

Husband strangles wife at Fatulla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

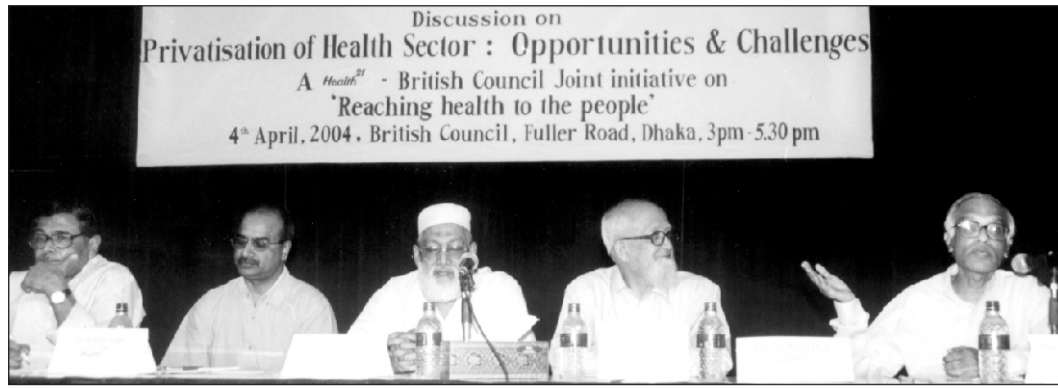
A man allegedly strangled his wife on Saturday night at Bholile in Fatulla.

Police recovered the body of Lovely, 23, on Sunday morning from their rented house at Bholile.

Police said Moktar strangled his wife over a family feud and absconding since then.

Her body was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy.

Lovely and Moktar were employees of a nearby garment factory, police said.



Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, extreme right, addresses a discussion on 'Privatisation of health sector: Opportunities and challenges' at the British Council in the city. Health 21 organised the event. From left Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Dr Khairul Islam, Prof MA Majed and Prof Shajahan N Samad Choudhury are also seen.

'Only 10pc population gets public healthcare facilities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded more participation of the members of the civil society in improving the healthcare delivery system.

They said with the existing allocation in the health sector, a better healthcare delivery system is possible provided a public-private partnership is developed.

The speakers said only ten percent of the population gets public healthcare facilities while the rest is taken care by the private sector.

"So we should not undermine the private sector which has a big role to play in healthcare service delivery where the government can be a catalyst," they added.

Health 21, a think tank launched

recently by the civil society and medical practitioners, organised the discussion on 'Privatisation of health sector: Opportunities and challenges' at the British Council in the city.

The theme of the discussion was 'Reaching health to the poor'.

Chairman of Health 21 Prof. Shajahan N Samad Chowdhury said it will work to catalyse healthcare services in such a way that all healthcare outlets feel encouraged to render services within the framework of globally accepted norms and practices.

Co-Chairperson of Health 21 and Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam said "It is a think tank of civil society and medical practitioners. We felt very strongly that there is a need for a meeting ground where professionals and the civil society can express their views on health-related issues in an environment of mutual respect."

Former president of Bangladesh Medical Association Prof M A Majid said, "The health service delivery system nowadays has become very costly. Healthcare should be one-stop service centre especially for the rural poor."

Noted economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said, "The per head expenditure on health in the country is only \$12 annually compared to \$20 in India and \$35 in Sri Lanka."

But Health 21 believes that even with such small resources it is possible to improve the health delivery mechanism"

As about 90 percent people depend on the private sector for healthcare delivery system, there has to be a proper combination of private sector and public sector, Prof Mahmud added.

Country Director of Orbis Bangladesh Dr Khairul Islam said, "If we have to see growth in the private sector in healthcare delivery, we must ensure that they grow within certain structures under strict rules and regulatory mechanisms."

President of Bishwasahitya Kendra Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said we need to pressure the government to do what is necessary.

The discussion was moderated by Mahfuz Anam who was assisted by Dr M Rubaiul Morshed, a health management specialist.

Country Director of Mary Stopes Dr Yasmin Ahmed introduced the discussants.

Health 21 will hold similar discussions outside the capital in next few months for best practice and management in the health sector.

Chehlum

BSS, Dhaka

Chehlum of Ferdous Rafiq, a prominent businessman of Sirajganj, will be held after Zohr prayers today at House No 14, Road No 1, Block C, Bonosree, Rampura in the city.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and doa mahfil arranged. Foods will be distributed among the destitutes.

Senior journalist Rozi Ferdous is wife of late Ferdous Rafiq.

MISHEL MURDER CASE

Hearing on charge-framing Apr 8

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday fixed April 8 for hearing on charge-framing against former Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Shyampur thana, Jahangir Alam and four others in the sensational Mishel murder case.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 adjourned the hearing following a time petition by the prosecution lawyer.

Four other accused are Shoib alias Sohel, Mohammad Shahin, Mohammad Hanif and Momtaz Mail alias Jamai Momtaz.

Of them, Jahangir Alam is on bail, Hanif and Sohel are still at large while Shahin and Momtaz are in the custody.

Mishel, 10, a fourth-grade student of Dania Sunshine Kindergarten School, was abducted from near their Dania residence at Shyampur in the city on July 5 last year. The kidnappers

then demanded TK 3 lakh in ransom from Mishel's father.

Victim's father filed a general diary (GD) with Shyampur Police Station the following day and ASI Abdus Sultan filed a regular case accusing Shahin, Shoib and Yusuf on July 8. Victim's father filed another petition On July 14 last year with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka seeking inclusion the names of five others in the FIR (First Information Report).

Shyampur Police recovered Mishel's decomposed body 17 days after the incident.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) pressed charges against OC Jahangir Alam and four others on December 30 last year showing 30 people as prosecution witnesses. The name of the OC was included in the charge sheet for his negligence in rescuing the victim before his death and arresting the accused.

Meanwhile, the tribunal yesterday cancelled the bail of Shahin and ordered to send him to the Dhaka Central Jail as he earlier obtained bail from the lower court suppressing the High Court (HC) order.

The tribunal issued the order following a petition by the Special Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdul Latif Talukder.

In the petition, the PP said the accused along with six others including three women on July 19 last year appeared before the HC for anticipatory bail. The court granted bail to three women for two months and the four male persons were directed to surrender before the lower court within four weeks. But they did not surrender before the lower as per direction of the HC order. On the other hand, they obtained bail from the lower court suppressing the HC order.