

Woman found killed in city house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the decomposed body of a woman from inside a locked house at Uttar Kunipara of Tejgaon industrial area in the city early hours of yesterday.

The unidentified woman is thought to be 30.

She was strangled, said sources at Dhaka Medical College morgue.

Sub-inspector (SI) Abdul Motalib of Tejgaon Shilpanchal Police Station said police recovered the body by breaking open the door. The body was covered in a bedsheet.

Residents of the house said a man introducing the woman as his wife rented the house on March 1. For the last three days, neighbours saw the room locked from outside. As a foul smell spread, they called police.



President of Rotary International Kalyan Banarjee calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Sangsad Bhaban office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Help implement programmes in edn, health

PM urges Rotary Int'l president

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought support from Rotary International for quick implementation of government programmes relating to education and health.

Sheikh Hasina made the request when the President of Rotary International Kalyan Banarjee called on her at her Sangsad Bhaban office.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, the PM's Deputy Press Secretary M Nazrul Islam said the Prime Minister informed Banarjee that the government has started school feeding programme for students in some areas and the government wants to involve the local communities to spread the programme across the country.

"I think Rotary International can help the government in this regard," Hasina said. She also sought cooperation from the Rotarians to ensure illiteracy-free Bangladesh by 2014.

The premier informed that the government has undertaken a programme titled 'Trained Birth Attendant (TBA)' to ensure safe birth of babies in the rural areas. She sought the cooperation from the Rotarians in this regard.

Kalyan Banarjee assured the PM that they would extend all possible cooperation.

Rotary governor of Bangladesh AHM Zaker, and former Rotary governors Iftekarul Alam and Rafiq Siddiq were present.

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

ICT order on several petitions March 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal will pass orders on March 13 on several petitions, including a discharge petition submitted by BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury in connection with a case accusing him of committing crimes against humanity during 1971.

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice Md Nizamul Huq fixed the date after both the prosecution and defence completed their arguments on the petitions yesterday.

Salauddin also submitted petitions seeking bail in the above-mentioned case, asking to be transferred from Gazipur's Kashimpur Jail-2 to any other prison and praying to carry out the tribunal proceedings following international covenants.

He filed another petition seeking order upon the investigation team to

provide him with a report on the latest status of six cases filed against him from January 29 to April 18, 1972 under the Penal Code and the Collaborators Act 1972.

The petitions were filed in February and the current month.

The Collaborators Act 1972, enacted to try collaborators of the Liberation War in 1971, was revoked through the Fifth Amendment to the constitution but reinstated through the Fifteenth Amendment, said the defence counsels.

This made way for "double jeopardy", meaning double trial for the same offence, which is forbidden by the constitution, they said.

Prosecutor Zead Al Malum argued that though the six cases were filed, the verdicts are yet to be delivered. He appealed to the tribunal to frame charges against Salauddin.

Chief Counsel for Salauddin,

Ahsanul Haq Hena, yesterday argued that without the latest status of the six cases being known to the defence and prosecution, it would be difficult to argue on the issue of "double jeopardy".

He pleaded for adjournment of the proceedings of the cases for seven or ten days to ascertain the latest status of the cases.

Malum said they did not mention any of the six cases in the formal charge they submitted to the tribunal and it is not the stage to provide information about the cases.

Salauddin, a lawmaker from Chittagong, was present at the dock throughout yesterday's tribunal proceedings. He is among two BNP and six Jamaat-e-Islami leaders facing charges of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the tribunal yesterday

deferred the hearing on charge framing against Jamaat-e-Islami leaders Motiur Rahman Nizami and Abdul Quader Molla.

The tribunal fixed today to hold hearing on charge framing against Quader Molla and exempted him from personal attendance for his illness today.

It will hold the hearing on charge framing against Nizami tomorrow.

The tribunal will also pass an order today on a petition submitted by former Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Ghulam Azam seeking permission to receive home-cooked food in his prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Ghulam Azam was shifted to the cell after he was sent to jail on January 11 on charges of committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

DISTORTION OF HISTORY

HC summons Prof Bari Mar 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned Prof Ershadul Bari, former vice chancellor of Bangladesh Open University (BOU), before it on March 12 in connection with a charge of distorting the history of the War of Liberation.

During the hearing of a writ petition, the court issued the order after Dhaka University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Harun-or-Rashid told it that Prof Bari was responsible for the distortion of history in a textbook he had written for BOU students in 2000. It also requested former Bangladesh Bank governor Farash Uddin Ahmed, senior journalist Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul and BOU Treasurer Shanti Narayan Ghosh, members of a committee formed in 2010 to investigate the incident, to be present before it today and make statements about the distortion of history.

The HC also asked six academics, including Prof Harun, to appear before it today.

The five others are BOU Vice Chancellor Prof Aminur Rashid, Prof Shawkat Ara Hossain, Prof Sadiha Sultana, Mahfuza Chowdhury and HM Delwar Hossain.

All except Prof Aminur appeared before the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim yesterday, petitioner Belal Hussain said. The bench on March 1 asked them to appear before it to explain their roles in distorting information on the War of Liberation in two textbooks written by them under BOU.

Supreme Court lawyers Altaf Uddin Ahmed and Mahmud Hossain filed the petition with the HC in January 2010, saying that Sociology 2nd paper and Civics 2nd paper of HSC under the BOU termed late president Ziaur Rahman as the individual who had declared the country's independence, although the HC in a verdict in 2009 ruled that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had declared the independence on March 26, 1971.

The books also said that Zia was the greatest son of the country and nation, although the HC termed Bangabandhu the greatest Bangalee of a thousand years.

CPB's 64th anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will celebrate its 64th founding anniversary today.

The party will bring out a red flag procession from in front of its central office this afternoon, says a press release.

On the occasion, CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim recalled the sacrifices of those who laid down their lives for the party and the people.

They also expressed good wishes for those who have contributed and are still contributing to the party activities.

The leftist party was founded on March 6, 1948 as the Communist Party of Pakistan. With the emergence of independent Bangladesh in 1971, it renamed itself as the Communist Party of Bangladesh with comrade Moni Singh as its president.

The party played a vital role in the 1969 mass upsurge and other movements in the country.

CHARGES AGAINST TARIQUE Date deferred again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again deferred the date of passing an order whether it will frame charges against BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman and 51 other accused in the August 21 grenade attack cases.

Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 fixed the next date March 18 as he could not scrutinise the discharge petitions submitted by 33 out of total 52 accused.

Both the prosecution and the defence set 25 different dates to carry out the hearing on charge framing against the accused.

Attempt at anarchy on Mar 12 will be foiled: Tofail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law enforcement agencies will take necessary steps if the BNP tries to create anarchy on March 12 in the capital in the name of holding a grand rally, said Awami League (AL) advisory council member Tofail Ahmed yesterday.

"Holding of rallies is a democratic right of political parties. But if anyone tries to create anarchy by taking this opportunity, the law enforcers will not play the role of 'silent observer'," he said.

Tofail was speaking at a discussion commemorating the fiery days of March 1971, organised by Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) at its central office.

Presiding over the function, JSD President Hasnul Haq Inu said the country would not be able to take the path to development, until the

politics of communalism and fundamentalism were defeated here.

Addressing the function, Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon said the trial of war criminals should not be the end. The progressive and pro-liberation forces will have to make the country free of the politics of communalism and fundamentalism.

Referring to different news reports that Pakistan's intelligence agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) gave Khaleda Zia 50 million rupees to help her win the 1991 parliamentary polls, JSD standing committee member Shirin Akhter said the incident proved how much deep relations were between Khaleda and Pakistan.

JSD General Secretary Sharif Nurul Ambia and a number of the party's central leaders spoke at the function.

GD against Khoka, Mirza Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two lawyers yesterday filed separate general diaries with two of the city's police stations against BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Dhaka unit convener Sadeque Hossain Khoka for "threatening to create anarchy" on March 12.

Advocate Anwar Shahdat Shaon of 16/2 Court House Street filed a GD with Ramna Police Station while Sheikh Al Ahmad filed another GD with Paltan Police Station.

Police, quoting the lawyers, said the two BNP leaders at a press conference on March 2 asked the ministers not to come out of their homes on March 12 as they might come under attack.

Being citizens of the country, the complainants said they were suffering from a sense of insecurity as such statements by the BNP leaders may create a chaotic situation on that day.

Contacted, Sadeque Hossain denied the allegations and said those who filed the GDs are either mentally challenged or influenced by the government.

Domestic help 'commits' suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help allegedly committed suicide at a residential flat at Mirpur Shah Ali in the city yesterday.

Bilkis Akhtar, 20, daughter of Billal Hossain of Ramganj in Laxmipur was working at a flat of Mofizullah Bhuiyah in Priyanka Housing.

Quoting the flat residents, police said they went to bed at 12:15am yesterday and, when they woke up later, they found Bilkis dead.

The victim's body was hanging from a ceiling fan.

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