sustaining of public confidence in

courageous of our citizens". Finally, the Ombudsman's ability to carry out the remedial action. The office of Ombudsman can either make recommendations or have the power to make determination...

The Panacea

The office of Ombudsman will not be the panacea for all the ills that one finds in the society today and such an expectation will be totally misplaced but it can, if established thoughtfully, provide a relatively efficient form of remedy to the general public in certain circumstances...

The writer, a Barrister-at-Law, is the Executive Director of Transparency International - Bangladesh Chapter.

Dhaka Day by Day Colour all around

by Lavina Ambreen Ahmed



To many peace-loving Dhaka dwellers DMP's ban on the sprinkling of colours and exploding crackers in the metropolitan area comes as a relief...

On April 9, Dhaka became a city of chaos, cacophony and colour. The denizens were ecstatic and rightfully so. Bangladesh has finally made it to the World Cup. The great feat definitely calls for celebration...

When news of the big win reached Dhaka, all hell broke loose. Some cricket fans became wild. Hundreds of unrestrained men took positions on the street determined to harass and terrorize the citizens...

Knowing quite well our tendency to commemorate any major success or happy occasion with 'rong khaela' many who ventured out that day donned unflattering, drab clothes to be on the safe side...

The DMP has finally woken up it seems. It's decision is timely and commendable. After the near impossible win in the final, the celebration did not go out of control...

a kick out of dragging commuters from their vehicles be it - rickshaw, autorickshaw bus or car and soaking them in cold coloured water...

Another lady was not spared by the hooligans when she was returning home with her five-year-old son. "We were thoroughly drenched" - she cried out "one guy actually joked: 'apa, before you had a pharsha (fair) child, now you have a multicoloured one'..."

For those who had to endure the vicious colour attack, BT's coverage of the day's events was a big blow. Our national channel presented a one-sided picture of simply how happy and festive the day was...

The spraying of colour from a distance did not satisfy the rowdy revelers. The sadists got

Memory Booster

A newly tested new drug to help septuagenarians remember, was disclosed at the annual meeting of neuroscience in Washington...

in memory tests than those taking placebo. Medium doses of ampakines doubled their score and higher doses made them capable to match 20 to 25 year olds...

Retreating Army Calls on Part-time Tarzans

Government spending cuts and the end of the Cold War have caused a manpower shortage in Britain's once-powerful armed forces. The gap, reports Chris Dunkerley of Gemini News Service from Edinburgh, Scotland, is being plugged by part-time soldiers - astrophysicists and househusbands who fire rifles when they are not studying the stars or changing nappies.

MARINE Williams looks as though he is dying. He has spent 11 months training to be a reservist in the Royal Marines, one of the world's most renowned fighting forces...

He is half-way round the course when his run is reduced to a hobble, his breath to the wheeze of an expiring donkey. An ambulance is parked by the course, and one of the officers tells me: "People die on this course."

Paradoxically, it is not Williams whose life is draining away - it is the British armed forces. Over the past five years, the Army has shrunk by 19 per cent, losing more than 25,000 men and women...

All the forces have part-timers. But Royal Marine Reservists like to think of themselves as there with "elite" forces such as the SAS (Special Air Services), who have built a mystique for daring commando operations...

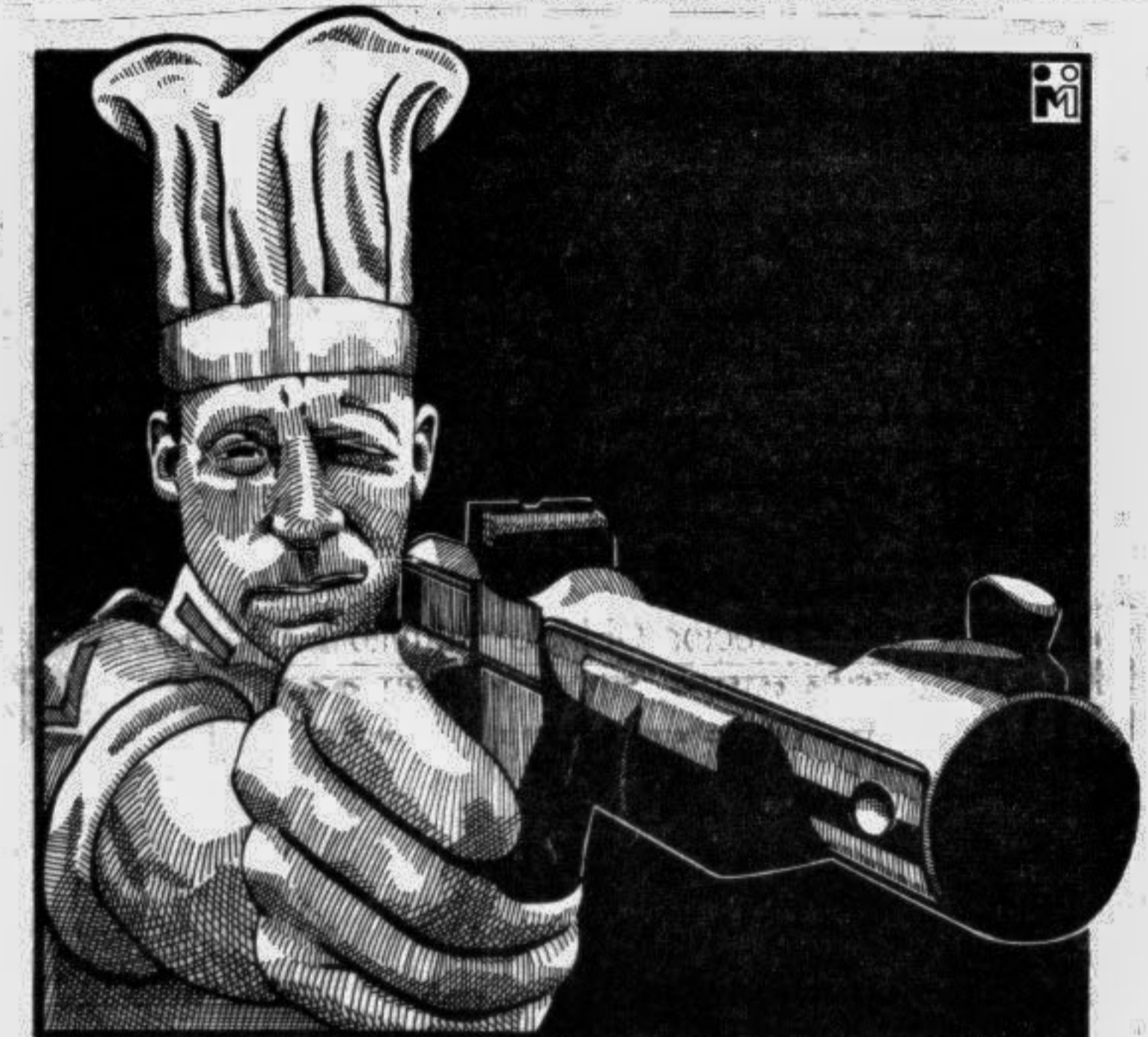
land alone, 200 men applied to be Marine Reservists last year. Only eight made the grade. They find it to be a good antidote to a stressful day at the office or around the home.

Colin Milne, 27, is about as far as one can get from the traditional idea of a soldier. Three months before we met, he became a father. "I'm going to be a househusband," he says...

The minimum commitment demanded from a reservist is training every Thursday evening, and at least two weeks a year continuous training at camp.

Milne was a delivery driver, but was unhappy with his job. "With the baby coming, the expense of a child-minder was going to be too much. I really wanted to be a marine. It looked like something that would inspire you, give you some sort of belief and self-confidence."

The more we talked about it, the more it made sense. I've increased my wages, too. Before, I was getting £24 a day. In the marines, I get £33 for each day I work for it.



Out of the frying pan into the firing line: Gaps in Britain's military power are being plugged by part-timers

by government cutbacks in recent years, but also by the British public's perception of a diminishing role for the armed forces following the Soviet collapse. Suddenly, a company car made a lot more sense than a tank...

rently being taken to the European Court of Human Rights for not allowing women to join their combat ranks. Many see the forces as anachronistic, a secret society like the Freemasons, with their own traditions and standards...

It is not just about redefining the role of an ex-colonial nation. It is also about having the forces to front one of the world's biggest arms industries. Who would buy tanks from a national with a tiny army that did not go out and make a name for itself?

Image is everything, and this is one of the reasons 22-year-old John Hardie responded to the Marine Reserve's advertising. "It's a good chat-up line," he says. "It's not every guy you meet who could do this sort of thing. You tell someone you're a marine and they respect you."

Hardie, from Glasgow, is unemployed. Fourteen years of boxing have given him a boxer's dentured face: "I'm interested in

going on to become a full-time marine, but I wanted to see from the inside what life would be like." A number of reservists do the same, and the marines know it is a good recruitment channel...

Recruitment officers love men such as Smith. He is the new "thinking soldier", ideally suited to the humanitarian and peacekeeping roles that the forces are carving out for themselves now there is no identifiable "enemy".

"Reserve forces are more likely to be called up for humanitarian missions and peacekeeping," says Smith. "That is something I would really do. You feel like you're doing something for a purpose - for a good cause."

Back on the Tarzan course, Williams is facing fast and the clock is ticking faster. Then, around the corner come the rest of his unit, who have made the grade. They form a circle around him and egg him on. The one in front runs backwards. "Look into my eyes, Williams," he says. "You can do it."

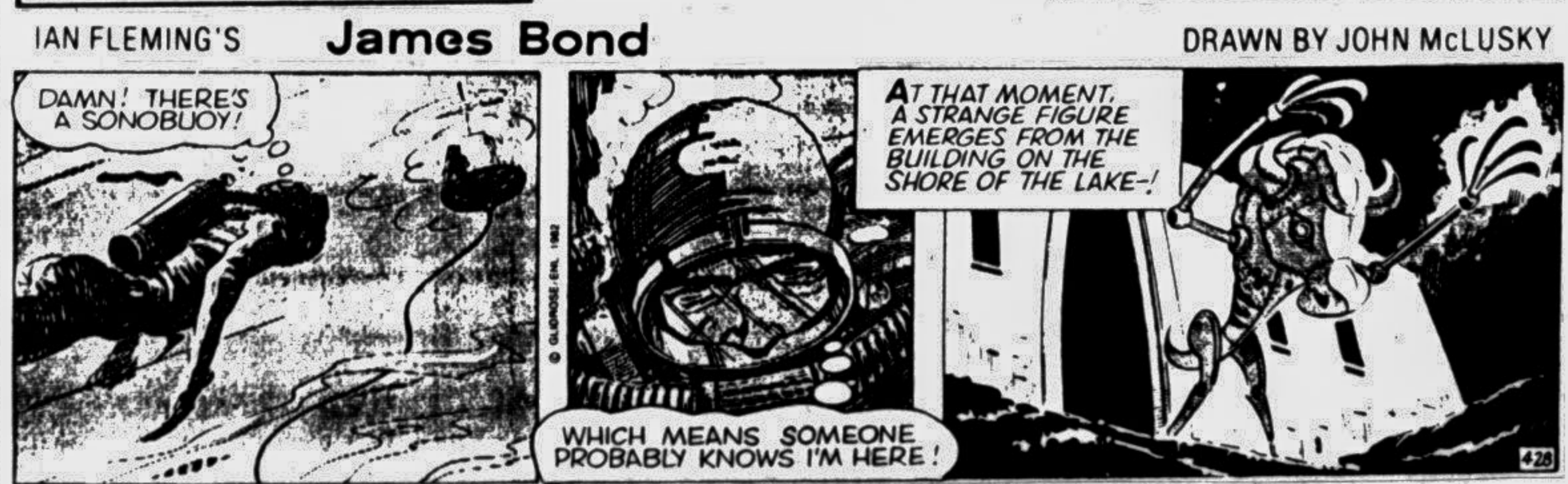
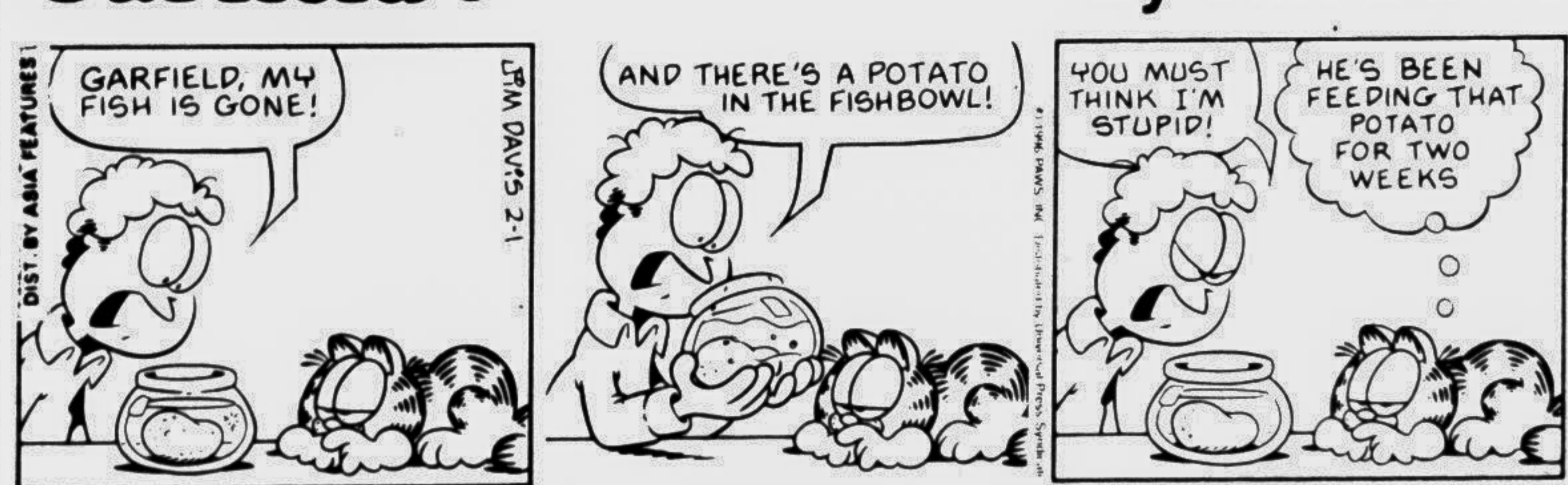
With their support, Williams does it by a split second. With Williams' support, the British armed forces are going to live to fight another day.

The writer is a British freelance journalist who writes for Scotland on Sunday and a number of other newspapers and magazines.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Table listing TV and radio programs for Wednesday 16th April across various channels like BTV, BBC, ZEE TV, EL TV, DD 7, and STAR SPORTS.

Garfield by Jim Davis



Wednesday 16th April (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes) BTV 3:00 Opening Announcement Al-Quran Programme Summary 3:10 News in Bangla 3:15 Patriotic songs 3:20 Recitation from the Geela 3:25 Drama Serial: 4:30 Cartoon film: Top Cat 5:00 News in Bangla 5:40 Geetabtan: Tagora Song 6:10 Maner Katha 6:50 Open University 7:00 The News 8:00 News in Bangla 8:45 Package Drama 10:00 News in English 10:25 Muktidhara 11:30 News in Bangla 11:20 Thursday's programme 11:40 Close down

CHANNEL V 6:30am VJ Alessandra 7:00am Rewind VJ Sophia 8:00am Frame by Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00noon Rewind VJ Sophia 1:00am By Demand VJ Sophia 1:00am Frame by Frame 2:30 Liberty First Day First Show 3:00 Fashion Police 3:30 Curry 4:00 Planet Ruby 4:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30am Rewind VJ Sophia 7:00 By Demand VJ Trey 8:00

STAR PLUS 6:30 Ninaad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:30 Aerobics Oz Style 12:00 Madeline Cooks 10:30 Extreme Close-Up 11:00 Charles In Charge 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 Final Cut 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Meri Awaz Suno 3:30 Bunniyaad 4:00 Kya Baat Hai 4:30 Lost In Space 5:30 New Adventures of Black Beauty 6:00 Charles In Charge 6:30pm Madeline Cooks 7:00 The Great Escape 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Small Wonder 8:30 Banjara Guest House 9:00 Tehkhat 9:30 Star News 10:00 Allo Allo 10:30 The X Files 11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00am Santa Barbara 1:00 Star News 1:30 La Law 2:30 Picket Fences 3:00 Fantasy Island 4:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:30 Barnaby Jones

EL TV 12:30 HFF 2:00 Rajni 2:30 Zandu Balm Dance Mania 3:00 Ortem Purnukshetra 4:00 HFF 7:00 Music Capsules 7:30 Stand By 7:40 Music Capsules 8:30 Heesen Pal 8:40 Scandal 9:00 Awaz Naye Andaz Wah 9:30 V3- 10:00 HFF 1:00 Superhit Hungama 1:30 Gujarati Band 3:00 Shadyantra 3:30 Sorry Meri Lorry 4:00 Dard 4:30 ZED 5:00 HFF 7:50 Heesen Pal 8:00 Akhri Dao 8:30 Yumkeen Mast Mast Show 9:00 Shatranj 9:30 Amar Prem 10:00 Archies Top of the Tops 10:30

James Bond 12:30am Urdi Khat 12:55 Urdan-e-Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 Gichain (Drama Serial) 2:00 Inteha (Drama Serial) 2:50 The Earth Revealed 3:20 Arashi Pudar 3:40 Natural World 4:35 How Things Work 5:00 Yeh Mumk In Ha 5:25 Hamara Sehat 5:55 Kitab Quiz 6:25 Aioi Courses 7:00 Tararun 7:05 Felix The Cat 7:30 Such Gup 7:45 English News 8:00 Movern Gold Fazaday 8:25 Jawan Rang 8:55 PTV Gold 9:00 Break for Headline News 9:20 Aap Ki Anwar Maqsood 10:00 Khabarama &

DD 7 10:30 Janmadin 10:35 Classical Music 11:00 Foks Song 11:15 Adhunik Gaan 11:30 Parliament Hour 12:30 Parichay/Monorama 1:30 Trishna (Serial) 2:30 Mone Rekho More Gaan (Serial) 3:00 Shalbani Katha (Serial) 3:30 Chetana (Serial) 5:05 Nepali Programme 5:30 News 5:35

STAR MOVIES 7:30am Thriller: Blink 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 Family: The Return of Tommy Tricker PG (Hindi Subtitles) 11:30 Adventure: Treasure Island PG (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Comedy: Home Alone II: Lost in New York 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Adventure: High Lonesome 12 (Hindi