

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, her brain did not receive enough oxygen, leading to her senseless state.

Police tried to know the girl's identity by matching her fingerprints with those stored 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 Md. Alimuddin, OC, officer-in-charge of Mohamadpur police.

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

A team of police led by SI Swizel then rescued the girl with swallows 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 Lamaduddin said a man identifying himself as Ashraful had checked in the hotel with a woman 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.

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 recently.

A police team arrested Jamal Khan, Sowparna and Rajib Hossain raiding Sowparna Bawali areas of Tabori in connection with the murder of their acquaintance Parve Begum. Her body was found at her house in East Jorabari area on June 18.

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

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

The other three – Jai Sikder, Raful Islam Shamim, and Mofiz Uddin Sagar – were arrested in Jatrabari and Kadamtali areas. They allegedly raped garment factory employee Farida Begum in turn in

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Rice stocked illegally

As there are no valid documents for the 63 tonnes of rice, it is evident the rice was stocked in the depot illegally.

The probe body was formed after the Rabit Action Battalion-7 had seized eight trucks loaded with 16.5 tonnes of rice from different areas in the port city from Monday evening through Wednesday. The rice was allegedly being smuggled out of the CSD. Law enforcers picked up CSD Manager Pranayan Chakma and four trucks on the probe into the rice seizure, said officials.

Dhaka with almost 20 million people suffers from severe congestion, poor liveability, and vulnerability to floods and earthquakes. Average traffic speed has dropped to 7kmpm. 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 he said.

Rama said if the government can move to build 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 added.

The economist said it would be cheap to do so as the authorities would not have to move people and rehabilitate the area 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

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