



Sluggish probe delays justice

One year into Tonu murder, culprits yet to be identified; frustrated parents 'told to have patience, remain quiet'

RAFIUL ISLAM

"Be patient. Remain quiet."

This is what the investigator has been saying to Tonu's family for months, instead of updating probe findings of the sensational murder inside Comilla Cantonment.

The family waited patiently for a year but has not seen any ray of hope of getting justice for their college-going daughter's murder. Not a single suspect was identified, let alone arrests.

"Are the killers more powerful than law enforcement agencies and the government? Why are they wasting month after month to find the killers of a murder inside a secured place?" a frustrated Tonu's mother, Anwara Begum, told The Daily Star three days ago.

"Why Jalal sir [the investigation officer] asked us to be quiet, for whose interest?" she said.

"We want justice," the mother said, crying.

But justice seems a far cry as the case was allegedly mishandled since the body of Sohagi Jahan Tonu, a second-year history student of Comilla Victoria College and a theatre activist, was found inside the cantonment on March 20 last year.

Two autopsies at the Comilla Medical College could not determine the cause of her death though her father Yaar Hossain, who first spotted the body in a bush, saw the back of his daughter's head smashed and injury marks on her nose.

The police inquest report too did not cite any sign of injury.

In May last year, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for the first time said DNA test results had found three spermatozoa on Tonu's clothes and that she had been raped before being killed.

The officials claimed to have collected DNA samples from some people



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Schoolchildren cover their noses inside a school van as a cloud of dust shrouds the road near Malibagh Level Crossing in the capital around 2:00pm yesterday. The dust problem is getting worse by the day thanks to the construction of a flyover in the area, further contributing to the city's air pollution.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

CELEBRATING HISTORY



The joy of the Bangladesh cricket fans knew no bounds as they took to the streets of Dhaka yesterday as they celebrated the Tigers' win against Sri Lanka in their landmark 100th Test with fervour. The photo was taken at TSC intersection of Dhaka University.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Hanif picked up on Feb 27'

Claims family of the man who died in Rab custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hanif Mridha who, according to Rab, died in its custody hours after being detained near Friday's suicide blast spot at the capital's Ashkona, was actually picked up by a group of people claiming to be detectives in Narayanganj's Siddhirganj late last month, his family has alleged.

His friend Sohel Hossain Montu, who was accompanying him at that time, was also picked up, and he still remained missing, Hanif's family and friends claimed yesterday.

Hanif's brother Halim Mridha said he filed a general diary with Siddhirganj Police Station on March 4, stating that the two were held in Siddhirganj on February 27.

Asked, Mohammad Rasel, a sub-inspector at the police station, confirmed the GD filing but declined to comment further on the matter. "The investigation is on ... I cannot



Hanif Mridha

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Why shouldn't govt be asked to probe

HC issues rule over fertiliser scam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government and the Anti-Corruption Commission to explain in four weeks as to why they should not be directed to run an enquiry into massive corruption and irregularities in the fertiliser sector managed by BCIC.

A bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah came up with the ruling in response to a writ petition filed by Zakir Hossain, a former official of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC).

Zakir on February 26 submitted reports on the corruption, which had been published in The

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HUJI LEADER MUFTI HANNAN Last legal bar to execution goes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The legal battle in the case for the 2004 grenade attack on the then UK envoy in Bangladesh has finally come to an end after 13 years.

It so happened after the Supreme Court yesterday dismissed the petitions by accused Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islam (Huji) militants, including its chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, seeking reviews of the SC's previous verdict upholding their death sentences.

This means the government can now implement the verdict.

However, the trio can seek presidential clemency as the last option to avoid gallows.

The two others are Sharif Shahedul Alam Bipul and Delwar Hossain Ripon.

In 2004, the then UK envoy Anwar Chowdhury, who was born in Bangladesh, and 70 others were injured in the attack at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) in Sylhet. Three people, including a police officer, were killed.

On December 23, 2008, the Sylhet Divisional Speedy



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