

Varsity teacher murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teacher of a private university was killed allegedly by a sex worker at Dhanmondi in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

Thirty-year-old Gellen Sony, an assistant lecturer, was found severely injured in his bedroom on the ground floor of his rented flat at Kalabagan at around mid-night.

Hearing a scream, Mamun, son of the house owner, got out of his room and saw a sex worker running out of Sony's room, he told reporters.

"As I peeped into Sony's room, I found him lying in the bedroom with wounds," said Mamun who rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where

doctors declared Sony dead at around 12:45am.

The body bore injury marks on the face, neck and chest and blood was oozing from the wounds, said DMCH morgue sources.

Police arrested the sex worker Sohagi, who is a eunuch, from the DMCH after Mamun identified her. She went to hospital for treatment as she also suffered injuries in her hands, elbow and back.

Shohagi told policemen that a friend of Sony took her to the house from the Sangsad Bhaban area at around 8:00pm.

But Sony beat her when he came to know that she is a eunuch, Shohagi said, adding that she also hit Sony in self-defence.

'Journalists must look at truth objectively'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Media people in Bangladesh often face dangerous and threatening situations while carrying out their professional duties, said David Jackson, director of Voice of America, yesterday.

But the courage with which journalists make the truth public is appreciable, he said at a seminar on 'Press Freedom' organised by the Independent University, Bangladesh.

Replying to a question, Jackson said market is the determining factor of how far credible a news organisation is and what the content of its published material would be like.

"Journalists have to look at the truth objectively; neither in positive nor in negative light," he said.

Media in today's Bangladesh enjoys considerable freedom and is far more diverse than they were several decades ago, said Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury of VoA's Bangla Service at the seminar.

"But at the same time, media practitioners face intimidation in some cases," he said, referring to murder and torture of a number of journalists in recent times.

The more access people have to information, the more they place their trust in the democracy, Iqbal Bahar said. "Credibility of a news organisation depends on how carefully it caters the information people look for."

VoA Director David Jackson also visited the Dhakeshawri Temple yesterday and exchanged views with the leaders of Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja committee, Bangladesh Puja Udjapan parishad and Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad.

President of Mahanagar Puja Committee Advocate Subrata Chowdhury presided over the discussion.

Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Chitta Ranjan Dutt, Bir Uttam, Chitta Ranjan Majumdar, Prof. Nim Chandra Bhoumik and journalist Swapan Kumar Saha were also present.



PHOTO: STAR

David Jackson, director of Voice of America, visited the Dhakeswari Temple in the city yesterday.

2 to die for killing one at Uttara

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday sentenced two persons including a listed criminal to death for killing one Shahabuddin, a resident of Azampur at Uttara in the city.

Judge AR Masud of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 gave the verdict in presence of the convict Sabuj while Habib, a listed criminal, was tried in absentia.

The convicts can appeal to the High Court against the judgement in 30 days and the punishment of the fugitive will be effective from the date of his arrest or surrender, the judge said.

Earlier, the prosecution and defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 19 out of 32 prosecution witnesses. The trial was completed in 130 workdays.

Victim's wife Mosammat Selina Akhter filed a murder case on July 29, 2002 with Uttara Police Station accusing Omar Mia and six others.

In the case, Selina alleged that a gang of assailants led by Omar shot dead her husband over previous enmity while he along with his paternal uncle Azimuddin and one Mostafa were having tea at Al-Amin teastall at Ali Hossain Plaza at Azampur in the city at about 8:45pm on July 29, 2002.

The investigation officer pressed charges against Omar and six others on February 23 last year. The court framed charges against the accused on January 12 this year.

Special Public Prosecutor Aminul Islam and especially appointed for complainant advocates Mohammad Habibullah and Mahbub Ahmed conducted the case on behalf of the complainant. Advocates Haji Nazrul Islam, AFM Abdul Wadud, Mosharraf Hossain Kajal and Mohammad Shahjahan defended the accused.

Killing of garment worker protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Karmojibi Nari, an organisation for working women, yesterday protested the killing of Selina, a garment worker at Rupganj in Dhaka.

She was beaten to death for her refusal to indulge in prostitution, said a press release.

In a statement, President Shirin Akhtar and General Secretary Sharmin Kabir of Karmojibi Nari called on the government to give exemplary punishment to those who are responsible for her death.

They attributed the growing number of crimes against women to the limitation of existing laws and prolonged system of the judiciary.

The statement urged the people to launch strong movement against repression on women.

1,795 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested some 1,795 people including six listed criminals on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers recovered nine firearms, two other weapons and eight bullets and filed eight cases against nine people under the Arms Act, said an official release.