

RISING STARS

A Modern Fairy Tale

Once Upon a Time in a Far off Land...

by Ziaul

ONCE upon a time, there lived two kings and two queens in a far away land. The first pair, wanted a son. But due to some unknown reason they just couldn't manage one. What they ended up with were seven daughters. So they prayed for a son every night. One night while they were praying down came an angel in his space craft, cleared his throat and said, "My dear fellows, your constant praying has got on our nerves. So we have decided to give you a son. You might think of this to be a blessing but we are in fact cursing you. So here is the final word, on behalf of all the angels I curse you with a son." Z-A-P. And for an instant there was a blinding flash of light. When their eye cleared they saw a baby pig and the angel looking at his wand with a surprised look. Then suddenly his face brightened. He opened one side of the wand and shook out two pencil batteries and put in two new ones. "Always forget to change the batteries. I'm using Sunlite so now it should work." He said and zapped. This time there was a baby instead of the pig. "There you go. Now you have a son."

Meanwhile, the king and the queen were so happy with their new son that they decided to give a huge dance party in his honour. On the day of the party while every one was enjoying themselves there was a knock on the door. It was the gossip columnist of a daily newspaper fuming outside. "So you did not think I was important enough to be invited to your party. I will curse you. Your son at the age of fifteen will turn into a beast and will sleep until a princess kisses him. The princess has to be a perfect princess. And in the meantime I will write the worst kind of gossip about the royal family in my newspaper."

Saying this she stomped off toward the food. (She forgot that she was not invited). The king and the queen got worried. But fifteen years is a long time. So by the time the prince was four, they forgot all about the curse. The prince was growing into a fine, spoilt, princely brat. He had his first car at the age of eight. By the time he was nine

he had broken all the traffic laws. But since he was the only son they let him be. The prince looked like Tom Cruise by the time he was twelve. But on his fourteenth birthday he had hair all over his face and body and looked more like George Michael than Tom Cruise. On his 15th birthday, he looked as ugly as a-a I don't know what. So one day he was walking through his castle when he heard a noise in a room that was supposed to be unoccupied. He went in and

They were missing every night. Finally they were caught red-handed with seven young men whom they claimed to be teaching how to dance. Finally when they found their son in deep sleep they called all the specialists but all they could say was that he was in a deep coma.

Now this pair was nothing like the other. They did not want a son. In fact they did not even want a daughter. They were very happy the way they

your phone bills are going to be very high when she reaches her teen years. So enjoy Z-A-P and a beautiful daughter. The king and queen saw the daughter and fell in love with her at once. So they decided to give a party and didn't forget to invite anyone (they saw what happened to the other royal family on TV). The gossip columnist came up and blessed the child saying, "She will have long hair, very long hair indeed." So by the time our dear princess was

time she was stopped by a policeman for speeding. "And where to you think you are going, young lady?" he asked. "My, what big shoulders you have." That's our princess trying to flatter him.

"Maam, I need to see your license."

"My, what a big nose you have."

"Maam, I want to see you license."

"My, what big, swollen toes you will have when I drive over them," saying this our dear sweet princess drove over his toes doing all this with a smile. But luck was against her, because her car broke down so she got out and walked down the road, to look for a mechanic. Meanwhile Goldilocks found a mechanic, fixed her car and reached the castle of the first pair of king. She knocked and was let in. It was pretty late at night so she went to bed. What she did not know was that an apple was placed on the bed and then covered with 22 mattresses. This was meant to test whether she was a perfect princess. When the princess saw that she had to sleep on so many mattresses, she became so angry that she threw every single one of them out the window and found the apple which she ate. The next morning she went out shopping and managed to spend 30 million dollars in half an hour. Seeing the amount spent, the king and queen sighed because only perfect princess could manage this. So they took her to their son's bedroom where he was sleeping she bent down and kissed his furry cheek. He woke up looking as handsome as ever. He smiled at her and said, "Hi." Thump. The princess fainted when she saw now ugly he was. So the prince now knelt down and kissed her thinking it would make her up. Z A P. The princess had change don't a toad with long hair. The frog jumped and kissed the prince who turned into a goat.

Don't ask me whether they lived happily ever after because the last I heard of them, they were still busy converting from one animal to another. So the moral of this story is next time you see a name like this don't bother reading the story.



saw an old lady sewing something. He went towards her to throw her out but since she knew karate and judo, she had him flat in 10 seconds. Then she removed the needle from the sewing machine and pricked him with it. The prince fell into a deep sleep. The king and queen did not find out about this until the next week because they were having some problems with their daughters.

were. But the people up there had a very weird sense of humour. One night while the king and queen were partying our dear angel came down. He said, "You two have been very nice. So we are going to bless you with a daughter. We are giving you a daughter because daughters are very nice and also because we ran out of boys because they seem to be in high demand. The only thing in that

nine, she had very long hair. How long? Well lets see. She would use it as a belt to hold up her pants and use it as a shawl at the same time with about 7 feet of hair to spare. She was called Goldilocks. When Goldilocks was seventeen, she heard about the sleeping prince. So she decided to try her luck. She wore her favourite red riding hood and got into her Porsche. After driving of some

Sine Die Closures

by A M M Adeeb

JUST the other day I read that the JU (Jahangirnagar University) was closed sine die. How nice I thought. They are really lucky. Then it struck me that the students were getting a vacation until further notice (maybe sine die closures should be introduced in our schools).

When I think of the time I get to go to university (thank God it's a long way off) I get the creeps. Indefinite holidays are fine for some time but then your mind drifts back to your country. And time. In our country studying in colleges and universities is not easy. There is practically violence everywhere and in the few institutions that are violence-free they are either miles away or hard to find.

Some of us get to study abroad and are not directly influenced by this violence in the educational institutions but those of us who are not so lucky or do not wish to study abroad by principle might be in for some trouble. Colleges and universities are not consistent in

their classes and remain closed throughout the year. I have a few friends who give a celebration party every time their colleges or universities stay open for three months. On my part I have to admit that when there is a hartial I get very excited and dance around the house. This magic word spells out only one thing for me — no school. But then again I get school sick, if you know what I mean!

Apart from the violence in the universities there are students who just love cooking up trouble. Eventually they waste invaluable time in which they could have done something worthwhile than just sitting and waiting for the classes to resume. (I always revise during hartial).

The TC (trouble cookers) students are not satisfied only by making trouble. They also induce other students to take up the so called student politics. Something should be done to this never-ending sine die closures of the educational arena.

Out in the garden . . .

Out in the garden this fine day

Out in the garden this fine day with my doll I like to play.

Out in the garden on this fine day, with my pet I like to play.

Out in the garden on this

Photo: M. Harris Uddin

