



## No strength left to seek justice

*Stuck in legal woes herself, mother no longer pursues the case for son's death in custody*

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Shaheda Begum does not seek justice for her son any more. Actually she does not dare.

The mother of four recently found herself entangled in legal woes, and she does not want to invite more trouble by continuing court battle for her son Sujan, who died in police custody five years ago.

The 62-year-old woman was made an accused in a drug-related case filed by Detective Branch of police in February this year. She was charged with sheltering four members of a yaba syndicate in her residence in the capital's Mirpur.

Her family members as well as her tenants say they never saw the so-called syndicate members in that house.

Arrested in the case on February 2, Shaheda got released on bail after languishing in jail for six months. She suffered stroke twice while in jail.

Her two sons -- Md Sabuj, 28, and Md Sumon, 35, -- also stand accused in the case. Before arresting Shaheda, police brought Sabuj handcuffed from somewhere outside her home, witnesses said.

"We were framed so that we cannot continue the legal fight against the main accused, Sub-Inspector Jahidur Rahman, and three other cops and a civilian named Mithun," said Shaheda at her residence last month.

"I have no courage or strength left to seek justice for my son."

Her son Mahbubur Rahman Sujan, a garment waste trader, was allegedly tortured to death in the custody of Mirpur police on July 13, 2014.

His wife Momtaz Sultana Lucy filed a murder case with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court on July 20, accusing 10 people.

Accepting the case, the court ordered a judicial enquiry which found SI Jahid, assistant sub-inspector Raj Kumar and constables Asad and Rashedul of Mirpur Police Station and Mithun were involved in the torture and murder of Sujan.

The trial of the case is now stayed by the High Court.

Family members said when the trial was going on at a Dhaka court,

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Children queue up to pay tributes to the luminaries martyred during the Liberation War. People placed wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial, inset, in the capital's Mirpur on Martyred Intellectuals Day yesterday. The intellectuals were killed by Pakistan army and its local collaborators to destroy the future of Bangladesh by wiping out the brightest minds of the nation.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



On this day in 1971

DECEMBER 15

Considering General Niazi's ceasefire proposal, the allied force declare to stop air attacks on Dhaka from 5:00am. Besides, the allied force also tell the Pakistan army that no truce would take place before the military surrenders. "If the Pakistan army does not surrender within 9:00am on December 16, then the air attack will resume," they say.

In the afternoon, the allied force enter Savar without resistance. Pakistan troops retreat and ambush them at the entrance of Dhaka on Mirpur Bridge.

The allied force

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DIVISIVE CITIZENSHIP LAW IN INDIA

## Protests rage on for fourth day

*Highways blocked, trains, vehicles set afire in West Bengal; Northeast relatively calm*

STAR REPORT

Protests against a divisive new citizenship law raged in India for the fourth day yesterday as Washington and London issued travel warnings for northeast states following days of violent clashes.

Many in the far-flung, resource-rich northeast fear the new legislation will grant citizenship to large numbers of immigrants from neighbouring countries, who they accuse of stealing jobs and diluting the region's cultural identity.

Though a relatively calm day in the northeast region, protests turned violent in West Bengal state, a hotbed of political unrest.

Protesters torched five empty trains, 10 buses and a rail station and continued to block road and disrupt rail services in different parts of the state for the second day, reported our New Delhi correspondent.

The five trains were set on fire at Lalgola rail station in Murshidabad district. No one was injured. Protesters also blocked railway tracks at a number of stations in Murshidabad and Howrah districts disrupting service.

The National Highway 34, which connects north and south Bengal, was also blocked. A number of vehicles were seen burning on roads during the agitation.

Concerned over the escalating violence, state Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, herself a severe critic of

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## Dhaka, Ctg victorious

SPORTS REPORTER

Chattogram Challengers returned to winning ways with a six-wicket win over Rangpur Rangers in yesterday's first Bangladesh Premier League game while Dhaka Platoon got a second win of their own as they beat Sylhet Thunder by 24 runs in the second match.

In the day's first match, Rangpur were sent in to bat and did well to pile on 157 for eight in their allotted overs as Mohammad Naim leading the charge 54-ball 78. The 20-year-old opener hit six boundaries and three maximums during his stay but failed to find support at the other end, with the team's second-highest score, 21, coming from captain Mohammad Nabi.

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