

NUSRAT MURDER

Poppy was late for test

Witness madrasa teacher tells court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

The day madrasa student Nusrat was attacked in Feni, Umme Sultan Poppy, a suspect in the case, arrived late for an examination at the institution and claimed that she had gone to the washroom, a witness said in his deposition before a court yesterday.

Poppy is one of the five charge sheeted accused in the case filed for killing Nusrat by setting her on fire on the madrasa roof on April 6.

Witness Abul Khayer, a teacher of the madrasa, gave his deposition before the court of Justice Mamunur Rashid of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal.

"On that day, one student entered the exam hall after all the others. When she was asked why she was late, she replied that she was in the bathroom. Two days later, I learnt from other students that the girl's name was Umme Sultan Poppy. Her nickname is Tuhin. She was arrested from her home after a few days," Khayer said in his deposition.

There were supposed to be 26 examinees at the hall, but Khayer found 23. The three did not arrive when he distributed exam papers at 9:45am, he recalled.

Two of the students showed up after a minute or two. After that, the teacher heard screams outside. Later, he saw Nusrat being taken towards the madrasa gate, he said.

The court adjourned the proceedings till Sunday when it is expected two record depositions of two more witnesses -- Sonagazi municipality chairman Sheikh Mamun and local businessman Mohammed Yousuf, said court sources.

On Wednesday Shirin Akter, mother of slain Nusrat Jahan Rafi, fainted in the witness stand. She, however, turned up yesterday and completed her deposition as a witness.

Nusrat, a student of Sonagazi Islamia Senior Fazil Madrasa, was set attacked allegedly for refusing to withdraw a case filed against the madrasa principal for sexually harassing her. After fighting for her life for five days, Nusrat succumbed to her injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.



Wearing a raincoat, a man rides a bike in heavy rain on the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in Farmgate yesterday. Rain over the few days has caused sufferings to commuters in the capital.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

RIFAT MURDER

Schoolboy held after analysing footage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police yesterday arrested a schoolboy on suspicion of his involvement with Rifat Sharif killing.

Police identified the boy from a video footage, said Abir Mohammed Hasan, OC of Barguna Police Station, adding that he is a ninth grader at a local school.

However, the OC did not mention the place from where the boy was arrested.

Along with the latest arrest, a total of 13 accused are in custody in the case filed over Rifat murder. Of them, six were named in the FIR.

Meanwhile, another accused Rafiul Islam Rabbi gave confessional statement in Rifat murder case on Wednesday evening.

The court of Barguna Senior Judicial Magistrate Sirajul Islam Gazi recorded his statement and later sent him to jail, said Humayun Kabir, investigation officer of the case.

Earlier, six other accused -- Oli, Tanvir, Chandon, Hasan, Sagor and Najmul -- gave confessional statements about their involvement in the murder, the IO confirmed.

The main accused Nayan Bond was killed in a gunfight with police early on July 2, he said.

On June 26, Nayan and Farazi, along with some others, attacked 25-year-old Rifat with sharp weapons in front of Barguna Government College when Rifat and his wife Ayesha were leaving the college premises.

He was first taken to Barguna General Hospital and later to Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital where he died around 3:30pm.

Rifat's father Abdul Halim Dulal Sharif filed a case with Barguna Police Station on the same day accusing 12.

CASE AGAINST SINHA

Submit probe report by August 28

Court asks ACC
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the ACC to submit the probe report on a money laundering case against former Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha and 10 others by August 28.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka passed the order after receiving the First Information Report of the case from the Anti-Corruption Commission.

On Wednesday, the ACC filed a case against SK Sinha and 10 others on charges of misappropriating and laundering in 2016 about Tk 4 crore from the then Farmers Bank.

The accused include the bank's former managing director AKM Shamim, former head of credit division Gazi Salahuddin, First Vice President of Credit Division Swapan Kumar Roy, Senior Vice President Zia Uddin Ahmed, First Vice President Shafuddin Askary and Vice President Lutful Haque.

The other accused are Shahjahan of Tangail's Sreehoripur village; Ranjit Chandra Saha of the district's Jodanathpur village, his wife Santri Roy and nephew Niranjan Chandra Saha.

According to the case statement, Shahjahan and Niranjan opened two separate current accounts with Farmers Bank's Gulshan Branch on November 6, 2016.

The next day, each of them applied for loans of Tk 2 crore from the accounts.

The two used the same residential address in Uttara in their bank documents. The ACC, during investigation, found that the house is owned by Sinha, the statement said.

Shahjahan and Ranjit are known to be well acquainted with ex-CJ Sinha, it said.

No tickets for rebel supporters

Says Hasina about dissidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night said Awami League MPs who took a stance against the party in the recently held upazila parishad polls would not get party tickets in the upcoming elections.

After a meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, Hasina also directed party MPs not to get involved in any kind of internal feud in their respective constituencies.

"You were elected MP with the Awami League ticket. But you are working against the Awami League. We have to look into the matter," ALPP President Hasina was quoted as saying by an MP from Dhaka division.

"People who are acting against the party in the upazila polls will not

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ACC officials to blame

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was wrongly implicated in the graft cases but also details the negligence, flaws and violation of the rules by the ACC enquiry officer, 12 investigation officers and supervising officials.

On September 14, 2010, general manager of a local office of Sonali Bank filed a case with Motijheel Police Station, accusing Salek of misappropriating money. The case was later sent to the ACC for further investigation.

The ACC assigned the then deputy director Abdullah Al Zahid to run an enquiry. Zahid, now a director, took 14 months to complete it.

"What did he get in his 14-month enquiry? He did not even pay any field visits which in no way was right," the probe report said, adding that Zahid submitted his enquiry report on the basis of findings in two investigation reports of Bangladesh Bank and Sonali bank.

"Had he [Zahid] paid field visits, he could've found out the address of Abu Salek."

In the enquiry report, there was no mention of any person named Jaha Alam, it added.

Zahid made another mistake by filing 33 separate cases on a single matter in violation of the rules, which created complexities. Later, the ACC assigned 12 investigation officers to probe those.

Wadud found that the top officials, who were supposed to supervise Zahid's enquiry, were careless.

"Had they been careful, the mistakes would have surfaced at the

enquiry level."

The enquiry officer had several discussions with the then ACC director general (special enquiry and investigation), who asked the officer to come up with a full report, Wadud mentioned.

The enquiry officer, supervisor or the director general concerned cannot avoid the liability for the mistake, he added.

FLAWS OCCURRED DURING PROBE

During the investigation, IOs could have collected photos of all the accused from bank documents and publish those through advertisements in newspapers or TV channels, seeking people's help for their arrest.

The IOs didn't interrogate Jaha Alam in front of the other accused in the cases. They did not even take into consideration his educational qualification, economic condition or social status, the probe report said.

It further said the IOs didn't try to find out the interest of Salek's introducers at different banks. They didn't bring the bank officials to book for providing extra cheque books and aiding in bank transactions.

"More than Tk 18 crore was misappropriated but the IOs didn't collect enough information about where the money went... It exposes their incompetence."

The IOs also didn't go for field visits, rather they put pressure on bank officials to find out Salek. And the bank officials introduced Jaha Alam as Salek to the ACC to save themselves from being accused in the cases, the

probe report said.

"The IOs were supposed to do the work [of finding out Salek]. Instead, bank officials did the job."

"They [the IOs] didn't take into consideration the possibility that the bank officials could identify anyone as Salek to save themselves."

Many bank officials were involved in it and misused power, but none of them were accused in the cases, the probe report said.

Two persons -- Nazrul Islam Sagar and Saiful Haque -- testified to the police under section 164 before the case was transferred to the ACC. But the IOs didn't take any initiative to record their testimonies again.

On top of that, 11 of the 12 IOs were apprentice officers in August 2011 when they were assigned to probe the complex matter. "The mistakes took place because of inexperience, a lack of skill and in want of supervision," it read.

In the probe report, Wadud recommended forming a supervising panel with experienced officers to prevent such occurrence in future and not to engage supervising officers in any investigation or enquiry.

"Trail the money" is an important tool in graft cases to find out the beneficiaries of corruption. If the tool was applied, an innocent person like Jaha Alam would not have been harassed, the ACC director noted.

To make this tool effective, the commission needs to establish a forensic accounting department, he added.

1 new face, one to get promoted

FROM PAGE 1

Indira will be ushered into the cabinet, said sources.

Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam disclosed the news of the reshuffle after a press briefing on the DC Conference at the secretariat yesterday.

Asked whether the two names are Imran Ahmed and Fazilatunnesa Indira, the cabinet secretary responded positively. "We are ready to hold the oath-taking ceremony on Saturday at Bangabhaban," he said, responding to another query.

Imran Ahmed is a six-time MP from Sylhet-4 constituency. He was made state minister on January 7. Indira is an MP from the reserve seats for women for a second term.

The present Hasina-led cabinet took oath on January 7 for a third consecutive term, following a landslide victory in the December 30 national polls last year.

A minor cabinet reshuffle took place on May 19, when Hasina reallocated portfolios of five cabinet members, curtailing the powers of two ministers and increasing the powers of two state ministers.

In the reshuffle, then state minister for health Murad Hasan was made state minister for information, and then minister for local government, rural development (LGRD) and cooperatives Tajul Islam was made minister for the Local Government Division only.

Besides, Mustafa Jabbar, previously a technocrat minister for post, telecommunication and ICT, was appointed minister for the Post and Telecommunication Division only.

ANNUAL DC CONFERENCE

The cabinet secretary said the conference of deputy commissioners (DCs) will be held on July 14-18, and the prime minister will inaugurate it at her office.

This year's conference will feature at least 24 working sessions, and some 333 proposals made by the DCs will come up for discussion, he said.

This is the first time DCs will meet the chief justice, the speaker and chiefs of the three forces, and the conference will last five days instead of three.

294 killed by BSF

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2017 and three in 2018.

Responding to a query from Ashim Kumar Ukil, Netrakona-3 lawmaker, Kamal said BGB had taken various steps to build confidence among the residents of border areas and the border guards of the neighbouring countries.

BGB had marked 328-kilometre area as "sensitive" where modern cameras would be set up gradually, said the home minister.

India and Bangladesh share a 4,053 km long border.

Meanwhile in Chapainawabganj yesterday, two people were reportedly killed in an incident in which Indian border guards opened fire.

In the district's Shibganj upazila, Royal Rahman and Saddam Hossain Patal got shot after they intruded into Indian territory via Wahedpur border during the wee hours. Both were 25, said locals.

Members of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) of Nurpur camp opened fire on a group of cattle traders who crossed the border to bring cattle.

Among them, Royal of Dobhagi village and Saddam of Monoharpur village died on the spot.

Their associates brought back the bodies and buried them secretly, the locals told this paper.

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) is yet to confirm the matter. "BGB is yet to get any evidence. We are looking into the matter," said Maj Ekhlesur Rahman, deputy commander of BGB 53 battalion in Chapainawabganj.

Shikdar Moshir Rahman, officer-in-charge of Shibganj Police Station, said a police team visited the houses of Royal and Saddam but their families said they were away for work.

In Jashore, Israfil Hossain, 32, got shot when BSF opened fire at Putkhali frontier in Benapole early yesterday. BGB men admitted him to Jashore General Hospital around 9:45am, said Lt Col Imran Ullah Sarker, commanding officer of BGB 21 battalion in Jashore.

He said, "Indian BSF opened fire on three/four cattle smugglers near Benapole frontier around 4:00am. Israfil of Chhotoanchra village got injured. A case was lodged in this connection."

Israfil got shot in his left leg but was out of danger, said Dr Amio Das, medical officer at Jashore General Hospital.

BSF members from Angrail camp shot Israfil when he was returning home with cows, Israfil's father in-law Noor Islam told this paper.

(Our Benapole correspondent and staff correspondent in parliament contributed to this report)



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What's the fault

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cases other digital service providers are also affected badly. People who use apps for voice calls, inside and outside the country, are also having issues.

Call drops and call generating time have increased.

Mobile operators may resort to rationing their current bandwidth and may even fully withdraw from some parts of the country where internet is used less.

A question may be asked as who won and who lost due to this decision of the BTRC. Has anything been actually achieved? No. Everybody seems to be facing poor quality service. Even the decision-makers themselves are receiving disrupted service.

The BTRC has calculated through external auditors that Grameenphone owes Tk 12,579 crore to the government and Robi Tk 867 crore, which operators' term "disputed" amount.

Operators have sought to run an arbitration process to fix the amount owed, but the telecom regulator refused saying there is no provision for arbitration

under the telecom act.

The operators claim that when an audit is done, the practice is to sit with all parties and come to some agreed figure. In this case, no such effort has been made by the BTRC. Meanwhile, the subscribers are suffering.

The case of Teletalk can be cited as an example where the BTRC did not take any action though it owes the regulator Tk 2,000 crore.

In a latest move, the post and telecommunication division has directed the BTRC to go for arbitration to settle the issue of the BTRC's claim against Grameenphone and Robi.

We congratulate the telecom division and consider it to be the proper way of resolving any dispute between any foreign investor and ourselves.

The BTRC's move caused tremendous problems for the mobile phone and internet users. In its eagerness to make the service providers pay, the regulator forgot the 160 million subscribers whose rights and interest they have been entrusted to protect.