

Only one escaped

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Dhaka. She said she was not aware that her husband has killed so many women.

Rasu, initially arrested for theft, confessed to killing 11 women, aged between 15 and 35, in two years in Faridganj, Chandpur. In his attempt to reach the number 101, police said Sunday. He began confessing the murders Saturday in police custody.

He was produced before a court Sunday where he recorded a three-hour-long confessional statement under section 164 of the CrPC.

Faridganj police said Rasu was first arrested at Niraspura in Tongi on September 3 in connection with stealing a fan from a mosque in Faridganj. He was placed on remand on October 8 in a case filed in connection with the killing of a teen-age girl.

Officer-in-charge of Faridganj Police Station Ranjit Chandra Palit said, "Police had been investigating the recent murder of a woman in Chandpur after being tipped off by a caller on cellphone. When police tried to trace the caller the phone number was found inactive. It was later reactivated and police arrested the user and found out that the user had bought the SIM [subscriber identification module of mobile phones] from Rasu."

Rasu eventually confessed to using the phone for contacting women, take them on outings in Chandpur, torturing and killing them, and dumping the bodies in water, said Palit.

Fifteen-years-ago Rasu was living in Tongi, Dhaka, where he met Sharmin of a rich family. He claimed before police that he proposed to her several times but was rejected. He also said he was severely beaten by the goons of her family members, which made him "angry towards women". He claimed that he thought about living his life at Shahjalal's shrine in Sylhet "like Nizam Uddin Avila" but first he had to kill 101 women.

Rasu's first wife was Monu of Larua in Faridganj. He was married to her for 11 years. The marriage eventually came to an end and he later married Monu's younger sister Rina. Rasu said his first victim was his brother-in-law Mannan's wife Shahida, whom he killed in early 2007.

He reportedly lured her to Bhatialganj in Faridganj, raped her, and strangled her.

Nobel Prizes plagued by rumours of leaks

AFP, Oslo

Rasu told police he left the body on the Dakatia river. He told police that he raped the women he "liked" before killing them. Others were strangled straightaway.

His last victim, a woman from Paltaluk in Faridganj, was killed with the help of his nephew Zahirul, he told police. Zahirul has been arrested.

Rasu in his confession also claimed that a number of influential people had helped him escape law enforcers. He did not mention their names saying that his family might face problems if the did.

Faridganj OC Palit said Rasu was remarkably calm and poised during his confession and questioning. "He did not seem to be mentally ill at all," said the police officer.

Rasu was oddly at ease describing the murders before media.

"I hope not to be killed in any 'crossfire', I would rather be punished according to the law," he said during a police pressbriefing.

Nine of the cases filed in connection with the murders had stalled and the authorities said they are opening up investigation into those cases.

Rajuk drive

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going drive to contain traffic jam

Asked, he said, "We are yet to receive the copies of the stay orders to determine exactly how many orders have been issued from the HC. When our officials reach a certain spot the building owner shows us his copy of the order while we have none to verify."

According to the DMP list, the government owns many of the listed buildings while others belong to banks, hospitals, business centres and educational institutions.

Sources said the DMP made a list of 344 buildings located on busy thoroughfares and of them, 198 abuse car parks while the rest have no spaces for parking.

Rokon-Ud-Dowla said apart from those 198 buildings, they have been conducting separate drives against the buildings, which didn't leave any space for parking.

Rajuk officer Aminur Rahman authorised for Dhamondi zone said whenever they find such buildings in the area they would go for action. They have forced 150 building owners to make space for car park.

Huji operative

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the Awami League president at an election rally in Sylhet on September 26, 2001.

But the night before, a bomb went off at the house they were staying to prepare for the attack. The blast left two militants killed and Obaida injured.

An ex-student of Patia Al Jama'a ul Madrasa in Chittagong, Obaida is a charge-sheeted accused in two cases filed in connection with the Sylhet incidents.

Of the cases, one is under Explosive Substances Act and another on murder charges.

He was arrested at the scene and treated under police custody. He however came out on bail after nine months, and did not appear before the court concerned.

He went to Kuwait and returned home after a year's stay there.

The court issued a fresh warrant for his arrest on June 10 this year.

Talking to newsmen at the police station, Obaida denied he was involved in the Sylhet blasts. He said he went to Sylhet with his friends to visit Hazrat Shahjalal's shrine. However, he could not name any of those who accompanied him in the visit.

Locals said Obaida has lately been identifying himself as a Juba League activist.

Rid boss

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harass Mizanur, the HC said.

On August 18, Mizanur, his wife Sheuli Rahman, also a director of the company, appeared before the HC and sought anticipatory bail in the case.

The HC on the same day granted bail to Sheuli and asked Mizanur to surrender before the Sessions Judge's Court in Dhaka.

One of the directors and two pharmacists accused in the case were yet to appear before any court hearing.

He further said election commissioners should resign as the EC has become controversial and it also proved that free and fair election is not possible under them.

Mosharrif suggested that the government make strong diplomatic efforts besides seeking arbitration to resolve the disputes over maritime boundary with the neighbouring countries. "Only arbitration will not bring positive result for the country as we do not have enough data. So diplomatic effort should be strengthened to gather data so that we can place it before the tribunal."

He criticised the government saying it has failed to fulfil even a single commitment it made in the electoral manifesto. "We want to give them [government] some more time to fulfil its pledges but if people take to the street due to its failure, we will take the people's side."

He concluded saying that the Awami League government should bring change in its attitude towards the opposition.

Army chief

FROM PAGE 1
wishing anonymity. The situation on the Bangladesh-Myanmar border has remained tense, he added.

On the huge internal conflicts and failure to reorganise different level committees in due time, he said there is no conflict but a healthy competition in the party.

Replying to a query on existing 'three groups' in his party, Mosharrif said this is absolutely false, as all the leaders believe in late president Ziaur Rahman's ideology and are loyal to Khaleda Zia.

Asked BNP was to form the committees through council but announced Chhatra Dal and Sweekhasebok Dal committees beforehand, the BNP leader said the chairperson said only BNP would be reorganised through council not the front organisations.

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On forming of the party's secretary general's district committee, he said it is true that a few committees could not be formed but these prob-

Kahn's concept

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As per the Kahn master plan, the secretariat was earmarked at the place on which Ziaur Rahman's grave is situated.

Attitude of the successive governments was to occupy any open space available anywhere, not caring at all about architecture and aestheticism in development and urban planning, Prof Wares said.

"Such acts by the government itself are tantamount to the first-rate offence," he observes, adding, any development within the master plan of the complex should have been debated and settled in parliament.

Various administrative, cultural and spiritual setups were planned in layers in the architectural masterplan of the complex.

The master plan was finalised in 1972 by Kahn himself and the vision of the architect was to plan the capital complex in the pattern of a garden city, says Wares.

It should not have been distorted unless the authorities were faced with an unavoidable situation, he adds.

But a number of hospitals, PWD quarters and other establishments have been set up over the time distorting serenity and sublimity envisioned in the master plan.

According to Prof Wares, any development within the complex area should have been consistent with the master plan.

"The cardinal problem is that our governments seriously lack in cultural sense," he adds.

President of the Institute of Architects, Bangladesh Mubashar Hussain says the conference centre was built by the then Awami League government demolishing the Met office in utter disregard to the masterplan.

The governments could have revised the layout, if required, to accommodate development instead of doing it on piecemeal basis in such an architecturally planned complex, he adds.

Parvati Rani, a resident of the adjoining PWD sweepers' colony [Telegu colony] for 15 years, said she has seen the land as green open space.

Md Abdul Haq, executive engineer of Public Works Department [PWD] Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Division-3, said the ministry has leased out the land between two organisations.

10 grenades

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It took around a month to trap the grenade traffickers, the Rab personnel said.

In preliminary interrogation, Rafiqul told the Rab that the tribal youths supplied the grenades to him, Azad said.

The tribal youths might have collected the grenades from separatists in neighbouring countries, he added.

Azad said, "Rab personnel are investigating to find out whether the criminals have militancy links".

He however declined to elaborate for the sake of investigation.

Locals knew the arrestees as daylabourers, Azad said.

Suranjit seeks

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In response, Speaker Abdul Hamid said it is a very serious matter. "I hope the government will handle it seriously and will inform the House soon about it."

Ehtesham was transferred to 66 Infantry Division in Rangpur as its GOC (general officer commanding), on Sunday following a Prothom Alo report on the issue.

Suranjit, also chief of the parliamentary standing committee on home ministry yesterday recommended that the House pass the Father of the Nation Family Members' Security bill. The committee placed its scrutiny report in parliament yesterday.

The home minister told the House that 2,107 people were killed in six months from January to June this year.

She also said 53 Bangladesh citizens were killed by Indian Border Security Force in the last nine months.

In the capital, 273 people were arrested under the Special Powers Act in the last 10 months, Sahara said.

SECURITY BILL

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Service age

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War Affairs ABM Tajul Islam said the decision of increasing the service age came considering the overall welfare of the freedom fighters, who made the highest contribution to the country's liberation.

"The government will do everything possible for them, keeping the country's interests upheld. The present government is committed to doing that," he added.

The AL after taking office early this year initiated a move to raise service age of the freedom fighters and asked all the ministries and other government bodies for recommendations.

PM CONCERNED OVER TRAFFIC JAM

Concerned by the ever-worsening traffic situation in the capital, the premier also discussed at length with her cabinet colleagues how to improve the situation.

She asked for recruiting necessary manpower to ease the situation and improve the traffic control system.

"Recruit necessary manpower so that they can play effective role in reducing traffic gridlock," said Hasina urging all to obey the traffic rules.

She also asked all concerned to think out whether the Secretariat and other important government offices should be shifted to Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Azhar was accused in several cases including three for murders filed with Kumarkhali and Kushtia sadar police stations.

He also extorted Tk 67 lakh from the managing director of M/s Reza Construction Ltd.

Top 'outlaw'

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Kushtia and Kumarkhali police raided Kaya College as some GCFM cadres were holding a secret meeting there around 3:30am. As the operations were asked to surrender, they opened fire on the police. The police fired back triggering a gunfight, which lasted for about half an hour.

After the incident the police found Azhar's body lying on the spot while his accomplices fled the scene.

One LG and four bullets were recovered from the spot.

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Student demo

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hour resulting in severe traffic congestion in the area following the students' demonstration.

The education ministry on June 2 published the gazette that reads the students who passed SSC and HSC after 2004 securing below GPA 3 would be considered to have got third division and those below GPA 4, second division.

The chief architect of the department of architecture under the public works and housing ministry said an initiative was taken to build a private five-star hotel at the site during proposed NAM conference.

"But the trees there are of no value," he said.

Haq added the land is for official use in the "administrative zone" and that CSC is an institution like public administration.

The military launched their offensive in and around Swat valley after Taliban militants bent on imposing a harsh brand of Islamic law advanced to within 100 kilometres (60 miles) of Islamabad.

The airstrikes late Sunday and early Monday on Taliban strongholds in South Waziristan and Bajaur districts left at least 31 suspected militants dead, officials said, although there was no independent verification of the toll.

Military and government officials have vowed to follow up the Swat offensive with a full ground assault on the northwest tribal belt, with air strikes late Sunday and early Monday hitting Taliban strongholds there.

On this demand, hundreds of students clashed with policemen on the city's Mirpur Road leaving as many as 20 people including policemen injured on Sunday.

Moshtaq hailed

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would soon implement its announcement that outlaws in south-western region of the country would be given a scope to surrender to the authorities and return to normal life.

During question-answer period, the lawmakers described the prevailing law and order in their constituencies.

"Incidents of killing and robbery are frequent in my constituency. Therefore, more police camps are necessary to stop the criminal activities," ruling party lawmaker Manjur Quader Quareshi said.

Mokbul Hossain said criminal