

Mob in frenzy turns murderous



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M Burhanuddin Qasmi 14 March 2015 11272 views

A day will soon come when males will agitate for their [rights](#), demanding an international men's day and a set of special laws to protect not their honor or human dignity but their life itself.

Most people currently are busy talking about India's daughter, a documentary film produced by BBC on Delhi's Nirbhaya rape case and banned by the Indian government, but very few seem to reserve time to talk about India's son, Syed Farid Khan (also known as Sharifuddin Khan), lynched and killed in the most barbaric manner by a mob of some 5000-7000 in [Dimapur](#), the business centre of [Nagaland](#) on March 5, 2015 for all but an alleged rape case.

Twenty eight year old Farid was first framed for rape, claims his wife who is a Sema Naga by descent. "He was dragged, militated and lynched in the most horrific, beastly and utterly barbaric manner and then alleged to be an illegal Bangladeshi migrant by the mob, the [Nagaland](#) police administration and most shockingly by the 'so called' mainstream media," she said.

Farid was taken out from the [Dimapur](#) Central Jail, beaten, stripped naked, dragged up to [7](#) kilometers which eventually caused his death, was kept hanging upside down for hours from a clock [tower](#), and innumerable selfies made of a lifeless Farid and then an attempt to set him on fire made amidst sheer clapping, and uproar when the police foiled the pogrom dispersing the mob with gunshots.

Was Farid actually innocent? We cannot [claim](#) anything with certainty. The Indian criminal court is the only right authority to pass a judgment on this in due time. From whatever hard and circumstantial evidences available, it appears to be an extra marital consensual sex affair which went wrong with the girl's demands not being met. The complainant girl also a Sema Naga by descent and Farid were in a relationship for years. Both families and friends knew them well. Farid's wife is also a Sema Naga and they have a 3 year old daughter from their marriage. His wife and the complainant girl, some [claim](#), are cousins.

However, he was a co-accused in a rape charge, a very serious case by the term in the Indian penal code system. Farid faced arrest and was sent to judicial custody since February 24, 2015. The other accused in the girl's FIR was Angcha Chema, a local Naga boy. The case was under trial within the competent and able Indian legal system. How did Farid alone become a target of the Naga mob on March 5 and received a new identity that of an illegal Bangladeshi migrant? Was it because his name was Syed Farid Khan? Or was it because he was a Muslim, a Bengali speaking non-Naga?

Nurul Islam Laskar, executive editor of the Eastern Chronicle, an English daily from Assam, puts it this way: "Give the dog a bad name and hang it, call a man a Bangladeshi and you can do anything with him."

A large portion of the media including the national electronic media called Farid a 'Bangladeshi'. Director General of Police, [Nagaland](#), L.L. Dounge, called him an 'illegal Bangladeshi citizen,' which the [Nagaland](#) Chief Minister TR Zeliang later out rightly refuted.

The facts are bare for all possible scrutiny. Sharif (Farid) hailed from a respectable family of Bosla village in Karimganj district of Assam. His [father](#) late Syed Hussain Khan who worked for the Indian Air Force (for 20 years) retired from the Air Force Station, Kumbhirgram (Cachar, Assam). Sharif's mother has been drawing family pension from IAF till date. Sharif's late brother Imanuddin Khan served in the Indian Army and took part in the Kargil War [against](#) Pakistan in 1999. He was injured in the [war](#) and succumbed to his injuries later.

Sharif's two other brothers are also presently serving in the Indian Army- Havildar Jamaluddin Khan is in the Assam Regiment, posted at Diphu and the brother Kamaluddin Khan is also with the Assam Regiment and presently posted at a location in Arunachal Pradesh.

The media houses who termed Sharif a 'Bangladeshi' certainly owe an apology to the nation and not only express their deepest regretsto his bereaved family members but also offer an unconditional appeal for reprieve from all who have been adversely affected and hurt by the incident and the unfolding of the malicious propaganda.”

Assam CM Tarun Gogoi reacted in a very swift and decisive manner. He termed Farid’s lynching and death as barbaric and utterly unacceptable. He claimed Farid to be a citizen of Assam and sent Karimganj DeputyCommissioner, Sanjiv Gohain Boruah to his grieved family on March [6](#), and necessarily airlifted hiscoffinfrom [Dimapur](#) on March [7](#) by a military chopper and handed it over to his family.

Khan was buried in Karimganj's Bosla village at around [11 AM](#) on Sunday, March 8. A huge turnout was reported during his burial with former minister and Karimganj (South) MLA Siddique Ahmad, All India United Democratic Front's regional [leaders](#) and other political and religious VIPs attending the same.

Unconfirmed medical reports from [Dimapur](#)'s Zoin Hospital, received by some media sources says that the girl was not raped, and there was no sexual harassment but of late another unconfirmed report reveals there was rape. According to a news report published in the Dainik Asomiya Pratidin, the premier Assamese daily, dated March [7](#), by senior journalist Ziaur Rahman the Superintendent of Police (SP), [Dimapur](#), Miren Zamir confirmed that the girl was not raped. "The girl rather blackmailed the boy for Rupees [2](#) lakhs. He didn't pay up and a rape case was filed [against](#) him," local sources confirmed Eastern Crescent.

Moreover, there are [2](#) video footages from the Orient Hotel's CCTV camera, the place where according to the girl the rape took place on the evening of March 23, on air on social media sites. One is a 32 second long clip showing the complainant girl entering the hotel alone on her own. The other is more than a [2](#) minute long clip where it clearly showed a man paying hotel charges, receiving a receipt and after a while he was joined by the girl and another man and then the trio finally leaving the hotel. Nowhere in the footages did the girl appear paranoid, under pressure or in any hurry.

Three senior officials of [Dimapur](#), including the SP and the Central Jail Chief, were suspended on Friday and a judicial inquiry slapped on them. Following this 24 others were arrested and police say more arrests are expected shortly from among the mob.

The commoners of Assam stood united in solidarity with Farid Khan and took to the streets [against](#) his killing.

Across the party line all political [leaders](#) from Assam, except a few from the BJP, have strongly condemned the incidence, criticized the terming of Farid as a Bangladeshi migrant for a patriotic armyman's family and demanded immediate thorough enquiry into the matter.

Bandhs called by several political, social and business organizations received a good response with total shut downs along with traffic remaining off the roads.

The All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) president and Dhubri MP Maulana Badruddin Ajmal along with his party colleague and Karimganj MP Radheshyam Biswas met with several union ministers in Delhi and demanded toughest punishment for the culprits of the inhuman killing and barbarism in [Dimapur](#). MP Ajmal said that, "It was a total [failure](#) of the law and order situation in [Nagaland](#) for which [Nagaland](#) as well as Central Government are jointly responsible". It is a shame that Assamese, especially Bengali speaking genuine Indian citizens are harassed in the name of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, he said.

The AIUDF MLAs in Assam also demanded genuine [compensation](#) for the victim's family and asked the Assam CM to ensure safety and security of all Assamese people living in [Nagaland](#).

TRP ridden media houses must resort to responsible reporting and do away with propaganda that can foment hatred. Rape is a serious crime, unacceptable in anyway, but must be given a chance to be examined under due process of law. Women must not misuse law. Farid Khan may or may not be a criminal but terming him an illegal Bangladeshi migrant by the propagandist media and political groups with vested interests is highly condemnable and inhumane an approach. Farid's death has been an insult to those Indian Muslims of Assam who speak different Bengali dialects. It has devastated the extremely patriotic army men family, the eldest son among whom was a Kargil War martyr while his brother Farid succumbed to a wild mob attack in which the administration is no less innocent and the media that followed suit.

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