

Prof Taher murder case Dr Mohiuddin, three others sentenced to death

RAJSHAHI, May 22:—Four persons, including Rajshahi University teacher Dr Mla Mohammad Mohiuddin, were on Thursday sentenced to death for the murder of Professor Sheikh Taher Ahmed. The three other condemned victims are Jahangir, the caretaker of the quarter of Professor Dr Taher, Jahangir's brother Salam and relative Nazmul, reports UNB. All the four were in the dock in Rajshahi Speedy Trial Tribunal pronounced the judgment in the sensational murder case in a packed court.

In his verdict Judge ATM Mezaul Doula acquitted former president of the RU unit of Islami Centre Shibir Mahbubul Alam and Azimuddin Munshi, brother of Jahangir.

Additional police forces were deployed around the court during the verdict of the sensational murder case.

According to the prosecution, Taher, a senior professor in Geology and Mining Department at the university, was kidnapped and killed on February 1, 2006 when he returned to the campus in Dhaka.

His body was dumped into the electric tank behind his RU-campus fence. After a hectic search, police recovered the body on February 3. Taher's son Sanjeed filed a murder case with Mithar police on the day (February 3).

Police arrested five of the accused, including his colleague Dr Mohiuddin, within seven days of the killing. Salehi surrendered to the court in April, 2007.

On March 19, 2007, police submitted charge sheet accusing the six for the murder.

The speedy tribunal delivered the verdict after taking depositions made by 49 witnesses in the case.

Adv Jahangir Alam appeared on the state side while Adv Golam Arif Tipu, Adv Lokman Ali, Adv Murad Hossain Khan, Adv Hamidul Haque, Adv Saiful Alam Shelley, Adv Mobarak Hossain, Adv Selim and Adv Shahjahan stood for the accused.

According to the charge, Mohiuddin "masterminded" the murder in apprehension of damage to his career by Prof Taher, a senior teacher of the department of Geology and Mining who detected 'plagiarism and piracy' in 10 out of total 11 research papers submitted by Mohiuddin with his promotion

petition.

"Mohiuddin then hired Salehi for murdering Taher and, in return, he promised Salehi good results in Masters, MPhil and PhD and appointment as a teacher at the university," it was alleged.

"Mohiuddin also persuaded Salam, Nazmul and Jahangir with personal computers and jobs at the university," the charge sheet also stated. Prof Mohiuddin and Salehi were freed on bail from the High Court later on.