

Still unidentified, girl loses her fight for life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She had lived her last 12 days as an unknown, victim of a possible murder attempt, lying unconscious at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and finally gave up her fight for life yesterday morning.

The girl, who was rescued on July 8 from a hotel in the capital's Shyamoli, died in her unconscious state as she was found.

She had been kept under observation at the hospital's neurosurgery department where her physical condition remained unchanged and showed no signs of improvement.

Asit Chandra Sarkar, head of the department, earlier said someone tried to kill her by strangling her. During the process, he said he did not receive enough oxygen, leading to her senseless state.

Police tried to know the girl's identity by matching her fingerprints with those kept in the database of National ID, but they failed as she didn't have any ID issued to her, the OC said.

As there was no acquaintance around, the hospital authorities tried to provide the girl with better care on

humanitarian grounds. DMCH doctors said, Police also took photographs of the girl and sent them to different police stations.

However, before police could find her identity and her family, she was declared dead around 7:30am yesterday, said Jamaluddin Mir, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur police.

On July 8 evening, the authorities of Tazil Hotel heard a groaning sound from inside a room and informed Mohammadpur police.

A team of police led by SI Azizul then rescued the girl with swellings and scar marks on the face and around the neck, and took her to nearby Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

As her condition remained unchanged, she was shifted to the DMCH the next day.

Quoting the hotel authorities, OC Jamaluddin said a man identified himself as Ashraful had checked in to the hotel with the girl on the morning of July 8. They introduced themselves as husband and wife.

Hotel staff could only say that the man left the place that evening, the police official said, adding that it might be a murder attempt.



A Dhaka North City Corporation bulldozer removes illegal structures during a drive on Gabtoli-Babu Bazar-Beribandh road in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Five 'rapists' arrested

Police say they killed to cover up rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday claimed to have arrested five youths who, in two separate incidents, allegedly killed two women after rape in the capital.

A police team arrested Jamal Khan Patwari and Rajib Haider raiding Savar and Fatullah areas on Tuesday in connection with the murder of a woman acquaintance Panul Begum. Her body was found near her house in East Jhuran area on June 18.

On that day, the accused visited Panul's house in the absence of her husband and fed her sedatives mixed with food they had taken with them.

Then they raped the woman and strangled her to death, said Farid Uddin Ahmed, deputy commissioner of Wari Division Police.

The other three — Jakir Sikder, Rafiqul Islam, Shaleen, and Afziz Uddin Sagar — were arrested in Jatrabari and Kadamtali areas. They allegedly raped garment factory employee Farida Begum in turn in before.

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World Bank ready to help transform Dhaka

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said mentioning Rajuk's plans, strategic transport plan, and water management plan.

He said those plans look great and was very ambitious. But the problem was that those were not followed up or implemented, Rama said, adding that in order to implement those plans, a vision is required and that vision has to come from Bangladesh, he said the economist.

He said they suggest making investments before it was too late, before everything was encroached upon. "If you [government] wait five years or 10 years, it will be too late. But, now it is feasible," he added.

Dhaka with almost 20 million people suffers from severe congestion, poor liveability, and vulnerability to frequent floods. Average traffic speed has dropped to 7kmph. Congestion in Dhaka eats up 3.2 million working hours every day.

Based on current trends, Dhaka would have more than 35 million people by 2035. Between 1995 and 2005, road surface in Dhaka increased only 5 percent, while population increased 50 percent and traffic 134 percent.

WAY FORWARD

Fixing the existing problems of Dhaka is one solution and thinking about the growth of Dhaka in the next 20 years is the other solution, Martin Rama said.

There are a few critical steps that could really transform Dhaka, he said.

Rama said if the eastern embankment was built, there would be an enormous tract of land which is now flooded. Roads were needed to be built in that direction, like the 300 Feet Road, because people have not moved there. A lot of the activities of the city dwellers would be in that direction, he said.

The economist said it would be cheap to do so as the authorities would not have to move people and rehabilitate them because the area was relatively empty.

For west Dhaka, he suggested widening the roads and building more flyovers and pushing people and traffic elsewhere.

About the WB's role, he said they recently approved projects in the city regarding water and sanitation. He

Weaknesses and strengths

He said they provided a lot of technical help and supported projects related to transport, water, and slum upgrade, among others.

WEAKNESSES AND STRENGTHS

"Dhaka is quite unique in several ways. It is a very big city and very dense city in terms of population. It is a very fast growing city," he said, adding that Dhaka's geographical location was a major advantage.

Big cities like New York or Shanghai have big rivers and Dhaka has too, he said.

Rama said density itself was a blessing for a big city as it connected people, and increased efficiency by making markets bigger and thicker. But for Dhaka it has become a disadvantage because Dhaka has grown mainly in an unplanned manner.

When the western embankment in Dhaka was built near the Buriganga to get rid of floodwater, infrastructure and roads were not built at the same pace as houses.

So widening a road in the dense area has become a challenge. It would have been easy to build roads when there was nobody there. Now widening roads and building a metro rail in the area have become costly, Rama said.

Unplanned growth casts a bit of the

'Picture, officer deserve awards'

Says PM about UNO's arrest over 5th grader's portrait of Bangabandhu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was surprised and apalled after learning that an UNO was arrested for distributing invitation cards with a portrait of the Father of the Nation made by a fifth grader, her Political Affairs Adviser HT Imam told BBC Bangla yesterday.

Officials at the Prime Minister's Office were surprised to see the news yesterday and brought the matter to the PM's attention, HT Imam said.

The prime minister was delighted to see the portrait made by a class-V student. "This officer has done a good job by arranging a painting competition among class-V students ... No distortion [of Bangabandhu's image] was made here. It deserves an award. The officer deserves an award," he quoted the PM as saying.

"In return, we did this. It is commendable," he quoted the PM as saying.

Tariq Salman, the UNO of Bangladesh, said.

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Rice stocked illegally

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As there are no valid documents for the rice stock in the public granaries, it is evident that the rice was stocked in the depot illegally."

The probe body was formed after the Rapid Action Battalion-7 had seized eight trucks loaded with 168.5 tonnes of rice from different areas in the port from July 18 to 20, and Afziz Uddin Sagar — were arrested in Jatrabari and Kadamtali areas. They allegedly raped garment factory employee Farida Begum in turn in before.

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Kovind India's new president

FROM PAGE 1

and the first BJP member to be elected president, received 2,930 votes with a value of 702,044, while Meira, also a Dalit, 1,844 votes with a value of 367,314, Mishra said.

The electoral college for the presidential election comprises of members of parliament and legislative assemblies of all states.

Around 99 percent of a total of 4,896 voters — 4,120 MLAs and 776 elected MPs — had exercised their franchise through secret ballots in the polling held on Monday.

While the value of an MLA's vote depends on the population of his or her state, the value of an MP's vote remains the same at 708.

The polling was marked by cross-voting in various states where many opposition members favoured Kovind.

Kovind, who has roots in RSS, the ideological fountainhead of BJP, enjoyed the support of all BJP allies besides several regional parties, including Janata Dal (I) which had broken ranks with the opposition and supported him.

Meira was backed by major opposition Congress and several other parties in a contest that Congress chief Sonia Gandhi termed an "ideological battle" against the ruling party.

Kovind's election as president is expected to help Modi tighten his grip on India's power structure. Although executive power is wielded by the prime minister under India's constitution, the president can be an impor-

Terrorism rose in Bangladesh last year: US

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Both al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and ISIS claimed responsibility for a significant number of the attacks that took place in Bangladesh.

Terrorist outfits used social media to spread their radical ideologies and solicit followers from Bangladesh. Bangladesh was featured in multiple publications and websites associated with ISIS and AQIS, it said.

The report mentioned that ISIS claimed responsibility for 18 attacks in Bangladesh in 2016.

It also noted that the Department of State was working with Bangladesh to assist in developing a screening infrastructure to better secure its borders.

It added that Bangladesh continued to participate in the US State Department's Antiterrorism Assistance programme and received counterterrorism-focused training for law enforcement officers.

Extending her heartiest congratulations, the PM invited the Indian president-elect to his convenience.

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As an advocate, Kovind practised in the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court. He was also the federal government's standing counsel in the apex court from 1980-93.

He was elected to the Rajya Sabha, upper House of parliament, in April 1994 from Uttar Pradesh and served there for two consecutive terms till March 2006.

As a lawyer, Kovind took the lead in providing free legal aid to weaker sections, especially of backward castes and tribals and needy girls under the Delhi of the Free Legal Aid Society in Delhi.

He is also known for his work in the field of education. He served as a member on the board of management of the Dr BR Ambedkar University, Lucknow, and was a member of the board of governors of the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata.

Kovind married Savita in May 1974. The couple have a son and a daughter.