



STAR FILE PHOTO

Priyanka's parents: Waiting for justice

PRIYANKA'S DEATH STILL REMAINS A MYSTERY

Six weeks over, no report of fresh autopsy yet

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Parents of Sadia Nowshin Priyanka are still waiting for the final (viscera) report six weeks into their daughter's fresh post mortem.

The mystery behind the death of the 17-year-old girl, who was found dead at her house on July 18, is yet to be unveiled.

The viscera report is still being prepared under the supervision of CID, said sources.

They said a serial is maintained in preparing the autopsy reports. "It will be released in appropriate time," said an official.

Dr Habibur Rahman, acting head of the forensic department of Barisal Medical College Hospital and one of the doctors that performed the second autopsy, said no mark of injury was found on the body.

"But nothing can be ascertained on the basis of primary findings," he said.

Sultan Faruque, Priyanka's father and an accountant at the BDR, said that they are tense with worry as the report is delayed and the suspects are roaming free and thinking that they would not be caught.

"We are tense as the gate-keeper, who was arrested earlier on suspicion of being an accomplice to the murderer, is roaming freely around. We are

not getting much response from the police," said Faruque.

He believes that the first post mortem report was influenced.

"Rab took up the case but they also could not make much progress. They told me that they are also waiting for the report," he added.

Qazi Mohammad Didarul Alam, sub-inspector at Ramna Police Station and IO of the case, earlier said that they are waiting for the final (viscera) report and the investigation is going on.

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.

Rejecting the first post mortem report, done at the forensic department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, her parents said there was no obvious reason that could drive their daughter to suicide. They said after passing the SSC examination she was preparing to get admitted to college. Besides, she was ready to join a reception of meritorious students at Nandan Park. The latest post mortem was done on August 2 at the Barisal Medical College Hospital. Her body was exhumed after the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Court, Dhaka ordered a

fresh autopsy on July 27 following an application of Priyanka's father.

The principal of Barisal Medical College formed a medical team of three doctors as per the court order. The team consisted of the heads of the forensic, pathological and radiology departments.

Priyanka's mother, Shamsunnahar, who first saw her dead, said she found her daughter lying on the floor with several knots of a georgette scarf around her neck while the door closed from outside.

According to Priyanka's parents, Priyanka's maternal uncle Zahidul Haque alias Rintu, is the prime suspect in



Priyanka

the case as he was in bad terms with them.

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

How wise is the plan for 60-ft link road?

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unavoidable to go for a fly-over or overpass.

The Department of Architecture (DoA) and Rajuk jointly prepared the alignment of the proposed extension of Bijoy Sarani in 2000, as part of Nakhalpara Development Project.

The DoA suggested that the project should be self-financed and the government should acquire some private land for the project and create a number of housing plots on the adjoining PWD and railway lands for auction to generate fund for the scheme.

The DoA also proposed rehabilitation of the affected people and establishing a

ladies' and children's park in the vicinity, said sources.

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) had discarded most of these suggestions in its detailed survey on the project in 2004. The Rajuk plan was approved on September 7, 2004. The DoE also proposed a 60 feet wide road.

"We suggested a 60 feet wide road as the width of all the connecting roads in Tejgaon is of similar width, except for Tajuddin Sarani," said a top DoE official.

Rajuk took the initiative of constructing the road in 2000 and submitted a draft project proposal in 2003 to the Planning Commission, where

the proposal had to wait for around four years for approval. The commission insisted that the road should be I-shaped instead of Y-shaped as proposed by Rajuk, said a source.

The idea of setting up a park was dropped in the proposal.

Rajuk meanwhile engaged in a legal battle with Rangs Group regarding the group's 22-storey building at the starting point of the proposed link road. After winning the case, Rajuk is currently demolishing the Rangs building to make way for the road.

Rajuk Chairman KAM Haroon said, "Width of the link road had never been

proposed 120 feet, it has all along been 60 feet as per government records." But he said he has seen news reports that the width was 120 feet in the original plan in 1988.

According to Rajuk sources, length of the link road will be 746 metres. The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council at a meeting on August 28 approved the project at a cost of Tk 122 crore. The costs include demolition of various set-ups, compensation, land acquisition and construction of the road.

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Dhanmondi residents.

"It is quite remarkable to see such smooth flow of traffic. There's not even much honking. And the usual sight of gridlocks that lasted for hours is not visible anymore either," said an excited Tanzil Ahmed, another Dhanmondi resident.

Many Dhanmondi residents find it difficult to believe that the situation has improved so much recently that the school children no longer huff and puff and toddle their way through the hectic gridlocks -- especially in the mornings and afternoons.

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"It is quite hard to believe that the unbearably long queues of cars that clogged the Dhanmondi streets have disappeared," said Madeeha Hafeez, a banker residing in Dhanmondi.

"It is evidently the most effective measure taken by the authorities," she added.

According to the one-way scheme of DMP, one-way traffic will be enforced on various streets inside Dhanmondi residential area including Roads 6, 7, 8, 6A, 7A, 8A, 9A, 10A, 11A, 12A, 13A and 14A from 7:00am to 9:00pm except on holidays and weekends.

DMP officials reported that around 150 members of riot police have been deployed to monitor the one-way traffic system.

While the recent steps taken by the authorities seem laudable, majority feels the need of consistency and enhancement of further steps to improve the planning and rules in residential areas.

"Different aspects such as parking facilities, allotment of plots, pedestrian rights, segregation of commercial and residential areas and the impact of rickshaws and cars on the area need to be taken into account in order to ensure proper planning and improve the overall situation," said Waseem Khan, an urban architect and resident of Dhanmondi.

Jashim Uddin, joint commissioner of DMP traffic department, said response from Dhanmondi residents on the one-way scheme have been encouraging.

"The kind of torment the residents of Dhanmondi have to go through due to chaotic traffic during school and office hours is simply agonizing as it is the right of every citizen to be able to live in peace," he added.

10x3

10x2

4x3

6x3