

A YEAR INTO MURDER OF RU TEACHER DR. TAHER

CA's action sought as justice denied by former govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

The first death anniversary of Rajshahi University teacher Dr S Taher Ahmed will be observed on the campus today, seeking action by the caretaker government for justice for the murder.

Allegations have it that charge sheet of the murder case could not be submitted earlier due to 'interference' by some leaders of the former four-party alliance government.

Prof S Taher Ahmed, a senior teacher of Geology and Mining Department, was missing on February 1 last year. His body was found on February 3 inside a septic tank behind his campus residence.

Talking to this correspondent, Dr. Taher's son Sanjid Alvi Ahmed said, local detective branch (DB) police completed investigation into the murder in May and sought home ministry's permission to press charges against the accused.

But they were denied permission on a 'lame excuse' that a 'witness was still unavailable', he said.

In the mean time, one of the accused --Prof Mia Mohammad

Mohiuddin of the same department--obtained bail from the High Court (HC) and was freed from jail due to delay in submission of charge sheet.

Another key suspect--RU Islami Chhatra Shibir president Mahbubul Alam Salehi--avoided arrest under cover of political pressure and finally got anticipatory bail from HC.

Salehi who was moving freely on the campus earlier, went into hiding after proclamation of emergency, said sources.

The sources also claimed that a local Jamaat-e-Islami leader, during the tenure of the immediate past four-party alliance government, had abused former Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner Naim Ahmed (now DMP commissioner) at a meeting for including Shibir leader Salehi in the list of accused. Later he was transferred from his post.

"I met former IGP (Inspector General of Police) Khoda Bux Chowdhury several times when he was in charge of the home ministry cell for monitoring sensational cases.

"He always reasoned that the case lacked a key-witness", said

Sanjid Alvi Ahmed.

Investigation officer of the case, Sub-inspector Achhanul (Achhanul) Kabir of DB police, said, "The case is ready for charge sheet. We are just waiting for necessary clearance from high-ups.

"Every step of the investigation was done within the knowledge of the court...and so the accused have no way to escape, once charges are pressed", he said.

Alleged mastermind Prof Mia Muhammad Mohiuddin and killer-suspects Zahangir, Salam, Nazmul were arrested within a week of the murder in February last year.

Three arrestees provided judicial confessions and five of the 43 witnesses gave judicial statements proving that Dr. Mohiuddin and Shibir leader Salehi had engaged Zahangir, Salam and Nazmul to kill Dr. Taher for their personal and political gains, police sources said seeking anonymity.

Dr. Mohiuddin masterminded the murder apprehending damage to his career by Dr. Taher who found truth in allegations of 'piracy' in his (Mohiuddin) 10 research papers out of 11 submitted with his promotion prayer.

Meanwhile, teachers, students and staffs of Geology and Mining department will hold a condolence meeting today at the Second Science Building gallery to observe the first death anniversary of the department's founding teacher Prof Taher.

University authorities have not chalked up any programme for the day.

The department's chairman Prof Syed Shamshuddin Ahmed told newsman that they would hold a condolence meeting on the campus today.

Progressive Teachers Society (PTS), a pro-Awami League teachers' body, yesterday criticised the university authorities for not planning any programme to observe the death anniversary. It also demanded immediate submission of the charge sheet and ensure punishment to the killers.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Samjtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) and Progressive Student Alliance (PSA) in separate statements also demanded immediate submission of the charge sheet.

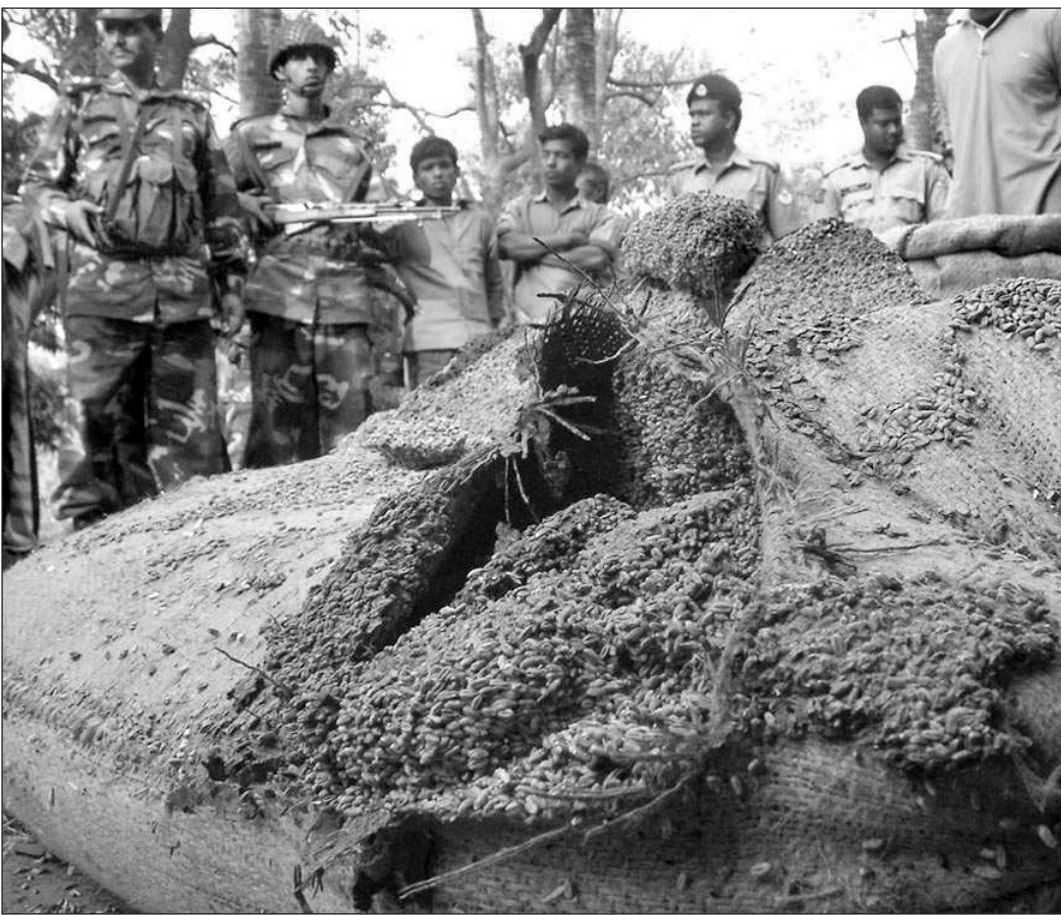


PHOTO: STAR

Joint forces in a drive in Pahartali area in Chittagong yesterday seized a huge quantity of rotten wheat from the godown of Victory Jute Mills .

Husband turns killer while on pleasure trip to Kuakata

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

A wife was killed allegedly by her husband in Kuakata Tuesday night. They come to Kuakata sea beach from Dhaka on a visit two days ago.

The husband--Zahid Hasan Jwell, 35-- has been arrested, police said.

The victim was identified as Tahmina Sharmin alias Tania, 28, of Taltala area in Dhaka. She was an assistant teacher at Shaheed Babul Academy in Dhaka.

Police sources said, the couple came to Kuakata with their 10-month old son Zaymon Al Zahid on Sunday in a private car. They were returning to Dhaka on Tuesday after two days.

They started from Kuakata at about 7 in the evening. Zahid killed his wife with sharp weapon when they reached Rajopara area in Kalapara upazila on Dhaka-Kuakata road.

Zahid dragged the body out of the car and left it into a road side ditch. Zahid along with his son went at a nearby house and told villagers that his wife was attacked by some smugglers.

Villagers came to the spot and informed Kalapara police.

On the other hand, the driver fled away with the car from the spot when Zahid went to the villagers.

Kalapara thana police arrested Zahid from the spot suspecting him



Tahmina's 10-month old son Zahid

for killing his wife.

Patuakhali Sadar thana police seized the car from Town Kaliakapur area on Patuakhali-Dhaka road at about 12 pm on the same night but the driver fled away. Police found two knives in the car.

A case was filed with Kalapara thana in this connection. Patuakhali Police Superintendent Abu Kalam Siddique visited the spot.



PHOTO: STAR

Army during a drive yesterday seized about 100 kilograms of 'Jatka' (hilsa fry) from fishermen on the Padma in Mirkadim area in Munshiganj district.

8X3

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