

# The vengeance of love denied

By Farid Ahmed

One day last week, a large number of people in Pagar of Gazipur, saw a fire moving out of a bush in the darkness of the night. They were scared. "It must be an evil spirit," they thought, and ran for their lives.

Then, a wall, in a female voice, was heard calling for help from within that blazing thing. At last when the people realised that it was their dear Rafiza, it was too late. Too late to save her from the vengeance of love refused. Or was it just lust, infatuation. Or a plain criminal action?

Rafiza -- a pretty young girl who had merely stepped into her teens and had to leave school for being the beauty she was, was burnt to death at village, Pagar, three kilometres off Tongi police station under Gazipur district last Wednesday night.

Family members said, Rafiza was alone in the houseyard at about eight that night readying herself for her prayer. She was grabbed and taken off to a nearby bush by Shanu -- one of her neighbours, who splashed kerosene on her body and set her ablaze.

Shanu -- an employee of Tiger Textile Mills in Tongi had demanded Rafiza's hand in marriage a few months ago and was persistent about it. He then sent his mother and an aunt to Rafiza's parents with a marriage proposal last month. But the proposal was declined as Rafiza herself and her four other siblings did not like the idea.

Charred Rafiza was brought to her house after being identified by another neighbour then rushed to Tongi Sadar Hospital from where she was immediately shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. She succumbed to her injuries after 20 minutes of admission there, just around midnight.

On hearing the news that Shanu had burnt Rafiza to death, two youths of the village, Gulzar Hossain and Hasmat Ali ran to the Tiger Textile Mills from where they caught Shanu and his younger brother wearing a 'lal' (red) shirt from the mills gate.

But Shanu's cousin, Babul, who came to Tongi the previous day, from Kishoreganj, escaped from the mills gate when he found both of his cousins nabbed, said Gulzar.

Later, their hue and cry gathered the villagers who handed over the nabbed accused to the Tongi police.

Rafiza's father, Shamsuddin Munshi, registered a murder case with Tongi police station accusing three persons.

Tongi police said that they took Shanu and Sharafat Ali on a remand and that interrogation was continuing until Saturday.

However, another accused, Babul, was still at large, said police.

While visiting the village, this correspondent found hundreds rushing in, even from nearby villages. The people were coming as late as

Saturday, sad and bewildered at such an exhibition of Medieval brutality.

They saw the house gripped with the world's grief. The spot still smelled of kerosene -- one could sniff it instantly just ten yards off the spot of the family graveyard where Rafiza lay buried.

Shamsuddin Munshi told The Daily Star that when he heard Rafiza was burnt, he was leading a 'Jamaat of Tarabi Namaj', the prayer during Ramadan at a nearby mosque.

"She was a minor, we did not think of her marriage so soon. She was only in Class Four in the Pagar Primary

School. I even stopped her going to school as some boys teased her on the way. But I could not save my child," said the astounded father.

The dumfounded mother of Rafiza, Julekha Begum, could say nothing except "I found my mother (Rafiza) lying in the house yard struggling in pain. I asked her who did it and my mother could only say -- Shanu and another wearing a red shirt."

During the visit to Pagar, hundreds of villagers raised demands for punishment to those 'beasts' for whom their little damsel -- Rafiza -- had to give her life.



The mother of Rafiza says, Rafiza was struggling in pain. — Star photo



The accused killers -- Shanu (left) and Sarafat Ali (right). They reportedly burnt Rafiza to death. — Star photo

## BCS (Admin) cadre divided over forming association

The newly constituted Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS Admin) Cadre is learnt to be facing inner-conflict over the formation of its association, reports UNB.

The government has recently dissolved the BCS (Admin) Cadre and the BCS (Secretariat) Cadre and constituted a single cadre styled Bangladesh Civil Service (Admin) Cadre.

The members of the former BCS (Admin) Cadre have formed an association and constituted its executive committee for the year 1992 excluding those who belonged to the former BCS (Secretariat) Cadre.

A press release said Sunday the former BCS (Secretariat) Association at an emergency meeting on March 21 resented the formation of the new committee only with members of the former BCS (Admin) Cadre.

It termed the new committee "non-representative" and, hence, "unacceptable".

It, however, termed the government decision merging the two cadres as pragmatic and said it would make the administration more efficient.



Nurses brought out a procession from the Shaheed Minar Saturday protesting clashes during the Seba Mahabiddalaya (nurses' college) student union elections on Friday last in which 15 persons were injured. — Star photo

## World press continues to condemn persecution of Rohingyas

The international press continue to condemn the Myanmar authorities for persecution of Rohingyas Muslims and political dissidents, reports BSS.

Leading Indian daily the Times of India has called upon the international community to take note of the situation created by the Myanmar authorities resulting in the exodus of the Muslims from Arakan region of that country.

In an editorial titled 'Dhaka needs help', the prestigious news paper analysed the problems faced by Bangladesh due to influx of the refugees and said it is high time that different nations particularly Myanmar's neighbours, the ASEAN, recognise their moral responsibility to help hard-pressed Bangladesh to mobilise in dealing with Yangon's rampant rulers.

The paper said, 'It is no one's surprise that Myanmar ruling junta has ignored the appeal made by the United Nations Human Rights Commission to create necessary conditions to halt the exodus of refugees and facilitate their early repatriation.'

It analysed the Myanmar situation and said the increased truculence of the regime is undoubtedly due to the greater fire-power that it has acquired since it took over in 1988 after brutally suppressing a pro-democracy popular uprising.

It referred to Dhaka's diplomacy in dealing with

problems and said Bangladesh initially tried bilateral diplomacy and treated with restraint the attack on its border post by the Myanmar forces, 'but the junta pressed on regardless, a telling indication of its obduracy, with a military build-up in the affected area evidently with the intention of pushing more of its hapless Muslim citizens across the border.'

The Times of India criticised the claims of the Myanmar authorities that the refugees are 'illegal immigrants' and said there may be 'few such immigrants' as exist along the porous border but 'Myanmar must not be allowed to get away with making them an excuse for its pogrom.'

Arab News editorially condemning the Myanmar authorities on March 21, said there might be two reasons for Muslims being made targets of the ruling junta's fury.

'Ethnic Muslims known as Rohingyas living in the Arakan (recently renamed Rakhine) state of western Burma have been the most unyielding opponents of the current regime and have been fighting for greater autonomy for their region for the past four decades. They were prominent in the 1988 uprising and attempts were made at that time to split the opposition by exploiting the strong anti-Muslim under current among Burma's Buddhist majority.'

The Arab News in the edi-

torial comment said, 'the junta may be trying the same trick now and harrowing accounts of torture given by the refugees show that the anti-Muslim campaign is now being carried out with particular vigour. Burmese troops and Lushan border guards have killed nearly 4,000 Rohingyas in the past three months. The refugees arriving in Bangladesh have also accused troops of raping more than two thousand women, arresting six thousand youths for alleged anti-government rebellion and herding 17 thousand others into labour camps.'

It pleaded for UNHCR assistance on a massive scale from outside. The Muslim countries have special responsibility, it said. They should do everything possible to alleviate the suffering of the Myanmar refugees and lighten the burden this crisis imposes on Bangladesh.

Saudi Gazette in a news story on March 20 described the persecution of Rohingyas and plight of the refugees who have crossed into Bangladesh. The Saudi Gazette in its story said, 'in the recent influx, in spite of the fact that the citizenship certificates of many refugees were being forcibly taken away by the Myanmar security forces, still a large number of them have been able to bring their documents which are available for inspection by anybody.'

# The Midnight File

## Tatarian vote for autonomous republic

KAZAN, Mar 22: Preliminary statistics showed that 61.4 per cent of the Tatarstan voters in Saturday's referendum voted for independence of the Tatarstan autonomous republic from the Russian federation.

In their referendum, Tatarstans were asked to answer this question: 'Do you endorse that the Tatarstan republic become a sovereign state, an entity of international law, and establish its ties with the Russian federation, other republics and countries on the basis of equal treaties?' reports Xinhua.

## De Klerk's son is 'wimp' says former fiance

LONDON, Mar 22: A woman who was engaged to the son of South African President F W de Klerk says that her former fiance was a 'wimp' who would not stand up to his parents, the Mail on Sunday reported. Erica Adams, 25, was quoted as saying she believes the de Klerks did not approve to her relationship with Willem de Klerk because she is 'coloured' or of mixed race, reports AP.

## DCC white paper

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It said that the three vehicle-mount insecticide sprayers imported at a cost of Taka 40,00,000 during the period of Nazim Rahman, proved ineffective for our country. Because in spite of those machines the authorities failed to control mosquito menace this season, the White Paper added.

## Khaleda

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was greeted by the leaders of different associations of Bangladeshis.

The function was also addressed, among others, by Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Zainul Abedin MP, Ziaul Huq MP and student leader Kamruzzaman Ratan.

Report from London says: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia urged the Bangladeshis living abroad to project the country's image duly.

Addressing a big rally organised by the London branch of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at Atten Garden, Burton Street in east London, the Prime Minister said her government had taken effective steps to facilitate to invest the earnings of Bangladeshis living abroad in industrial sector and the industrial policy had been made in that line.

## World Cup

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ket Ground.

"It was a disappointing conclusion to a great game of cricket. We would have liked to win fair and square and we're very disappointed for the South Africans," he said.

Jordan said fans at home were 'probably crying right now' the players were composed in comparison, although bowler Meyrick Pringle sobbed in the dressing room as his teammates packed up their gear.

Australian Cricket Board general manager Graham Halbish defended the umpires' calculations and said the events transpired under rules well known to both sides.

"The Cup organising committee accepts the decisions of the umpires unequivocally," he said.

A reserve day had been set aside for the final should it be rained out, but Halbish said once both teams had batted 25 overs the game had to be decided in the one day.

## Syedabad 'pir' got 1.45 acre plot for Tk 1

By Staff Correspondent

Deposed President HM Ershad allotted a 1.45-acre plot, valued at Taka two crore of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) to 'pir' shahab of Syedabad for a token payment of only Taka one.

A White Paper on the DCC's past published Sunday said that the former mayor Colonel (ret'd) MA Malek had recommended the allotment and it was formalised by another former mayor Nazim Rahman.

The plot was annexed to the 'darbar shahab' of the 'pir shahab' and is now in his possession.

It was not mentioned whether any legal action would be taken in this regard.

## Shantibahini kill security man

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 22: A member of security force was killed and two other injured in an encounter with the Shantibahini at Khagrachhari district last evening. Official sources said that one hour long encounter began when a group of security force went to raid a hide out at Hapchaka village of Matiranga upazila of Khagrachhari.

## Public court

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The prosecution lawyers will then bring the charges against Golam Azam.

Sources say that at least 12 charges would be framed against Golam Azam in several categories, including killing of the intellectuals, rape, arson, wage of war against the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh, plundering of the property of the people during the 1971 War of Independence, formation of Rajakars, al-Shams and al-Badr forces and misinterpretation of religion for achieving political ends.

During the trial, the prosecutors will present facts and evidences against the accused and historical documents will also be produced before the court.

Organisers say that a defence lawyer will be appointed for Golam Azam 'for the cause of justice'. They say that the appointment would follow when the accused would fail to bring in his own lawyer.

After the hearing, the jury will put forward the suggested judgement before the crowd present at the trial.

The people will give their opinion by shouting or raising their hands for or against the suggestions, organisers said.

Then the Bench will pronounce its verdict. Leaders in the National Coordination Committee said that the procedures of the trial would more or less imitate the

1963 public trial of the Vietnam war criminals, initiated by Bertrand Russel.

However, they did not give the names of the judges or jurors saying that those would be finalised at a meeting today (Monday).

On the effectiveness of the trial, Jahanara Imam thinks the people's verdict can in fact strengthen the government's hands in dealing with Golam Azam.

The Government, Imam said, might have faced certain difficulties or pressures in the past in dealing with the Jamaat leader either on the genocide issue, or on his illegal stay or lately, on the question of the violation of Article 38 of the Constitution.

"The People's Court should lessen that pressure on the Government, because it will give it a strong moral backing. The government can then tackle Golam Azam with public opinion, expressed through the open trial at the People's Court, behind it," Imam said.

## Fitra fixed at Taka 20

A joint meeting of chiefs of Islamic Institutions, Imams of Mosques and renowned ulama held under the chairmanship of the Khatib of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque Moulana Obaidul Huq Saturday fixed fitra for the coming Eid-ul-Fitr at Taka 20 per head, an Islamic Foundation press release said, reports BSS.

## No force

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freed the collaborators from jail and rehabilitated them politically.

Golam Azam was allowed entry to Bangladesh by President Zia, Hasina said adding that his wife Begum Zia has now taken the responsibility of giving protection to the collaborators ignoring the people's sentiments.

## Sultan Raza, 2 others dropped from Party

By Staff Correspondent

Thirty-two members of the central committee of Janata Mukti Party at a meeting Sunday relieved the party's Convenor, Mirza Sultan Raja, and two central body members, Abdul Malek Shahidullah and Dr Harun Or Rashid, of their responsibilities.

The meeting, chaired by Mokhesur Rahman, took the action as the said leaders did not give any explanation to the party regarding their move to join Awami league, said a press release.

According to the press release, the meeting elected A O M Shafigullah the new Convenor of the party. It also convened an extended meeting of the party on April 17 at 4 pm.

7 injured in BCL-Shibir clash

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 22: At least seven activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir were injured, one seriously, in a clash with Awami League backed Chhatra League in Belkuchi College in Belkuchi upazila this evening, reports UNB.

Saidul Islam (22), Shibir President of the College unit, received head injury during the clash and was admitted to the Belkuchi Health Complex in critical condition.

## Tiger rebels set up anti-tank squads

COLOMBO, Mar 22: Tamil separatist guerrillas in Sri Lanka's northeast have formed anti-tank squads to counter the government's newly acquired Chinese light tanks press reports here said today, reports AFP.

Evidence that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) had set up such anti-tank squads surfaced during battles last week in coastal Mullattivu district, the Island newspaper said.

They (the rebels) knew exactly where to aim, the paper quoted a tank officer as saying. It referred to a LTTE fired rocket propelled grenade that went right through the supplies of a newly acquired Chinese built T-86 tank.

One soldier was killed, two others had their ear drums damaged and all other occupants were forced to abandon the tank with burns, the newspaper said.

## 5 injured while breaking ship

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Mar 22: Five persons were injured, two of them seriously while they were scrapping a ship at the Shitakunda Ship Breaking Yard this afternoon.

All the five persons were trapped under the wreckage they were of a Russian ship MV Razang.

Among the injured conditions of Abdur Razzak and Chan Mia were stated to be critical. Both the legs of Abdur Razzak and one leg of Chan Mia were chopped off as heavy pieces of the broken ship fell on them.

All the injured persons were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.



জীবনে সফলতা আসে হিসাব করে চলার মাধ্যমে।

বোনাস হিসাব সেই কাঙ্ক্ষিত সফলতার অন্যতম চাবিকাঠি।

লাভ ২২%।

বোনাস হিসাব :

- এই হিসাব ৬ বৎসর মেয়াদী।
- বোনাস হিসাব ডাকঘর সঞ্চয় ব্যাংকে খুলতে হয়।

১০০ টাকা মাত্র ৬ বছরে বৃদ্ধি পেয়ে ২৩২ টাকা হয়।

অন্যান্য সুবিধা :

- মেয়াদপূর্তির আগেও আংশিক অথবা পুরো টাকা তোলা যায়।
- অর্জিত লাভ সম্পূর্ণ আয়করমুক্ত।

সর্বোচ্চ এক নামে ২ লক্ষ এবং যুগ্ম নামে ৪ লক্ষ টাকা বোনাস হিসাবে খাটানো যায়।  
সর্বনিম্ন ১০০ টাকা দিয়ে একটি বোনাস হিসাব খোলা যায়।



জাতীয় সঞ্চয় পরিদপ্তর

অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়, পল্লভঙ্গাতল্লাী, বাংলাদেশ সরকার

ডি ২৫ সি (স) ৪১৭০-১৭/৩/৯২