

# Chronology of Shazneen murder case

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and SHAMIM ASHRAF

It took two years, 10 months and eight days to dispose of the sensational Shazneen murder case at the death reference bench.

The High Court Death Reference Bench confirmed yesterday that domestic help Shahid raped and killed with assistance from Badal, maids Esteram, Khatun Miru and Parvin according to a plan of contractor Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan alias Azad.

The Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, convicted all the six accused for rape and killing of Shazneen on September 2, 2003.

Earlier on June 27, both the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and made submissions for upholding the lower court verdict and acquitting the convicts of the charges.

**TRIAL OF THE LOWER COURT**

The much-talked about judgement of Shazneen rape case was delivered by the lower court on September 2, 2003 five years, four months and ten days after the brutal killing and rape of the victim.

In the verdict, the judge sentenced all the six accused to death for killing the victim after rape.

The convicts are victim's domestic help Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, contractor Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan, his assistant Badal, carpenter Shaniram Mandal and two maids-Esteram Khatun Miru and Parvin.

The trial of the case was completed in 127 days that began on July 9, 2000 with deposition of complainant Mojibur Rahman.

Shazneen Taslim Rahman, 15, a student of class nine of Scholastica School and the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Limited, was raped and killed at their Gulshan residence in Dhaka on April 23, 1998.

Rahman filed a murder case the following day with Gulshan Police Station, accusing Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, a domestic help at his residence.

In the FIR, Rahman said he had last talked to his daughter on her ground floor bedroom at about 8:00pm on April 23, 1998. Then he went to the first floor where a party was hosted for some of his friends. Shazneen stayed back in her room.

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At about 10:15pm, Rahman came downstairs after hearing the scream of old domestic help Moslem Hawlader and found Shazneen lying on the floor in front of the bathroom, attached to her bedroom. The victim's father examined her pulse and found her dead.

As Rahman raised an alarm, the guests and other people in the house rushed to the spot. On inquiry, it was found that one of the servants, Shahid, son of Siddiq Molla of village Danga Durgapur in Gopalganj district, was missing. One of the four kitchen knives was also missing, Rahman said in the FIR.

## Businesses urge

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Awami League and of the 14-party opposition combine.

When contacted, Mir Nasir Hossain told the news agency that the political deadlock and its consequences like various destructive political programmes have been seriously disrupting the private sector.

"We've conveyed our anxiety to the AL general secretary about the political programmes like hartial and siege that vitiate the business climate, he said.

The FBCCI chief said they will soon meet BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan to convey the similar request on the imperative of the government-opposition dialogue.

## 14-party plans

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the government does amend the constitution, they will rethink their agitation programmes.

Besides the grand rally and the marches, the opposition will conduct mass contact in upazilas, thanas and districts across the country to mobilise a large number of people in favour of the electoral reforms. It will also exchange views with the international community to get their support for the electoral reforms.

Abdul Jalil, also general secretary of the AL, told newsmen that they would not allow any election in the country before implementation of the reform proposals.

Urging the Chief Election Commissioner and two 'politically appointed' commissioners to quit the EC right now, Jalil said otherwise the anti-government movements will turn into a mass movement. He said the revised voter listing would have to be done after reformation of the EC.

Chaired by the AL Presidium Member Abdur Razzak, the meeting was attended, among others, by Motia Chowdhury, Obaidul Quader, Hasanul Haque Inu, Bimal Biswas, Dilip Barua, Syed Zafor Sazzad, Moinuddin Khan Badal, Nurul Islam, Abdus Salam, Parvez Khan and Zakir Hossain.

Earlier on July 8, workers of the factory beat up five officers protesting the decision.

### CHRONOLOGY

As per the arguments from the prosecution side, at about 3:30pm on April 1, 1998 contractor Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan had entered Shazneen's bedroom and asked her to show the defective mirror in the bathroom about which she had earlier complained.

As she entered the bathroom to show him the mirror, Hasan grabbed her with an ill motive. Shazneen pushed him aside and warned her that she would report it to her parents to punish him. Hasan became angry and left.

On April 2, Shazneen along with her two sisters - Simeen Hossain and Shahzad Haq Shehzad - and their children went to visit Marina Tea garden at Kulaura in Sylhet.

On April 3, Shazneen's parents went on a visit to Shillong in India. Hasan, contractor for renovations to Rahman's residence, enticed Shahid with offer of money to rape and kill Shazneen on September 2, 2003.

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