Woman found murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was found murdered inside her flat in the capital's Darussalam yesterday.

Police recovered the slit-throat body of Marium Begum, 50, a housekeeper at Dhaka Nursing College, from the fifth floor of an elevenstorey building in Tolarbagh area around 7:00pm, Selimuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Darussalam Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Marium's hands and legs were tied with rope. It appeared that more than one person was involved in her killing, police said.

The motive for the murder was not clear immediately.

Police recovered two knives from the washroom of the flat, the OC said, adding that Marium's cell phone was missing.

The crime scene unit of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) collected evidence from the scene.

Marium's husband Abdul Hannan, an accountant of Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery, found the main gate of the flat open when he returned from work around 6:30pm.

Khokon Hawlader, security guard who along with his family lives on the ground floor of the underconstruction building, told The Daily Star that the victim had returned from her work around 3:00pm.

Asked, he claimed that he noticed no one moving suspiciously in or around the building, which had no CCTV cameras.

Rezaul Karim, brother of the victim from Tangail, said apart from the cell phone, nothing seemed to be missing from the flat owned by Marium and Hannan.

The couple has two children --Mujahid, 24, and Dia, 21. They are students of a private medical College in the capital's Moghbazar. They were not home during the time of the incident.

OC Selimuzzaman said they were trying to find out whether the killing was carried out over any personal conflict or it was just an incident of robbery-related murder.

SL canter

unsavoury events and not only won the tournament opener against India, the number one side in the world, by five wickets but upheld the spirit of the game despite all the negativity of the past 24 hours.

They also overcame the R Premadasa Stadium jinx as they had lost 12 of 14 T20Is at the venue

before yesterday. The hosts chased down a challenging target of 175 with nine balls to spare courtesy of a blistering 37-ball 67 from Kusal Perera before Thisara

Perera's 22 off 10 balls guided the hosts to an easy win with nine balls to spare. Sri Lanka lost opener Kusal Mendis early for 11 but the left-handed Perera

was in belligerent mood. Perera utilised the Powerplay to great effect as Sri Lanka scored 75

runs in the first six overs. Kusal, who opened his account with a

powerfully swept six off off-spinner Washington Sundar, immediately wrested the initiative in Sri Lanka's favour. The 27year-old put on an exhibition of power hitting - his reverse-swept six off Suresh Raina sailed towards the stands as the left hander reached his fifty in just 22 balls. There was to be no late drama as

often unfolds in T20Is as Sri Lanka cashed in on the inexperience of the Indian bowling attack. Finally, when Perera was dismissed for 66, having hit six fours and four sixes, the home side required 49 runs from 45 balls and then it was Thisara Perera whose calm aggression took his side past the finish line.

Earlier, India rode on Shikhar Dhawan's blistering 49-ball 90 after Sri Lanka skipper Dinesh Chandimal asked India to bat first.

Bangladesh are the third team in the competition and will play their first match against India tomorrow.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 16 while Pakistan and Myanmar ranked 13th and 31st.

France, Germany, the UK, Japan and Israel are among the top 15 countries. The report also gives details about the militaries of Bangladesh, China, India and Pakistan.

However, it did not take into consideration the strategic forces of any

country such as nuclear firepower. The report says Bangladesh's defence budget is \$1.59 billion as

against China's \$161.7b, India's \$51b, Myanmar's \$2.4b and Pakistan's \$7b. Bangladesh has an active military

comprising of 160,000 personnel while India has 1362,500, China

3712,500 and Pakistan 637,000. Bangladesh Air Force has 166 aircraft. Of them, 45 are fighter aircraft

and 45 attack aircraft. Neighbouring India has 2,102 aircraft, China 2,955, Pakistan 951 and

Myanmar 249 aircraft.

According to the report, Bangladesh Army has 534 combat tanks, 942 armoured fighting vehicles, 18 self-propelled artillery guns, and 32 rocket projectors.

The report also says Bangladesh has a total of 89 naval assets. The country owns six frigates, four corvettes, 28

patrol craft, five mine warfare vessels.



Students' mobile phones are set on fire by the authorities of Darul Ulum Moinul Islam Madrasa in Chittagong's Hathazari upazila on Sunday evening after those were seized from the dormitories of the institution.

Madrasa burns pupils' smartphones in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The authorities of Darul Ulum Moinul Islam Madrasa, a Qawmi educational institution in Chittagong's Hathazari, seized around 500 smartphones from its students and torched them.

They raided madrasa dormitories on Sunday afternoon and burnt them in the evening. Some students said it was absurd in

this age to impose a ban on the use of mobile phones, while the madrasa authorities said mobile phones hamper the concentration of students on their studies and prayers. "Earlier, mobile phones were seized several times, but those were later

given back. But this time, the authorities set those ablaze," said a student, adding, "We had nothing to do but to watch the burning of phones." "Mobile phones were also seized

when we were students, but those were not set on fire ... may I know the reason behind this move?" commented MK Alamgir Khan, a former student of the madrasa, under an image of burning mobile phones on Facebook.

In reply, another former student of the madrasa Rizwan Arman said this time the seized mobile phones were torched as it had earlier been alleged that some madrasa officials took away some of the phones.

Asked, Nasir Uddin, a student of the madrasa, said there are 9,000 students in the madrasa. Of them, around 500 students, whose phones were set ablaze, might be aggrieved, but the remaining students were happy.

"We cannot let the atmosphere of madrasa be polluted for such a small number of students," he said.

The madrasa authorities do not allow the students to use mobile phones on campus and in dormitories, and all the students have been briefed about it at the time of their admissions, said Ashraf Ali Nizampuri, a teacher of the madrasa.

Besides, the authorities warned the students several times not to use mobile phones inside the madrasa and dormitories.

The authorities were compelled to the workplace.

go for a tough action, he added.

The students use Facebook, take photos and capture videos with their phones, which is unacceptable as madrasa students, he said.

Asked, if the students were barred from using mobile phones, how they would contact their families when it was necessary, Ashraf said there is a mobile in madrasa so that students could communicate with their families.

Another teacher said only smartphones were seized from the students. "Some students have been found

using smartphones to watch videos and vulgar contents and so the authorities decided to seize all smartphones and destroy them." AFP adds: pupils at the seminary

were ordered to hand over their cellphones Sunday to school administrators who then tossed the devices en masse into a fire in a nearby field.

"These devices are ruining their character," said Azizul Hoque, a spokesman for the Darul Ulum Moinul Islam Madrasa.

"The students use internet [on their phones | throughout the night and then doze during classes the next morning. Their parents are concerned. Azizul said the seminary -- a 123-

year-old institution -- was not against technology "but the negative results of mobile phones far outweigh its positives" "We are flooded with letters seeking

fatwas [Islamic edicts] from Muslims against the use of mobile phones, as many complained that the gadgets were frequently used for extramarital affairs."

The madrasa in Hathazari, outside the port city of Chittagong, is headed by Ahmad Shafi, the head of hardline Islamist group Hefazat-e Islam.

Hundreds of thousands of Hefazat supporters marched to the capital in 2013, demanding implementation of religious laws, including criminalising blasphemy and segregating genders in

Serial killer Rasu Kha

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Rasu told police that he proposed to her several times but was rejected. He also claimed to have been severely beaten by goons hired by the girl's family.

Apparently, this made him "angry towards women".

The former supervisor, a father of three, who was married for 11 years before filing for divorce, went on to marry his wife's younger sister.

In his confession, Rasu claimed to have killed at least 11 women. Pretending to be in love with his prospective victims, he would lure them into isolated locations before murdering them.

He said he had vowed to kill 101 women before living out the rest of his life in Shahjalal's shrine in Sylhet.

Rasu first came to the law enforcer's

attention after his arrest at Niraspara in Tongi on September 3, 2009, for stealing 10-12 fans from a mosque in Gazipur village in Chandpur.

The police would again come across the serial killer following the murder of Parveen. Using her phone records, they tracked Rasu. He was soon picked up and then remanded on 7 October, 2009.

led to him confessing to more crimes than the police had anticipated. He

recounted grisly details of his murders. Rasu said his first victim was Shahida, whom he killed in early 2007. He reportedly lured her to Bhatialganj

in Faridganj, raped her and then stran-

gled her to death. Rasu told police that he tied her hands and legs and dumped the body on the banks of the Dakatia River in Chandpur sadar upazila.

He even stated that he raped the women he "liked" before killing them. Others were strangled straightaway.

Parveen was his last victim and she was killed with the help of Rasu's nephew Zahirul, the Chandpur Strangler told police.

Earlier on April 22 in 2015, a Chandpur court handed down Rasu capital punishment for the rape and murder of his brother-in-law's wife Shahida.

Rasu earlier told police that he had killed six women in Faridganj of Chandpur, four in Chandpur Sadar and one in Haimchar of the district. All were garments workers in Savar and

Police have so far been able to identify five of the victims. They are: Hashar Parveen of Faridganj in Chandpur, Rasu's brother-in-law Mannan's wife Shahida, Kohinoor of Niraspara in Tongi, Mashrufa Mehedi Khatun of the same area, and Rina of Durgapur in Chandpur.

Rasu reportedly tried to commit Persistent questioning by the police suicide in police custody at Sadar Model Police Station on October 22, 2009, but was rescued by the police.

On August 21, a Chittagong tribunal acquitted Rasu of murdering a girl after raping her in Chandpur in 2009. Out of the 10 cases filed against him, seven more are still under trial.

Hindu priest

FROM PAGE 16 over phone that his uncle was killed around 10:30am.

Both Pinak and his wife Agomony Chakrabarty were at Chatmohar Upazila Women's College where they are teachers and their children were in school.

"The killers entered my house and killed my uncle and looted gold ornaments, cash and valuables worth about Tk 10/12 lakh," Pinak told The Daily Star.

It was a planned murder as the killers must have known there was nobody else in the house, he added. Md Ahsan Habib, officer-in-charge of Chatmohar police, said they had recovered the body around 10:30am. The victim was strangled and his hands and legs were tied and he had been gagged, the OC added. "During primary investigation it

appeared this was a planned murder and looting the house was also planned to divert our focus," the OC Locals said Haradhan was single

and lived a saintly life in the village.

daughter-in-law and two grandchil-

He used to stay with his nephew,

dren but spend most of his time in a temple. Arshad Ali, a neighbour, said Haradhan offered his morning puja like the other days and went to the microcredit cooperative office with him to pay a loan instalment. He was

killed soon after his return that raised

many questions, he added. Shefali Khatun, another neighbour, said an apparently young girl clad in a burqa was seen running from the house. Shefali added she wanted to stop her and ask questions, but she slipped away.

"The presence of an unidentified girl in the village raised our suspicion," Shefali said, adding that the victim was a polite man who had no

Success without

FROM PAGE 2

education. "Children are the future of the nation, so my request to the parents is to give moral education to their children for the nation's bright future." He urged parents to let their chil-

and entertainment and not to burden them with books all the time. "We enjoyed a lot during our childhood and we should give them the scope to enjoy theirs." To teachers, Abdul Hamid said, "You can develop every children of the country as a nation builder by

dren spend enough time for sports

your principles and ideals. You can create the quality of leadership among children." Earlier, he distributed medals among the best persons/institutions on the occasion of the National Education Week as well as winners of

Priyabhashini

the inter-primary school cultural

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competition.

Her body will be taken to the Central Shaheed Minar for people to pay their last tribute from 11:00am to 12:00noon tomorrow.

She will be buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard after her namaz-e-janaja at Dhaka University's central mosque the same day, reports UNB.

In his condolence message, the president said, "The contribution of Priyabhashini in the country's Liberation War will be remembered forever."

Hasina described her death as an irreparable loss to the field of sculpture, adding, "The nation has lost a valiant freedom fighter."

During the Liberation War, she was abused by Pakistani occupation army and its local collaborators.

She was 23 at the time. After getting freed from the clutches of her tormentors towards the end of the war in 1971, she stood by the women abused like her and spoke of her ordeal in public, unlike most others who buried their agonies deep inside them because of the social stigma associated with it.

She was recognised as freedom fighter in 2016 and received Swadhinata Padak in 2010. She was born on February 19,

1947, in Khulna. Her biography "Nindito Nandan" was published in Ekushey Book Fair in 2014. She started sculpting when she

lived in Jessore during 1984-1988. She started to decorate her house with bamboos and other natural elements which attracted a lot of visitors. Her first exhibition was jointly

inaugurated by artist SM Sultan and poet Sufia Kamal, and emceed by late ambidextrous writer Syed Shamsul Haq. "Ferdousi Priyabhashini always

upheld the spirit of Liberation War in her art work as well as in her everyday life. She was an active voice for the trial against war criminals. We have lost a vital voice of our Liberation War," said Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor.

What law says & law

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City

Revered by students of any age across the country, Prof Iqbal is popular among kids especially for his science fiction novels. All his life he has been vocal against communal forces and championing secularism and the ideals of the Liberation War.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led the nation to condemn the attack and directed the law enforcers to hunt down all the culprits involved. People from all walks of life, includ-

ing eminent citizens, teachers and students of SUST and other universities and members of socio-political and cultural organisations, joined demonstrations on the streets as well as the chorus of protests on social media. But there are people who are running smear campaigns -- some of them

appearing to be supportive of extremist views. Foyzur, the alleged attacker, is also a follower of Salafism, an ultraconservative reform branch within Sunni Islam, according to some locals in his home village in Sunamganj. "Didn't he die?" questioned a Facebook user named Jajabor Amin in the comment section of a news item

soon after the attack. Just below, another user, Shakil Hamja, wrote: "Good news! Atheist!" One Rakibul Hasan in a post used abusive language against Prof Iqbal

and said, "Zafar Iqbal is a person who is extremely anti-Islam..." Abdul Kader, another user, justified killing of atheists, and said, "Those

who are blaming Zafar sir's attacker

please think again." One Md Kamruzzaman Ripon commented, "He [Prof Iqbal] is a hardcore atheist! Either the knife that man [the attacker] used for the attack was not sharp enough or the atheist was too strong to die.'

JD Khan, another user, in Facebook praised the attacker and said, demand awards be conferred upon However, some netizens have

demanded action against those

involved in the hate campaign. "Those who are supporting the attack on public domain should be

Declines

FROM PAGE 16

year, according to the Unicef. Globally, one in five women are

married before they turn 18 years old. A decade ago, the rate had been one in four, it said. "While South Asia has led the way on reducing child marriage over the

last decade, the global burden of child

marriage is shifting to sub-Saharan

Africa," it added. One in three recently married child brides are now in sub-Saharan Africa,

compared to one in five a decade ago. Poverty, ideas of family honor, social norms, customs and religious laws are factors that could force girls into child marriages.

But the consequences can be devastating. Marriages can rob girls of their childhood, compromise their development and put them at risk of early and complicated pregnancies. They often pay a heavy price in not getting an education or access to proper health care and economic opportunities.

Child marriages also occur in the US, and remains legal in every state because of a hodgepodge of exceptions that let minors get married with parental consent or judicial approval.

hunted down.... Govt [Government] is doing nothing, so these animals write whatever they want," one of then

Condemning such campaigns, Bangladesh Islamic Foundation Director General Shamim Mohammad Afzal said Islam never supports this type of character assassination. "You cannot label a person as athe-

ist or anything like this. Only Allah will judge his/her action. Those who spread hatred are not followers of Islam in true sense."

Those who are involved in such practices are actually creating anarchy in society, he told The Daily Star. Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy

incitement to commit crime is not the same thing. "Such comments are manifestation of criminal minds and clear incitement to commit criminal offence." He said if some of these instigators are arrested, others will get a message

Barua said freedom of expression and

such people is very rare, he told this correspondent. Contacted, Alimuzzaman, deputy commissioner of social media monitoring and cyber security division at

such posts and making those comments," he told this newspaper.

was born in November, a traditionally male name, French prosecutors intervened.

interest of the child and could harm her in her social relations", The Local As a result, the prosecutor has asked

by the parents and, failing that, by the To support the argument, the prosecutor quoted examples of famous men

actor Liam Neeson. child "a more feminine name", the parents, who live in Morbihan,

time French prosecutors have attempted to ban the use of an unusual

In fact, up until 1993 French parents had to choose a name for their newborn baby from a list put together

by authorities. But, while there's certainly more flexibility today, French officials still retain the power to reject any name

Previously, names such as Manhattan, Nutella, Strawberry and

While parents have also been forbidden from using traditional Breton monikers including Derc'hen, because it contains an apostrophe, and Fañch.

'Some progress'

Amid global criticism, Myanmar signed a bilateral repatriation deal with Bangladesh late November and discussions so far have been bilat-

The UN and other human rights organisations and the Rohingyas themselves, however, have been demanding UN involvement, arguing that otherwise repatriation would not be safe or sustainable. Myanmar has so far denied UN involvement, but Bangladesh has

engaged the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on sharing of information of the refugees and is set to sign another deal soon on further of the assumptions of how that proengagement in the repatriation process. Seppo said there have been consis-

involvement. I am confident that

that it is a punishable offence. Unfortunately, instance of arrest of

Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said such posts drew their attention. "We are working on this issue and trying to find out the people giving

Couple banned

This, they say, is because it "would be likely to create a risk of gender confusion" and "therefore contrary to the

the courts to ban the parents from using the name Liam and force them to give "the child another name chosen

with the name Liam including former Oasis lead singer Liam Gallagher and Despite having already been advised by the registrar to give the

Brittany, are battling the case and have requested the services of a lawyer. The date of the trial hearing is yet to be confirmed but this isn't the first

they feel isn't in the child's best inter-

Deamon have all been banned in France.

million Rohingyas in Bangladesh including some 700,000 who have fled the violence that began on August 25 last year.

eral.

tent calls from all for Myanmar to involve UNHCR as it would not be satisfactory to anyone to have a completely bilateral return programme. advanced in terms of UNHCR

side too," she added. She termed UN discussions with

Myanmar "some progress" when the Rohingyas are still fleeing Rakhine and the Myanmar authorities are bulldozing their villages, which, according to the Human Rights Watch (HRW), is part of destroying evidence of the atrocities. The conversation on return of the

Rohingyas to the places of their origin would potentially be more complex if the evidence of people having lived in Rakhine is destroyed, said the UN top official in Bangladesh. In the bilateral agreement,

Myanmar's requirements of proof of the Rohingyas' residence in Rakhine had some flexibility, which seemed promising, Seppo observed.

"And, this now kind of undoes a lot cess would work," she said. She further said there has been some

small improvements in humanitarian access for UN and other agencies in Rakhine, which is a good step forward, but still it is not enough. "Our call continues for the unfet-

tered access to humanitarian assis-"Discussions with Bangladesh are far tance in order for them to make sure that humanitarian and development assistance reaches to the people in need," Seppo said in response to UNHCR will have a role to play on Bangladesh side. I am hopeful that reports that some Rohingyas were that will be the case on Myanmar starving in Rakhine.