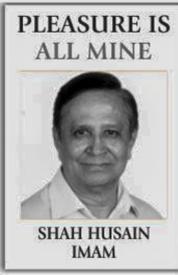


NO ILL-WILL INTENDED, just lighten up!



SHAH HUSAIN IMAM

PLEASURE IS ALL MINE

WEEKLY supplement titled *Roshalo*, of Bangla daily *Prothom Alo*, known for its bold humour and impish style, is making news on the other side of the border, not for flattering reasons, to be sure. You may just have a frown in your forehead, a short-lived one, we can assure you. Yes, all hell broke loose in a section of the Indian media over a 'photoshop caricature' on the cover of *Roshalo's* last Friday issue. No wonder, the eclectic content has gone viral over social media. While it has taken a week to sink in, it might take a few more to go off the radar.

The *New Indian Express* in a New Delhi datelined report fired a salvo last Thursday: "The caricature showed Indian players Ajinkya Rahane, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja, MS Dhoni, Shikhar Dhawan and Ravichandran Ashwin half-bald holding a banner saying 'We've used it. You can use it too'."

"Behind the cricketers shows a billboard showing Bangladeshi cricketer Mustafizur with a cutter in his hand symbolising his renowned 'offcutters'. The exact translation from the billboard is 'Tiger Stationery, Made in Bangladesh, Mustafiz Cutter is available in Stadium Market, Mirpur, Dhaka'."

ABP News Bureau of Delhi in a report said, "A newspaper ad by a renowned Bangladeshi newspaper shaming Team India members reeks of lack of sportsmanship in Bangladesh media."

A well-known Indian journalist even dug into

the past recalling a resentment in Bangladesh since the Farakka barrage days. Some of them thought with a graceful self-effacement topping that: India's ODI series defeat against Bangladesh went down as 'a sweet revenge' by Bangladesh for her defeat in World Cup quarterfinals against India. It implied a spat over some controversial umpiring decisions in the crucial match.

Well, from Bangladesh's side, the rants have been no less audible. There was the provocative Mauka Mauka jingle of an ad about the ICC World Cup India versus Bangladesh match. Of course, the same ad was run on the eve of the matches against South Africa and Australia. But

Rating the graphics as 'creative' he had a good laugh over the funny streak. He asked, 'Wouldn't have the Indian readers enjoyed the caricature had it been used in case of Pakistan?'

It can, however, be assumed that given the freedom of thought and speech in India, the Bangladeshi cartoonist may have taken an unpoetic liberty.

True, Indians worship their cricketers as heroes and can't normally countenance any negative jibe at them. But no personal umbrage taken. Their respect for their cricket icons is too robust to be wilted by any 'petty-fogging'.

Churchillian words, 'Magnanimity in victory and defiance in defeat' have not apparently wholly worked with Indian and Bangladeshi media. This is a pity. They can do with a greater sense of humour without any whiff of rancour harboured even in the deeper recesses of their minds. In fact, the mainstream Indian media granted that if Modi-Hasina relations had not taken the bilateral ties to a new height, any hint of negative publicity would have been much worse.

What all the above boils down to is the need for respecting each other's sensibilities. Both countries have to realise that just as their relationship has become closer, poised to grow from strength to strength with some unfinished agenda on the table, it is important that they don't hurt each other unnecessarily although they can critique one another on a constructive, problem-solving basis.

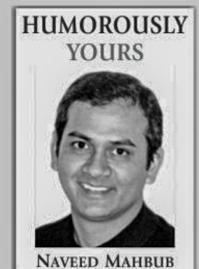
Indian media has recognised Bangladesh cricket as a unifier for the nation and that is about the best compliment it could give to our rising cricket star. On that note we end on a hand-shake.

In a sharp contrast to the riled Indian media, the country's ad guru Prahlad Kakkar paid unqualified compliments to the Roshalo satire. Rating the graphics as 'creative' he had a good laugh over the funny streak. He asked, 'Wouldn't have the Indian readers enjoyed the caricature had it been used in case of Pakistan?'

Bangladesh, as the improving side, needed good neighbourly encouragement from a well-established Team India. Besides, ads or remarks pointing to a 'Bachcha' coming of age sounded condescending. By contrast, you heard the genial Indian team manager's parting remarks to the press: "Bangladesh cricketers have not attained the present status overnight, it took 15 years' hard work and coaching for them to shape up as a strong winning unit."

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Practice what you post



NAVEED MAHBUB

AFTER the Great Wall of China, the Facebook Wall is the most famous wall built by man, well, ok, by a boy. Had Madonna been born twenty years later, her famous song would have been *Papa Don't Post*. And perhaps the priest in the music video of her song *Like a Prayer* would have looked bored and lazy, just back from conducting Mark Zuckerberg's wedding vows: "You may now tag your bride." And then, adding as an afterthought, "You may now update your status." He then ends with his parting

advice: "Practice what you post."

And that is exactly what is done. It is now the job of every good husband to wake up every morning and 'Like' every Facebook status of the wife. Otherwise, he runs the risk of being reported as spam. The exercise continues all day long. But, let's not forget that every spousal relationship follows the Law of Conservation of Attention – the sum of the attention paid in person and the attention paid in cyberspace is constant. So, many a wife complains that the hubby's fiddling with Facebook all day long results in his barely hearing, let alone comprehending, what she says.

Finally, she throws up her hands in exasperation: "Am I talking to a wall all day?"

"Yes honey, you are. Just as I'm talking to a wall all day." – that is, the Facebook wall...

So, post a status. See who likes it, how many 'Likes' you get, who



comments, what they write in their comments, who 'Likes' the comments of those who comment against you (you can put those people in your un-friend queue). It is a great way to gauge your (un)popularity.

What if the popularity index really starts going south? That hurts. After all, many of us suffer from Facebook addiction – by now having already checked our Facebook statuses twenty three times. Of course, there are the stop gap methods to temporarily 'Boost' the ego, er, I mean the post – we can always 'Like' our own Facebook statuses, the social media equivalent of one predictably answering his own question: "Mirror, mirror, on the [Facebook] wall..."

But for the sake of conjugal bliss, it is fine to blindly 'Like' every spousal post. But it's a stretch when a Facebook 'Friend' sends a message to 'Like' and then 'Share' his post or page. Look, I need to first like to 'Like' what I have just been requested to 'Like' and if I REALLY like it then, and only then, will I 'Share' it and share the thought.

Sometimes I wonder if Zuckerberg got the idea of Facebook from Bangladesh where we go to a tea stall, drink tea for five minutes, but engage in rants for three hours that lead to nowhere.

That's still fine. Open the window, let the sun in and accept a few flies making it through. But what does matter is when anyone and everyone with a Facebook account home in like vultures on to cricketer Nasir's recent post of a selfie with his sister. Perhaps someone could have created a fake Facebook account with the name 'Nobody' and then 'Liked' every sick comment that was made. The world would know that 'Nobody' 'Likes' all those sick comments and the cowards hiding behind the safety of probably their own fake Facebook accounts.

I sincerely hope that not a single one of all those who made derogatory comments on Nasir's post is on my 'Friends' list. Otherwise, even if Facebook says we are 'Friends', trust me, I wouldn't hesitate to punch him in the face.

And the star cricketer Nasir, of all the people, to be subjected to this? Why am I surprised? After all, we live in a land where no good deed goes unpunished.

Now that I've said it, I wonder if I will start getting enemy requests...

The writer is an engineer at Ford & Qualcomm USA and CEO of IBM & Nokia Siemens Networks Bangladesh turned comedian (by choice), the host of NTV's *The Naveed Mahbub Show* and the founder of *Naveed's Comedy Club*. E-mail: naveed@naveedmahbub.com

Remembering a conscientious public servant

MUHAMMAD NURUL HUDA

HE could have been an erudite professor in the corridors of our premier public university or an impeccable career diplomat with the characteristic grace and poise. Destiny, however, allocated his workplace in the rough and tumble of law enforcement where he proved to be a public servant of unimpeachable integrity. The above narration was, for sure, no hyperbole but a fitting description of A.B.M.G. Kibria, former Inspector General of Police and ambassador, who breathed his last on June 28.

A strikingly handsome personality, noticeably smart in uniform, Kibria was one of those few young Bangali men in the post-partition time who was equally proficient in sports and studies. A brilliant student of Economics, he graduated with honours and later obtained a Master's degree from Dhaka University. Before being appointed to the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP), upon successfully passing the Central Superior Services examination in 1952, he served as lecturer in Anandamohon College, Mymensingh and Jagannath College, Dhaka and later at Dhaka University.

Kibria was a star sprinter and footballer of his time and won many medals and laurels. It was thus no wonder that he served creditably as the General Secretary of East Pakistan Sports Federation in 1960-61. Manifestly elegant and gracefully attired in uniform, Kibria served as Aide-de-Camp to Sher-e-Bangla A.K. Fazlul Huq, Governor of East

Pakistan. Later, he served as First Secretary in the Deputy High Commission at Calcutta and finally, as High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Kenya.

In police service, Kibria was the epitome of uncompromising honesty and integrity and invariably retained his composure in demoralising adversity. It was his piety coupled with professional confidence that lifted him to the top job. In the hot seat, often in a malodorous environment, he acted like a brave and caring commander always providing the protective umbrella for colleagues in crises that were not few. He was a leader of true grit.

Kibria's marked religiosity drew the admiration of his friends, colleagues, relations, and acquaintances. A large part of his free time was spent in prayer and introspection at the holy precincts of Shah Shaheb of Paribagh. His public-spiritedness and flair for philanthropy in later life perhaps had its origin in such visits.

For Kibria, retirement from service in the government did not mean termination of his interests in and commitment to public affairs. A leading figure in the Scouts movement, he also served Anjuman-e-Mufidul Islam, Bangladesh as president for a long 18 years. In 1985, he was appointed as the chairman of the Shadharon Bima Corporation and in 1991, in recognition of his integrity and efficiency in public service, sworn in as presidential adviser with a ministerial rank in the interim Government of Bangladesh.



ABMG Kibria, during the early years of service.

When the situation demanded, Kibria could talk tough despite heavy odds and did not compromise with self-respect and the honour and dignity of his office. He refused to wear a reduced rank badge despite continuous pressure from powerful quarters. Honesty, both moral and financial, was the hallmark of his

personality and he did not wilt. He indeed was a role model.

May Allah bless ABMG Kibria's soul in eternal peace and provide his children and a caring life partner, Habiba Kibria, with the fortitude to bear the loss.

The writer is a columnist of the *The Daily Star*.

QUOTABLE Quote



ADRIENNE RICH

There must be those among whom we can sit down and weep and still be counted as warriors.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bridge forerunner
 - 6 Pleasant smell
 - 11 TV sound
 - 12 Des Moines native
 - 13 Mary's TV pal
 - 14 "Winnie-the-Pooh" writer
 - 15 Falco of TV
 - 17 Use a needle
 - 18 "Mr. Tambourine Man" band
 - 22 Continental coin
 - 23 Spa rooms
 - 27 Opera songs
 - 29 Native group
 - 30 Boat backs
 - 32 Pet pest
 - 33 Entry sound
 - 35 Beanie or beret
 - 38 Margarita
 - 39 Taken-(surprised)
 - 41 High muck-a-muck
 - 45 Skit show
 - 46 Wear away
 - 47 Take the wheel
 - 48 Moved laterally
- DOWN**
- 1 Fighting
 - 2 "What'd you say?"
 - 3 Wedding words
 - 4 Buffet's kin
 - 5 Yes-man
 - 6 Tried to hit
 - 7 King of France
 - 8 Night fliers
 - 9 Horse feature
 - 10 Over again
 - 16 Tax agency
 - 18 Brewed drinks
 - 19 Damaged
 - 20 One of the Great Lakes
 - 21 Wave rider's need
 - 24 Cairo's river
 - 25 Gain's brother
 - 26 Barking beast
 - 28 Pool variety
 - 31 Costa del-
 - 34 Zellweger of "Chicago"
 - 35 Train units
 - 36 Aid in crime
 - 37 Make roads
 - 40 Pool need
 - 42 Marshy area
 - 43 Poem of praise
 - 44 Nap site

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60

Yesterday's answer

S	T	U	F	F	A	B	E	T	S
H	E	N	R	I	L	E	G	I	T
O	R	D	E	R	S	T	O	N	E
P	R	O	T	E	M	I	C	E	
P	O	E	W	A	I	T	S	U	P
E	R	S	O	N	R	A	M	P	
			P	R	I	O	R		
			W	E	A	K	E	N	A
			B	A	N	D	S	A	W
			A	R	T	R	O	M	A
			C	H	I	L	L	R	I
			K	O	R	E	A	K	N
			S	L	E	E	P	S	T

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker



BABY BLUES by Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott

