

FOLLOW-UP

Priyanka's parents wait for fresh autopsy report

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Parents of Sadia Nowshin Priyanka, who was found dead at her house on July 18, are now waiting for the report of the body's second post mortem done on Thursday as the mystery behind the death of the 17-year-old is yet to be unveiled.

"The head of the forensic department of Barisal Medical College [one of the doctors who performed the post mortem] told me that he did the post mortem thoroughly and does not want to see the previous post mortem report," said Sultan Faruque, Priyanka's father.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) court, Dhaka ordered the authorities concerned to arrange a fresh post mortem of Piyanaka's body on July 27 following an application of Priyanka's father, an accountant of BDR.

Priyanka, who passed SSC this year from Viqarunnissa Noon School obtaining GPA-5, was found dead at her bedroom. According to the first post mortem report, Priyanka committed suicide but her family rejected the report.

The principal of Barisal Medical College formed a medical team of three doctors according to the court order. The team consisted of head of the forensic department, head of pathological department and head of radiology department.



Priyanka

The parents went to their village home and exhumed the body, buried at Pathakata village of Mothbaria in Pirojpur, for the second post mortem. The first post mortem was done by the forensic department of Dhaka Medical College.

Rejecting the first post mortem report that says Priyanka has committed suicide, her parents said there was no visible reason for their daughter to kill herself. They said after passing the SSC exam she was preparing to get admitted to college. Besides, she was ready to join a reception of meritorious students at Nandan Park.

Priyanka's mother, Shamsunnahar, who first saw her dead, said she found her daughter lying on the floor with several knots



STAR FILE PHOTO

Priyanka's parents: Will they get justice?

with a georgette scarf around her neck.

Her father Sultan Faruque said, "We found the door closed from outside. If she commits suicide then how can she close the door from outside?"

"We suspect Rintu [Zahidul Haque, Priyanka's maternal uncle]

because he is a bad guy who used to shout at me and my wife when we protested his connections with unsocial elements. Around an hour after Priyanka's death he called up his elder brother Zakir and wanted to know about Priyanka. After that he went into hiding. He did not even come to our house after Priyanka's

death," said Faruque.

Qazi Mohammad Didarul Alam, sub-inspector of Ramna Police Station and investigating officer of the case, said: "Investigation is going on. Now we are waiting for the report of the second post mortem."

Rab-3 is assisting the police in investigating the case. "The future of the case will be based on the second post mortem report. We are looking for Rintu," said an investigating officer of the Rapid Action Battalion.

"At first we suspected there might be some social pressure on her due to her abduction two years ago which might have driven her to commit suicide. But after talking with her friends we are thinking that that incident might not have any effect on her mind. She behaved quite normally after that incident and started going to school again," he said.

Students of Viqarunnessa School and Priyanka's family were scheduled to participate in a human chain in front of the Viqarunnessa School on Wednesday but police stopped them due to the state of emergency.

Priyanka's father filed a case with Ramna Police Station on July 20 showing Priyanka's maternal uncle Zahedul Haque Rintu as the main accused.



STAR PHOTO

Bow to govt fixed charges, or lose licenses

Cable TV operators warned

RIZANUZAMMAN LASKAR

The authorities' initiative to remove the variation in pricing of cable operators promises to bring some much needed respite for the cable television viewers of the city.

In a bid to enforce the fixed monthly cable television charges policy introduced earlier last month, the information ministry has decided to cancel the licenses of cable operators who are claiming higher subscription fees from viewers.

"It is about time the government did something about the operators. They tend to charge each subscriber whatever they can squeeze out of them," said Shams Siraj from Green Road.

Siraj cites the example of his own cable operator. While the local cable operator charges him Tk 300 for 70 channels, another viewer from the same neighborhood pays Tk 250 for an equal number of channels. "I have been paying more for the same number of channels, which is totally unfair," said Shams Siraj.

Earlier, on July 11, the information ministry set the fees for cable television subscription at Tk 300 per month for operators providing 60 channels, of which 30 at least are to be pay channels.

Prior to this announcement, the cable television industry was beset by subscribers' perpetual grumbling, along with indiscriminate collection of subscription charges based on the convenience of the cable operators. However, the situation has changed little since then, as the majority of cable operators are still claiming charges in violation of the new policy.

Cable Vision, a cable operator from Kalabagan, charged Tk 500 from subscribers for the month of July. Officials from Cable Vision told

this correspondent that lowering their rate to Tk 300 would have rendered a huge loss, however they are planning to follow the new government policy from this month.

Similar notions and complaints emerged against a good number of cable operators throughout the city who are demanding self-enforced fees from subscribers, primarily based on the status of local residents.

Ataur Rahman, a resident of Mirpur, used to pay a monthly charge of Tk 300 to the local cable television operator. However, his cable operator increased the charges to Tk 350 on the month of July.

"They (cable operator) told us that the government increased the monthly cable charges, consequently we have to pay higher charges for subscription," said Ataur Rahman.

A week before the new charges were introduced, residents of Indira Road were paying Tk 450 for 50 channels, while viewers in Dhanmondi or in Kalabagan were paying Tk 500 per month for 70 channels. A number of residents from Gulshan and Banani were paying Tk 600 for 80 channels or the same amount for 70 channels.

Most of the cable operators from these areas are yet to adjust their charges following the new policy.

"I heard that the government has introduced new cable television charge policies but I am still paying Tk 500 as I used to," said Tanvir Zaman, resident of Dhanmondi.

Meanwhile, residents of Agargaon, Shyamoli, Pallabi, Begunbari, Badda and adjacent areas were paying Tk 300 for 70 channels or even more. In certain areas such as Bashabo, Rajarbagh, Shahjahanpur, Malibagh and

Tejturipara, the same number of channels was available at only Tk 250.

Cable operators who used to claim lower monthly charges than those set out in the new fixed charge policy claimed that they are having a hard time convincing their subscribers to pay higher charges.

"Our subscribers include people from all walks of life. We have customers ranging from high ranking private and public company officials to grocery store owners, maids, hotel boys and even rickshaw-pullers," said Abul Kalam, a cable operator from Rayer Bazar.

"Despite their social status and income, they are all our customers and I would rather charge them less than lose them," he added.

Cable operators argued that a fixed rate would make cable television operators incur huge losses. "This new act will strangle the cable TV industry to death," said Jamil, a cable technician from Tilpapara. "Operators from the city fringes will be the first to die out. Eventually, in a few months, most of the operators in the city will follow their path," he added.

According to Kamrul Islam, Press Secretary of Cable Operators Association Bangladesh (COAB), the fixed subscription policy would hardly leave any room for profit, since the monthly fees for each pay channel added up to an outrageous sum.

"The number of pay channels needs to be reduced, as there are lots of unnecessary channels which are not wanted by subscribers. Also, we have to pay a huge amount of money for these channels," said Kamrul Islam.

"Exclusion of these channels would actually be good move for both subscribers and the operators in the longer run," he added.



STAR PHOTO

Flood is now closing in on Dhaka city. Flood water has already paralysed life in low-lying Anandanagar in Badda area.

Shiyalbari Lake

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Division-1 has already recommended NHA higher authority to conduct eviction drive against the unauthorised encroachments at the lake.

According to the law wing of the NHA Dhaka division-1, the 24-acre lake was acquired through Land Accusation case no- 90-65/66 and Land Accusation case no-5-72/73.

The government developed the areas around the lake and allotted it to people of various classes at various times, including low and middle income people.

A lawyer of the NHA, wishing to remain anonymous, said, "Later some groups claimed land rights over the lake and a writ case on this matter is still pending at the Supreme Court. What I know is that within the lake, no one was allotted plots because the lake was kept as an open water body for the area."

These land grabbers often resort to filing cases to maintain possession of a plot after encroaching on it, he said.

Advertising, Bank & market timing

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Bishal Center-Friday
Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday
Powell Market-Friday
BCS Computer City-Friday
Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
Stadium Market-Friday
Bangabazar Market-Friday
National Museum-Thursday
Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.
New Market-Tuesday
Gausia Market-Tuesday
Mouchak Market-Sunday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Eastern Plaza-Sunday
Farmview Super Market-Sunday
Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday
Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
Shishu Jadughar-Sunday