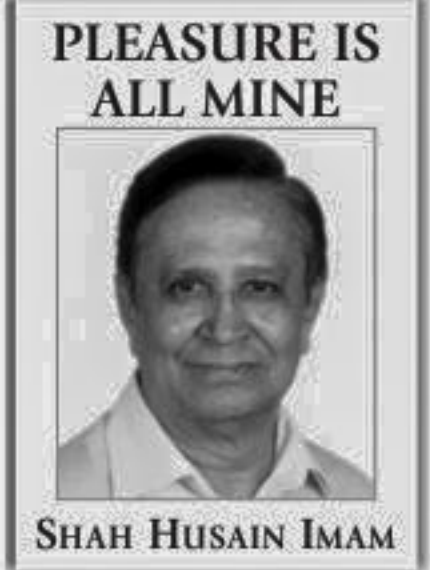


Victory from a mother of victory



SHAH HUSAIN IMAM

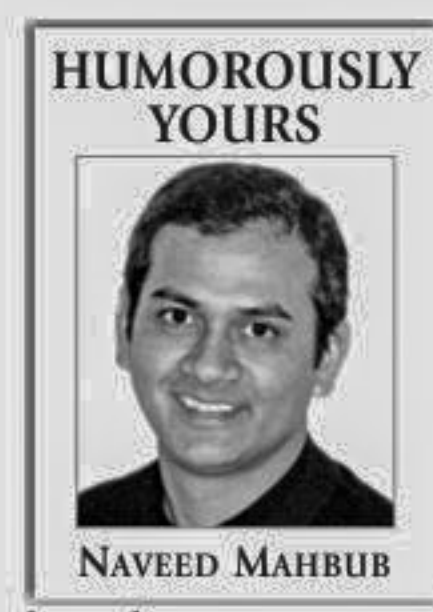
PLEASURE IS ALL MINE
SPORTS have such a universal appeal and magnetism that the Berlin Olympics staged by Hitler in 1936 turned out to be a picture-perfect event. Although there were murmurs of reluctance among some big countries to join it, they ended up doing it all the same. Owen from the USA clinched four gold medals.

Cricket, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi did a bit of Saar diplomacy. He wrote letters to heads of government of countries taking part in the greatest cricket spectacle in four years wishing them good luck.
We often talk about the fruits of national independence 44 years since our attaining it; sometimes lamenting over unfulfilled aspirations, and at other times relishing what we have been able to achieve. Benchmarked to where we had been pre-1971, we are much better off in almost all parameters of socio-economic development today. That, not only compared to Pakistan alone, but a few other South Asian countries as well.

Take sports, particularly in cricket before 1971, a Bangladeshi player couldn't see beyond the 12th man slot in Pakistan team.
From this standpoint, our quarterfinals berth in the World Cup series is a niche carved entirely by virtue of being an independent country. Elated that we must be over the success thus far; its heady wind must not get to our heads. We cannot go gaga as though we have moved into the semifinals, far less within any striking distance of lifting the World Cup.
Recall here that in the West Indies World Cup 2007, Bangladesh entered the last eight by defeating India and South Africa. That was no small achievement either.

Nevertheless, Bangladesh has taken 15 years since acquiring the Test status to make it to the quarterfinals. Sri Lanka, on the other hand, over a similar 15-year time-span between 1981, when it had acquired Test status and 1996, when it leapfrogged to winning the World Cup beating Australia. So what Sri Lanka had attained in 15 years we have only crossed quarter of the way in that long a period. That defines the configuration of the task ahead for our cricketers and the game management.
Bangladesh compares well with New Zealand minus its present devastating form. New Zealand became a Test playing country in 1930 but it had to wait 26 years to record a Test match victory. Further two decades on, it has clinched victories over its traditional rivals England and Australia.

RUBY Tuesday



NAVEED MAHUB

HUMOROUSLY YOURS
OCTOBER 29, 1929 - Black Tuesday. The stock market crashes in the US.
March 10, 2015 - Ruby Tuesday. Our kids go to school on a weekday for the very first time this year, thanks to the 'relaxing' of *hartal*.

But my daughter is not relaxed, as I wake her up late Monday night to tell her to go back to sleep and rest well so as to wake up at 6am on Tuesday so as not to fall asleep in class during school, which, by the way is open, according to the SMS I receive from her school at 10pm.

While she and countless other disoriented kids go to school on an otherwise academic weekend day called Tuesday, the picketers relax by taking a break from the breaking while donning all green and red (not blood for a change) to join in on the nationwide party. That's party party, not political party. Perhaps some hangs over the day after with picking up of wickets instead of bamboo sticks to continue with the destruction. Oh, the LEDs light up upon shattering Lexus windshields.

And thus, an omnipresent 'V' sign. 'V' for victory, the 2 runs each by Tamim, Imrul and Shakib, the 2 precious wickets taken each by the hobbling Mashrafe and the multi-taskin' Taskin, the likening of Rubel to a powerful 2-stroke engine whose pummeling blitz results in a 2-fold jump in the valuation of the Ruble against the rubble of the Pound, our own M&M soul candy, aka, the Mahmudullah-Mushfiqur duo, the nation begging the 2 most powerful women in the country to a truce...

But the moment doesn't come easy. Just minutes before, the nation almost gets a heart attack when Tamim drops the catch, whether from sweaty palms, or from greasy fingers from a greasy lunch, or from squinting eyes in the flood lights from too much of *Fair & Handsome* and the ensuing albino effect. The nation's momentary wrath may have called for his relegation to Nirman School Cricket, but in hindsight, he merely prolonged the climax, perhaps giving Reckitt Benckiser a brain wave for making him the brand ambassador for its flagship product.

In the end, Tamim is spared of seriously contemplating a sports asylum in Australia. Nothing goes wrong with England. It is all that goes right with Bangladesh. The Tigers don't participate, they perform. So does even the seemingly fumbling Tamim -- I, as a stage performer, know what nervousness means even when just 10 pairs of eyes are glued on to you. The Tigers carry Bangladesh through to the quarter-finals while a Boeing carries England to Heathrow Airport. I wonder if the inventor of cricket now regrets spreading the game to its colonies.

Oh, and Rameez Raja, it's not the underdog Down Under. Perhaps many felt like putting a pacifier in his mouth, replacing the foot that was already in there and after the last of England's wickets gone, making him eat a humble pie. The ill-mannered is now no longer called *bay-tameez*, but *bay-Rameez*.

And today, Friday the 13th? If Bangladesh loses, *hartal* may be pushed ahead (or as India puts it, 'pre-poned') from Sunday to Saturday.

Never knew that the game changing game in the game of thrones would be the game of cricket. The Tigers are not only our pride, but are also our *Hartal* Busters. We may not have cricket, let alone the win of the Tigers, every day, but in some game somewhere, somebody wins every day. To celebrate that win, maybe the powerful can Tamim, er, drop, their plans for prolonging the climax of stalemate on every single day...

The writer is an engineer & CEO turned comedian (by choice), the host of NTV's *The Naveed Mahub Show* and the founder of *Naveed's Comedy Club*.
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Why they fled Pakistan -- And won't go back



Here we publish an excerpt from the article "Why they fled Pakistan -- And won't go back." It was written by famous journalist and litterateur Khushwant Singh. The New York Times published it on August 1, 1971.

KHUSHWANT SINGH

It is going to be hell for us.
-Indira Gandhi

THIS is my third visit to the India-Pakistan border 60 miles east of Calcutta. ... I ask the cab driver to pull up at a small encampment near the village of Mandalpara. As soon as I step out of the car a crowd collects around me. They tell me they are about a thousand families of fisherfolk and thatch makers from the Jessore and Khulna Districts of East Pakistan. I start with the question I had put to the refugees when I came this way in 1957 and 1964: "Why did you leave Pakistan?"

the Indian State of Assam included large numbers of Christians and Buddhists.
Likewise, anti-Moslem riots in several cities of India, chiefly Calcutta and Ranchi in Bihar and some towns in Madhya Pradesh, forced thousands of Indian Moslems to flee to the eastern wing of Pakistan, which is nearer to them than the western wing. But beginning last March, for the first time in the history of Indo-Pakistan refugee movements, migration was taking place not because of riots between Hindus and Moslems but because of the violent suppression of a democratic movement by the Pakistani Army. And thousands of Moslems from the Islamic state of Pakistan were seeking sanctuary in predominantly Hindu India.

know has been acquired by the Pakistani Army and given away to Moslem peasants to win their support. I asked all those I interviewed whether they would go back to Pakistan. The Moslems replied: "Yes, when Bangla Desh is liberated." Hardly any of the Hindus thought of returning. They have nothing to return to. India's promise of one square meal a day and a tent over their heads is more than they expect to get in Pakistan. Even if Bangla

officials in the Bengal state government who are entrusted with the handling of the refugees. Nirmal Sen Gupta, chief secretary of the government, exclaims: "Our tragedy is that as soon as we begin to make headway in any direction, we are pulled back by some catastrophe or other."



Khushwant Singh (2 February 1915 – 20 March 2014)

Grievance over language and the economic exploitation thus gave birth to East Pakistani nationalism, which soon crystallized as a demand for an autonomous homeland. Once when Mujibur Rahman was asked why he wanted to break away from a Moslem state, he is reported to have replied: "If the only reason for our continuing to be with West Pakistan is that we are both Moslem, why shouldn't we join some other Moslem state, like Kuwait, from which might get more money?"

The Bengalis considered their grievances mainly political, but the Pakistani Army was soon giving the rebellion a religious twist. The military began concentrating on ridding the country of only Hindu Bengalis. (Hindus make up 90 per cent of the seven million refugees.) Will the refugees ever return to East Pakistan? Most of those I met were landless peasants, shopkeepers, fisherfolk, thatch makers, potters, weavers, cobblers, ironsmiths or just unskilled laborers. The holding of those who had land was seldom more than one acre. And this they

Desh comes in to being, it will take a lot to persuade the locals to part with properties grabbed by them, and for the Hindus to feel secure enough to return. "Why should we go back?" many replied. "This is our country." To the Pakistani Hindu, India has always been *Amar Desh* -- "my homeland."

On the last day of my visit, I call on

In the afternoon, I call on Mr. Hossein Ali, who defected from the Pakistan Government and is now the chief representative of Bangla Desh in India. He is ensconced in a massive, three-story mansion which was once the office of the Deputy High commissioner of Pakistan. The green-and-gold flag of Bangla Desh now flies from the mast.

"Joy Bangla -- victory to Bangla Desh," I say upon meeting him. He gracefully acknowledges the greeting. "It will be so soon, Inshallah -- if Allah wills. We are giving our liberation forces extensive military training. We'll throw out the Pakistani Army," he says with confidence. He is discreet and does not tell me how many are being trained, where and by whom. But I have picked up the information from my journalist friends, who report that 15,000 are undergoing regular army training and many more are being put through a three-week course in guerrilla tactics -- how to dynamite bridges and roads, how to throw hand grenades, and so on. The target is a force of 50,000 in a few months.

"When will your forces go into action?"
"They harry the Pakistanis all the time. Go to any point of the border and you'll hear sounds of rifle and mortar fire. Now the monsoon is on and Pakistani tanks are immobilized. Our liberation forces have stepped up their operations. It won't be too long -- Inshallah."

Source: *The New York Times*. For full article please visit our website: www.thedailystar.net/op-ed

CROSSWORD by Thomas Joseph

ACROSS

- Body shop challenges
- Motherless calf
- Outfit
- Supreme Court Justice Kagan
- German pistol
- Fuses
- Touches base
- Common verb
- Finished off
- Star on a map
- Determined
- Book wrap-up
- Blissful spots
- Quell concerns
- In the style of
- Under-stood
- Empty talk
- Congress creation
- Baltimore team
- Perhaps
- Show pain
- Blundered
- Mayflower name
- Romantic dozen

DOWN

- River areas
- Compare
- Prospector's find
- Makes a bow
- Neatened
- Grass coating
- Flamenco call
- Frozen dessert
- How Hoffman played Tootsie
- Stand for art
- One working on a wall
- Languished
- They, to Merimee
- Snake shape
- Jockey Eddie
- Nymph chasers
- Meeting slate
- Cavalry weapons
- Nod
- Arcade patron
- Despicable
- Garden visitor
- Harris and Asner

Yesterday's answer

TOWER CAMUS
IN AWE OPART
PALIN WORSE
KNOT SCAM
SWIG OATH
PIN CELLIST
ANGEL TENOR
SOPRANO GIO
AIDA ABLY
WEPT GILLA
ALERT NONOS
VIREO ENDUP
ESSAY ZESTY

QUOTABLE Quote

The season of failure is the best time for sowing the seeds of success.

Paramahansa Yogananda

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