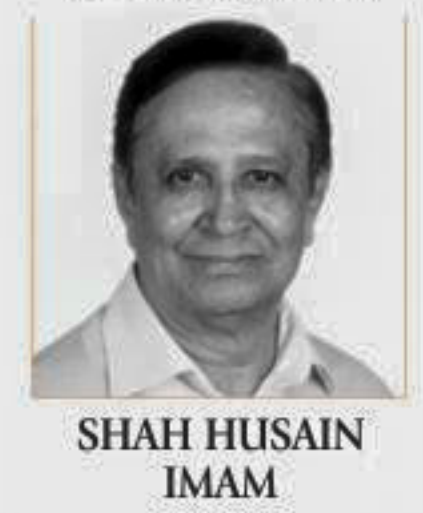


Taking the rough with the smooth

PLEASURE IS ALL MINE



SHAH HUSAIN IMAM

HERE'S no denying the tides in the affairs of our cricket. You are not just watching the waves scale up and break on the shores of the world's cricket capitals with a balmy breeze

at any cost.

But the real test lies in how we deal success. But even Napoleon who had said, 'Impossible is a word found in the dictionary of fools', had met his Waterloo. We must not rest on the oars of our laurels; instead row them vigorously.

The Sri Lankan coach Hathurusingha sums up the task ahead in a few words: 'Train hard, play hard.' He and the bowling coach Heath Streak are credited for inculcating in our national side, an unvarying fighting spirit, highs and lows along the game regardless.

A BBC sports programme has marvelled at the success story. Previously Bangladesh was rated as a 'mediocre' team pulling off isolated one-offs with big teams but now their attainments have been consistently linear.

Yet the incorrigible critic of Bangladesh cricket Sir Geoff Boycott cannot come out of his boycotting flair. Said he, 'Only when the Bangladesh side wins against Australia, South Africa or New Zealand playing in their countries that the world will turn its eyes to Bangladesh.' Boycott, the batter, can only bat for his views.

Bizarre comments have issued from Pakistan. Quite a few in that country believed that India intentionally lost to Bangladesh aiming to keep Pakistan out of the Champions League Trophy.

Pakistan is dislodged by Bangladesh in the ranking dropping off to 9th position.

Reacting to Bangladesh's triumphs in the series with Pakistan, the media in that country and cricket professionals,



barring some notable exceptions, were critical more of their own side than gracefully shower a word of praise on Bangladesh. Actually, snide remarks were made against the Bangladesh side; one commentator even saw the wins as an 'affront' and wondered how such a poor side as Bangladesh could beat them.

By contrast, one has to say that Indian newspapers ran editorials and comments profusely praising the rejuvenation of Bangladesh's cricket.

Gavasker's shoulder-to-shoulder metaphor to Bangladesh's rise and Ashwin's witty bit that they couldn't 'abduct'

Mustafiz and will have to play him, are interesting sidelights. Also the Indian media went as far as suggesting that Bangladesh has taken revenge against India for its defeat in the World Cup quarterfinals (controversial umpiring decisions implied). Dhoni was openly criticised for knocking Mustafiz. But rather weird was a West Bengal newspaper's remark that 'Bangladeshis do not forget any hurt and levels up with the tormentor.'

Bangladeshi cricket fans have matured as well. They were celebrative without being offensive. An Indian fan

who was allegedly heckled came out with his version saying that nobody had hurt him.

Apart from the heartwarming wins for the nation one particular dividend is perhaps waiting to be reaped. This is centred on the prospect of top international teams casting off their reluctance to play with us. They being wary of limited ticket sales should be enthusiastic over encounters with Bangladesh in the near future.

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One social message to draw from Mustafiz's rise is a tribute to an extraordinary talent bursting on to the scene entirely due to his merit and from humble origins.

about to greet us. You also ride them on a new flagship with an unspoken mission to add value to our national image.

In a nutshell, the outstanding laurels are: One, we have improved our ODI ranking to the 8th place being entitled to play in the Champions League 2017. By one broad stroke, we get the opportunity to show our prowess in the cricket Ivy League. Two, bowling prodigy pacer Mustafizur Rahman finished the series against India with 13 wickets to level with Ryan Harris as the highest wicket-taker in an ODI series featuring at least three matches. Three, cricket buffs rank our one day side as one of the best fighting units in world cricket today.

One social message to draw from Mustafiz's rise is a tribute to an extraordinary talent bursting on to the scene entirely due to his merit and from humble origins. This is what an equal opportunities society should be all about. We are a country abounding with talents and must reach out to them

JAHANARA IMAM

AN UNSTOPPABLE, UNITING FORCE

On her 21st death anniversary, we pay homage to Jahanara Imam, the iconic activist who inspired the entire nation to unite in the efforts to bring those accused of committing war crimes in the Bangladesh Liberation War to trial. Shahriar Kabir and Shameem Akhtar talk to The Daily Star about the Jahanara Imam they knew.

SHAHRIAR KABIR

JAHANARA Imam is the first person to unite every power associated with the liberation war - be it a political, social or cultural force - under a single umbrella. She was able to do so through raising the demand to punish war criminals and working towards the realisation of the spirit of liberation. Bangabandhu was the only other person who was able to bring the whole nation together through his call for liberation.

After the Liberation War, the various forces associated with it were at loggerheads over different issues. Jahanara Imam would always say that the forces against Bangladesh's liberation, those involved in fundamentalism and extremism, have been successful in thriving in the country because of the lack of unity between those who fought for independence. She would say that there's no need to think that they have huge public support backing them.

That's why she had taken the initiative to unite every organisation that was in favour of the Liberation War. And she was successful in doing that. There were prior initiatives to bring together the various pro-liberation agencies but the endeavours were unsuccessful.

She possessed the rare quality to lead people. She was the only person who could command Sheikh Hasina. She would call the prime minister up and say that she needed help with manpower support at a programme or some other kind of political assistance, and the now PM would oblige.

Every force working for the Liberation War would arrive at Jahanara Imam's call. Individuals or organisations that couldn't even bear to come face to face, would all come under one banner, thanks to the leadership of Jahanara Imam. Her success conquered borders. The success of *Gono Adalat* led to a documentary film made in Japan, on the civil society move-



ment, highlighting Jahanara Imam. Even they were amazed that half a million people were brought together in one place under the leadership of a housewife, a writer and the mother of a freedom fighter. She did not have any organisational power, nor was she the member of any political power.

She was also able to convey a strong message to the young generation of the country. Those born after 1975 were taught a different, distorted history. The new generation that hadn't witnessed the Liberation War - the dark generation as we call it - are unfamiliar with the Liberation War or the correct account of history. Jahanara Imam oriented this new

generation toward the Liberation War. They became involved with Jahanara Imam's movement, read up and learnt about the war and thus, were able to gain a sense of pride as evidenced through the formation of the *Ganajagan Mancha* of 2013. There was only one picture at the *Ganajagan Mancha* that worked as a unifying factor and that was of Jahanara Imam's. The youngsters involved with the Mancha said that they were the children of the movement organised by Jahanara Imam, the children of the spirit of liberation.

It's been almost 20 years since her protest movement and yet it hasn't lost its relevance or significance. Even in

Pakistan, they have a branch of the Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, as they declared that if Bangladesh could overcome the powers of intolerance and extremism, why would it be difficult for them to do the same? There are Nirmul Committees in 15 countries of the world that will observe Jahanara Imam's birth anniversary today and honour her memory.

This is Jahanara Imam's legacy. The movement that she launched is a unique one that is unseen, unprecedented in the rest of the world.

The commentator is a writer, historian, war crimes researcher and executive president of Bangladesh's *Ektattur Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee*.

SHAMEEM AKHTAR

JAHANARA Imam might have been Rumi's mother, but she was also a mother to us all, a leader who inspired love, respect and authority. She used to demand deference - she would even call Sheikh Hasina by her name. The protestors, despite their diverse backgrounds, held her in the highest esteem. She was a witness of the history of the Liberation struggle; she saw it in the making. Once Sufia Kamal declined the leadership of the movement against war criminals because of her ill-health, it was Jahanara Imam that people turned to; it was she who became the symbol of the movement against war criminals.

When Gulam Azam became the *amir* of Jamaat -e-Islam, the protest for trial of war criminals began. People from different organisations and parties joined the protest, and the *Ektattur Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee* was formed. It was under her able leadership that we forged such a strong movement to demand a long-awaited justice.

And who wasn't there? Everybody was there! She maintained the tempo of the movement despite all odds, even though she was called a traitor during Khaleda Zia's tenure, even though she was accused of working against the state. And she died with that epithet of a traitor. She was even beaten by the police at one point, and fell and lost her consciousness, but she was never deterred. She used to say, "I am dry grass; if I come into contact with a drop of rain, I become green. You all are like rain to me, reviving me with your spirits." These beautiful lines still inspire me.

At the time, she was already undergoing cancer treatment, but we saw her working tirelessly. In 1994, the doctors recommended that she return to America for chemotherapy without any delay, but she, being in charge of the report of the *Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee* about the war crimes, couldn't leave without endorsing it. By the time she flew to America, after the last *Gono Adalat*, it was too late.

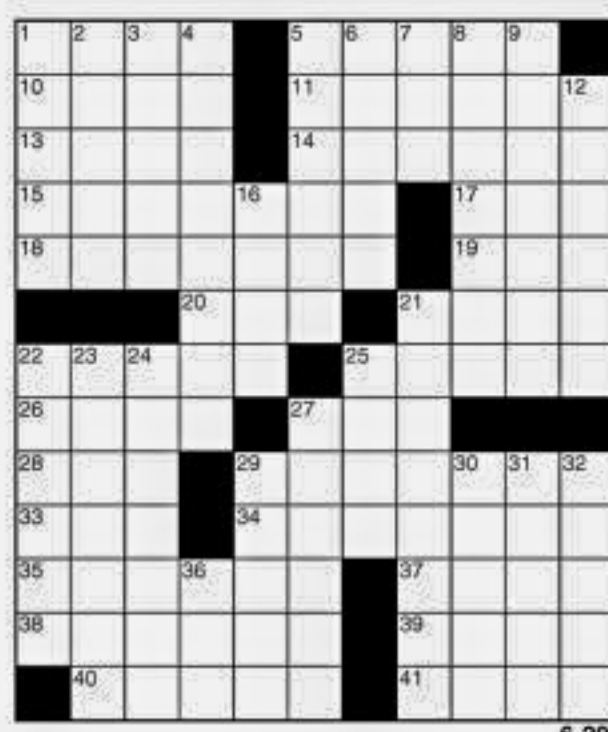
She passed away there, on this day. We wanted to bid her a proper farewell, with a mass procession. But even though people came to pay their respects, they were dispersed by the police, and in the end, the final goodbye was, sadly, an unceremonious one.

During her lifetime, she had been insulted so many times, by so many different groups. But the greatest insult was the torture and murder of her husband on December 14, 1971, when she was already going through the indescribable trauma of not knowing where her beloved son was. And the insult of being called a traitor... after everything she did for her country! The BNP government never withdrew it, refusing to give her the respect she deserved in life and in death.

The commentator is a filmmaker, writer and a member of *Ektattur Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee*.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Robe part
 - 5 Make extremely dry
 - 10 Choir voice
 - 11 Not digital
 - 13 Small pie
 - 14 Wake up
 - 15 Stockpiled
 - 17 Nabokov novel
 - 18 Really remotest spot
 - 19 Word of denial
 - 20 Treaty org. since 1948
 - 21 Enormous
 - 22 Minuscule amounts
 - 25 Small grove
 - 26 Charged particles
 - 27 Back muscle, for short
 - 28 Sch. support group
 - 29 Target of a fill-up
 - 33 Antlered animal
 - 34 Letter after delta
 - 35 Frees of suds
 - 37 Short skirt
 - 38 Husband or wife
 - 39 Nights before
- DOWN**
- 1 "Paradise Lost" figure
 - 2 San Antonio land-mark
 - 3 Sipping aid
 - 4 Whizzes
 - 5 Indiana cagers
 - 6 Battery end
 - 7 Ewe's mate
 - 8 Batting position
 - 9 Cookout items
 - 12 Small beard
 - 16 Map areas
 - 21 Blasts
 - 22 Wind-shield clearers
 - 23 "M*A*S*H" nickname
 - 24 Tangled
 - 25 One of the Mamas
 - 27 Ran out
 - 29 Gaggle members
 - 30 Full of energy
 - 31 Trio tripled
 - 32 Potato dumpling
 - 36 Take to court



Yesterday's answer

C	A	L	A	S	E	A	R	S		
A	M	A	N	D	S	L	I	M		
T	O	T	T	E	S	A	V	E		
C	R	E	W	S	M	E	D	I		
H	E	R	E	G	E	N	D	E		
R	A	R	A	I	R	S				
T	O	P	B	A	N	A	N	A		
R	O	N	A	N	T	S				
A	R	T	I	S	T	F	A	D	S	
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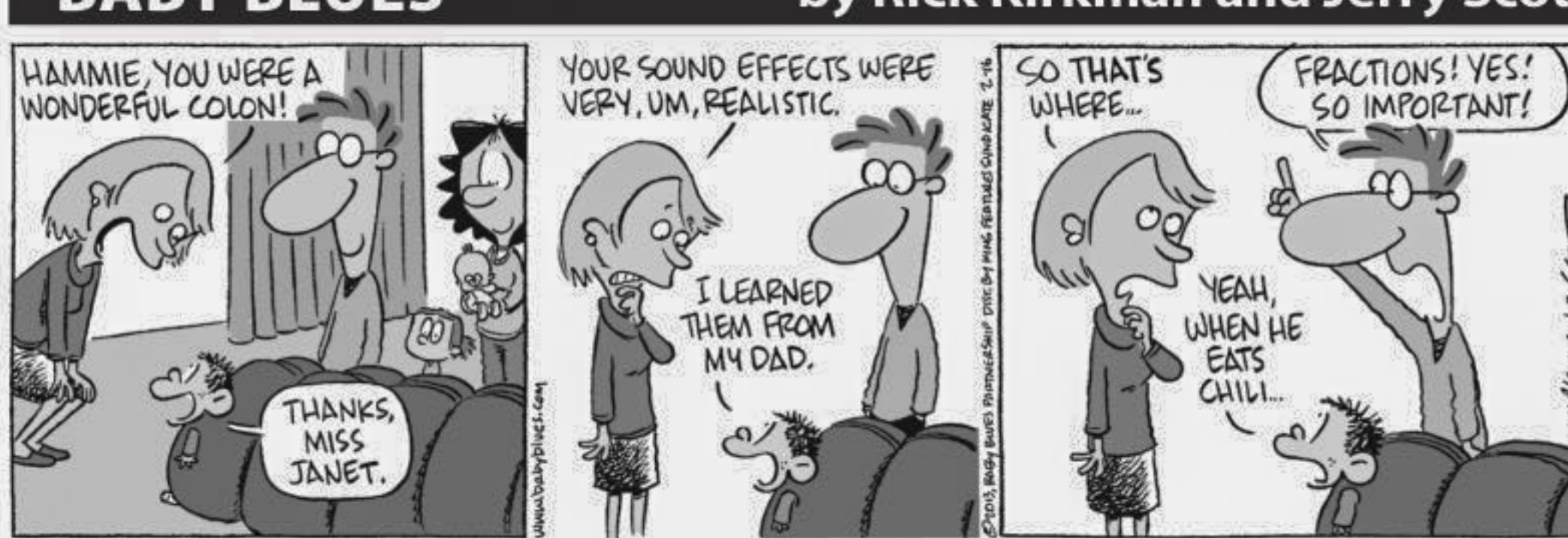
BEETLE BAILEY

by Mort Walker



BABY BLUES

by Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



QUOTABLE Quote

"We need a bond, not bondage.....It's better not to have so many responsibilities that are imposed on us. The love, the affection, and the sense of responsibility should be spontaneous"

JAHANARA IMAM