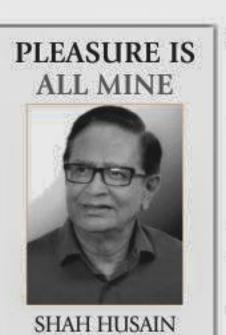
AFTER THE KISS OF DEATH



IMAM

HE consequences of the murders of two foreign nationals in Bangladesh are surfacing in different forms. A common thread of concern weaves through the manifestations. Though unpleasant, they are not surprising.

Scheduled meetings and conferences where foreigners were to be present are being canceled or postponed. Business visitors or tourists are apparently pulling back from trips they had planned. Hotel occupancy is dropping and bookings are either in for cancelation or have already been abandoned. In this high season for visits of RMG buyers they are moving to other safer hubs.

The redeeming feature in these bleak circumstances though, is the Zimbabwe national cricket team's firm indication that they are visiting us next year. And next year is close enough! Bravo, Zimbabwe, you have shown the way for hesitant teams, if any! In fact, cancelations of eagerly awaited events are embarrassing to potentially visiting and hosting sides and heartbreaking for the passionate cricket-lovers of Bangladesh. Derailment of such programmes including pullbacks of the Australian side, South African women's cricket team and possibly the Under-19 World Cup Cricket could only have given monkey's smile to the lips of perpetrators.

Some forebodings of a trouble had sneaked through the mouths of a few political leaders sensing a complacency in the environment they worked. But that their words would hold true, especially in the unlikeliest of manner, was beyond anyone's imagination.

As the shock, embarrassment and anger at the brutal murder of Italian national Cesare Tavella and Japanese citizen Hoshi Kunio sink deeper into our psyche, speculations rage over the identity and motives of the killers. The choice of the victims was based on their vulnerability as easy targets. And the fact that they had given no cause to be avenged, except perhaps being friends of Bangladesh; the killers' real motive is as clear as daylight. This was to create a stir overseas by killing foreigners that would put across a message that Bangladesh is no longer a safe haven for them.

What the saboteurs couldn't in particular countenance are the war crimes trial verdicts set to divest them of what remains of their top leadership.

Thus the finger gets pointed to hardliners in Jamaat-e-Islami contrary to IS claim of a hand in the killings that remains unverified. A Times of India report based on Indian intelligence sources appeared to corroborate such a view.

Indian agencies feel that Bangladesh killings do not bear the IS 'hallmark' like beheading of victims and publicising it through the video for shock effect trumpeting their acts of terror. The killings in Bangladesh lacked such IS trademarks including particularly any verifiable boastful claims. Though Bangladesh has rounded up some suspects, no evidence of their links with IS has been found so far, as foreign media reveals.

About the detention of suspects in the murder of the Japanese citizen, one police professionalism will have to be demonstrated to hit the bull's eye and not shoot at moving targets that may subject innocents to sufferings. The efficiency with which police and Rab have unearthed the terrorists' dens with arms and ammunitions needs to be replicated, only in a more focused manner for the cases in hand.

There is also a confusion over whether any Western diplomat had shared intelligence with Bangladesh in the prelude to the recent murders. US ambassador Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat says, they did, whereas our Home Minister held a view to the contrary. The air should be cleared of any misgiving; for Bernicat has promised cooperation in probing any possible link



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officer reportedly said on condition of anonymity to our correspondents, 'We call it detention for questioning until they confess to the crime. This is how we work ... the same is true about those who go missing after being picked up by our plainclothes colleagues. We recognise their arrest once they confess to a crime. Or else, their fate is uncertain.'

Such utterances if reflective of the whole approach, which one can't believe to be the case, are damaging to the credibility of the investigation, let alone raising questions about its direction.

It is possible that the net will be cast far and wide to track down the culprits, their masterminds or mentors and unearth their linkages to terror networks. In this exercise, maximum

of the murders to the IS.

By an association of thought that may be a bit wildish, how terrorism has seeped through a gray area, has come to light through a thankfully foiled attack on the life of Baptist mission Pastor in Ishwardi and the brutal murder of former PDB chairman peer Khijir Khan in Badda.

Terrorists are terrorists, they may appear in different masks, but like the leopards they never change their spots, fundamentally. From a fanatical fringe they have had deadlier incarnations, thanks to a steady flow of money, weapons and the skill-training with which they execute different agendas.

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THE WIZARD OF OZ

DERHAPS it is an

unprece-

dented, albeit a

instance of co-

fatalistic and fatal

operation between

Italy and Australia

saying 'thank you'



With the tragic murder of the Italian national in Dhaka (our way of

for coming here to our aid), Australia finally makes its case to cancel its cricket trip to Bangladesh. Maybe the OZs can now push to cancel the question-paperleaked admission test of medical colleges, or cancel the cancelled emissions tests of Volkswagens in the UK and US.

Meanwhile, fingers are pointed at IS for the Dhaka and Rangpur killings. "Who? Us? Uhm, sure!" Says IS. The world, with not a day without an unusual death, is an à la carte option for IS to pick and choose from to beef up its score card. However, not sure if the IS can get any mileage out of the fatal shootings outside the Sydney police station in the form of its windfall from terroristic plagiarisms in Dhaka and Rangpur, but the fact remains that the Aussies are now in a bind. If Dhaka is not safe, if Sydney is not safe, where do they play? Downtown Damascus?

Not sure if the initial fear from Down Under was really that of a Banglawash. Shahid Afridi slams the OZ decision as he's been there, done that. After all, even with ICC backed big ticket cancellations in Pakistan, we deemed Pakistan a safe place for cricket, but sent our Salmas there instead of the Tigers. That's 'she power', powered by the fact that Australian Shaniera Thompson didn't cancel her marital vows with Wasim Akram despite the barrage of cricket match cancellations in Pakistan.

The Aussies nevertheless have a valid concern. A concern perhaps similar to that of BCB officials about Australia being unsafe for the Tigers given the fatal Sydney shootings.

Australia's guts seem to have waned over the years. Even after Captain Cook paves the way for the peaceful Down Under into becoming the British Empire's most favorite and the largest penal colony and the subsequent notorious genes getting passed on through generations, cricket matches, including World Cups, have been played there with Qantas like safety standards. That per-

haps explains the OZ desire for best-inclass security.

Meanwhile in Dhaka, several foreign missions announce travel advisories. With people getting knocked off like flies on a daily basis everywhere, the US steps up with ten being shot dead at a community college in Oregon. All eyes are now on Washington DC - will the British, Canadian, Australian and especially Bangladeshi embassies there issue any travel advisories in the New World? None are issued. Rightfully so because

the Oregon shooter enters the campus with five pistols, one rifle, five additional magazines, a full body armor (all legally purchased) covering a Caucasian body made in Britain but neither carrying a home-made clock nor bearing the name Ahmed. Perhaps there was a Tweet from the President of the National Rifle Association (NRA): "Cool getup Chris. Want to bring it to the NRA convention? We should inspire more kids like you to like guns!"

Chris Harper-Mercer had left a trail of evidence on social media of his fascination for the IRA and the Nazis. The reason the ticking time-bomb didn't get noticed - he used MySpace...

Donald Trump speaks up about the Oregon shooting incident: "These things happen."

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome, the top GOP contender, Donald 'W' Trump. If he does become the next US President, Americans will say about the elections, "These things happen." That's ok, to the average US voter Donald Trump and Donald Duck are the same both have made billions.

Circling back to Bangladesh. Now the South African women's cricket team cancels its trip to Bangladesh. BCB: "Cricket South Africa expressed its concern after the latest turn of events and wanted to know the security plan for its women's team. Unfortunately, we don't provide security plans for women's cricket, it's mainly for the men's teams."

Yes, it IS (that's not IS by the way) all about dollars and sense, as the Salmas don't attract as much endorsement dollars. Fair enough, but let's please not toot about having narrowed the gender gap...

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AKHTAR HAMEED KHAN Portrait of a social entrepreneur

MD. RAFIQUL ISLAM

KHTAR Hameed Khan's life blossomed in phases, going through several transitions to shape the empathetic man that everyone knows. Born in 1914 in undivided India, Khan admired German philosopher Nietzsche in his early life, as he aspired to be a someone

who goes beyond conventional good and

evil, self-restraint, humanity and compassion. After completing his university education, Akhtar Hameed Khan (PhD) joined the Indian Civil Service (ICS), the most prestigious job in British India. He began his life as a civil servant at the Comilla Collectorate School and College in 1938. Curiously enough, destiny brought him back to Comilla after 12 years to begin his second career as the

Academy in 1959. Khan, a well-read person, acquired knowledge on various disciplines and devoted his knowledge towards social change for emancipation of common people. His innovative ideas were cradled by his integrity and moral

Principal of the Comilla Victoria College in

1950, and later as Director of the Comilla

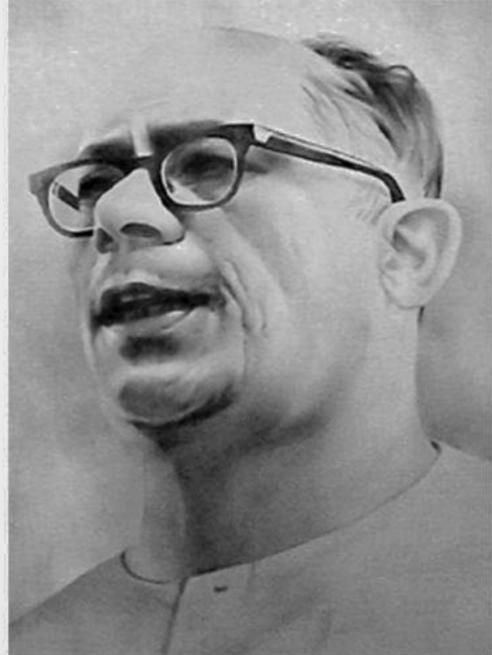
values. As an officer of the ICS, Khan had power and authority, and he also had seen the abuse of power and misuse of authority. He saw the famine of 1943 in India. Since then, he thought of doing something for the poor and

by the poor. The World War II experience shocked him. He saw the atrocities of the British rule and the suffering of poor people during the famine created by the imperial power. As he believed that he could not be of fruitful service to the people for whom he was engaged, he resigned from imperial service in 1945. After his resignation from the prestigious ICS, he was able to totally surrender his body and mind to the service of the common people.

After resigning from the ICS, Akhtar Hameed spent around two years in the village of Mamolla near Aligarh. There he lived like a pauper. His wife and he rented a small house in the village along with a herd of livestock, living like any other poor peasant family. When living like that did not fulfill their needs, Khan worked as a day labourer, a printing press worker and even as a locksmith apprentice. After the partition in 1947, he migrated to Karachi to begin a new life.

Because of his past links with the ICS, Akhtar Hameed Khan was able to quickly find a job at the Comilla Victoria College as its principal. He remained at Victoria College until 1958, taking a break in 1954-55, when he was on deputation as Director of the Village Agriculture Industrial Development(VAID) programme. His eight years as principal of the college was memora-

ble for a number of significant events. In the 1960s, when food shortage was acute in the country and could only be tack-



Akhtar Hameed Khan

led through modernising agriculture with the help of a structurally sound rural development programme, Khan began his journey in rural development as the director of the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD). He took multidimensional efforts, focusing on three critical areas of development - administrative infrastructure, physical

infrastructure, and socio-economic infrastructure.

The Academy under the leadership of Akhtar Hameed Khan took up projects like the organisation of village-based cooperative societies, training of village Imams and popularising the use of contraceptive methods, the implementation of which would open up opportunities for progressive attitudes, ignoring orthodox traditions.

Throughout his life, Khan was occupied by the demise of his mother as he wrote in his biography, "At the age of fourteen, she was married to my father, who was a police sub-inspector. After begetting and nursing six children in eleven years, she lost her health. But when a seventh child was born, my mother became a full-fledged tuberculosis patient, suffered terribly for six years, and died in 1932. She was then 36 years old". The tragedy of losing his mother at such a young age probably led him to launch the programme for women in 1960, which promoted the emancipation of women, and focused on their health and literacy through training. The sufferings of aristocrat Muslim women, like his mother, provided Akhtar Hameed Khan the drive to fight for the rights of women. He introduced family planning programmes in the Comilla Pilot Project area to prevent untimely deaths of mothers.

Akhtar Hameed had high esteem and confidence in the entrepreneurship skills and capabilities of women. He writes in his biography, "In the realm of economics, faith assumes the shape of enterprise, the exercise of initiative, taking of risks, facing hardship, suffering losses and making gains. Long ago, I read the proverb that faith moves mountains. In the course of association with the common people, I have seen with my own eyes what the spirit of enterprise can accomplish."

Having looked at Akhtar Hameed's life, we see that he started his journey towards enlightenment through Nietzsche but finally adopted Rumi's Sufism. He realised that egoism or idealism could not solve human problems and

sufferings but practical actions could. Akhtar Hameed Khan died of myocardial infarction on October 9, 1999 in the US at the age of 85. He was buried in Karachi on

October 15. Social entrepreneurs invent new ideas, approaches and models to create and procreate wealth, to promote social wellbeing and to remove socio-economic ills. Akhtar Hameed Khan played his role diligently to achieve these goals as the undisputed pioneer of social entrepreneurship. We can only hope that youngsters of the country are influenced by the values of this legendary figure and serve disadvantaged people living in rural areas of Bangladesh with humility and a sense of justice.

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The stupidity of people comes from having an answer for everything. The wisdom of the novel comes from having a question for everything.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 1 Blocks

5 Commotion

9 "Understand?" 10 Abate

12 Without help

13 Love, in Livorno 14 Camper's anchor

16 Role for Keanu

17 Listending abbr.

18 Former star

20 Sowing machine

22 Track figures 23 Single

25 Raucous

28 Started the bidding 32 Seems

34 Yale rooter 35 Fixed

36 Letter after xi

38 Magic illusion

40 Jeweler's aid 41 Pago Pago setting

42 Command 43 Hot 44 In the neighborhood

1 Strike out 2 Without delay

DOWN

3 Gum flavor 4 King of fiction 5 United Nations array

6 Writer Stanislaw 7 Made amends 8 Made into a smoothie

9 Airport areas 11 Lowly workers 15 Hard-to-forget tune

19 Portend 21 Slacker address 24 Letter after delta

25 Endures 26 Sung dramas 27 Productive period

29 Poet Pablo 30 Impatient groom, e.g. 31 Comfort food source

37 Heart

33 Fine, to NASA

39 Crew director

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER PACE HENS ONAIR ROMEO AMORE PECAN TENSEST IOTERS AFORE AFAR CUT DONHO CONTEND CERTAIN GEE OBAMA TROOP ROMAN SACRE

BEETLE BAILEY





BABY BLUES HAVE YOU NO. WHERE IS IT?) GUYS SEEN THE PYTHON THAT'S ON

SALE?



