

Murdered guard's son, four others held for multiple killings

New Delhi , Dec 6 : The police announced on Wednesday the arrest of five men for the brutal killings here of an elderly woman and her three daughters besides their security guard, who was an accomplice in the crime but ended up getting murdered too.

The guard, Rakesh, 42, had helped the five who have been arrested and two others to get into the residence of Urmila Jindal, 82, and her daughters, Nupur, 48, Sangeeta, 56, Anjali, 38, in east Delhi's Mansarovar Park.

Once they had killed all the women and looted the house of cash and jewellery, the killers feared the guard might crack under police interrogation and ended up killing him too. His own son, Anuj, pounced on the father and slit his throat. This left the police without any solid clues to work on since there was no CCTV in the house either.

Police finally managed to arrest the five criminals, including Anuj, Vikas, Sunny, Neeraj and Vicky.

They were taken into custody late on Tuesday with Rs 50,000 and some of the jewellery they had looted. The arrests were made in Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh. Two more accomplices, Nitin and Deepak, are on the run.

The gory crime took place on the night of October 6-7.

"During investigation, we found that the accused had intimate knowledge of the human body. All the bodies were found with their throat slit," Joint Commissioner of Police Alok Kumar said. Kumar said guard Rakesh's son-in-law Vikas worked as a sweeper in Delhi's GTB Hospital.

On sustained interrogation, Vikas con-

fessed to committing the crime along with the others.

On September 25, the accused conducted a recce of Jindal Oil Mills in Mansarovar Park where the house was located.

On the night of the crime, they switched off their mobile phones, hired two auto-rickshaws from Ghaziabad's Loni border and reached the house where Rakesh worked.

"Rakesh got them inside the house and took them all to the first floor. He knocked at the door and told Urmila Jindal about the arrival of his son-in-law and other relatives.

"Nupur opened the door and told him to take them to the guard's room. As she turned to go back inside, Vikas held her from behind and slit her throat with a knife. They then stabbed and slit the throats of the mother and her two other daughters," the officer added.

Within an hour, they ransacked the house of jewellery and cash. Before fleeing, Anuj decided also to kill Rakesh, his own father. He slit his throat on the ground floor, Kumar added. Another officer said the accused later met in a park near GTB Hospital and divided the booty among themselves.

With no CCTV camera installed in the huge house, police found it difficult to crack the case. "If the family had installed CCTV cameras, the accused would not have dared to commit the crime," the officer said.

Anuj was previously involved in a robbery at a liquor godown in Faridabad while Neeraj had been charged under the Arms Act in 2014 in Ghaziabad.

Military must stay away from politics: Army chief

New Delhi , Dec 6 : Army chief General Bipin Rawat on Wednesday said the military should keep away from politics, adding that the armed forces will do well by remaining above politics.

"Of late, we have seen politicisation of military. We operate in a very secular manner. We have a very vibrant democracy, where the military should stay far away from the polity," the General said at a seminar on 'Media as a force multiplier for national security' organised by the United Services Institution.

"In that aspect, whenever the issue of linking any military establishment or military personnel with political entity comes, I think that is best avoided." General Rawat said: "The Indian defence forces would do well to remain above (politics)... where they are expected to remain, and do not meddle with politics...."

Asked later what exactly his statement meant, he said it was a clear statement and refused to elaborate further.

"In the good old days, we always said we don't discuss women and politics in the



Army... gradually, we find we are inching towards that but that is best avoided," he said.

The Army chief also stressed on a synergy with other organisations, and said contradictions should not come out in their

statements.

"Military does not function alone. There are other organisations within the country... it is important for the military to understand the functioning of other organisations..."

"... because there are adversaries who are looking at contradictions that emerge from various establishments within the country and then they take advantage of that and overplay the issues," he added.

SC asks trial court to proceed against Tarun Tejpal in sexual assault case

New Delhi , Dec 6 : The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked a Goa court to go ahead with the trial of the founding editor of Tehelka magazine Tarun Tejpal, accused of sexual assault on his junior woman colleague in a Goa hotel in November 2013.

Tejpal was accused of sexually assaulting his colleague in a five-star hotel on November 7-8, 2013 during a "ThinkFest" event organised by the magazine in Goa.

Asking the trial court to proceed with the examination of witnesses, the bench of Justice S.A. Bobde and Justice L. Nageswara Rao, however, restrained the court from pronouncing its verdict till the Bombay High Court decided on

Tejpal's plea challenging the charges framed against him.

The court on Wednesday noted that by its order of May 15, 2015, the trial court was given one year's time to complete the trial but nothing had happened.

The trial court had moved the top court for extension of time.

The Supreme Court has given the Bombay High Court three months' time to decide on the plea by the former Tehelka editor. Tejpal had moved the Panaji bench of the Bombay High Court challenging the framing of charges against him by the trial court.

The Panaji bench on September 26 refused to stay the framing of charges against Tejpal by

the trial court and said it (trial court) would proceed with the trial only after a nod from it (the high court).

A day later, on September 28, the trial court framed charges against him under sections 376(2) (committing rape taking advantage of official position), 354 'A' and 'B' (criminal force with intent to disrobe), 341 (wrongful restraint) and 342 (wrongful confinement) of the Indian Penal Code.

Tejpal pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Earlier, while granting bail to Tejpal on July 1, 2014, the top court had directed the trial court to complete the trial in eight months' time and asked Tejpal to remain present on all days and not seek unnecessary

New Delhi , Dec 6 :

Three days ahead of the Gujarat first phase elections, the Congress party on

Wednesday approached the Election Commission of India (EC) to bar some "tainted" officials, including two IPS officers allegedly involved in the Sohrabuddin fake encounter case, from conducting poll duty.

They said if the EC does not respond immediately, they will approach the court.

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary, Dipak Babaria, Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee General Secretary, Iqbal Sheikh, and GPCC legal cell chairman, Yogesh Ravani, approached the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Gujarat, to complain against three tainted officials who have been assigned poll duties during the upcoming assem-

bly elections. Asking that they be removed from poll duty, Babaria alleged that an IAS officer Mahendra Patel, promoted as Collector and District Magistrate (DM) Surat, has a "dubious" role as an official. Patel had made personal comments against Congress President Sonia Gandhi on his Facebook page. Patel was directly connected with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and had also sought BJP ticket from

Unjha seat for the assembly elections, he said. "We ask the EC to not allow him to oversee the election process and he must be removed immediately to ensure free and fair elections," said Babaria.

The GPCC has also sought that "tainted" official, Rajkumar Pandian (IPS), Range IG, Junagadh/Porbandar at present, also be removed from overseeing the poll process.

Pandian was jailed in the Sohrabuddin fake

Shiv Sena men detained, bid to hoist tricolour in Srinagar thwarted

Srinagar , Dec 6 : Eight Shiv Sena activists were detained here on Wednesday after the Jammu and Kashmir Police thwarted their bid to hoist the National Flag at Lal Chowk in the city, an official said.

The Shiv Sena activists arrived at Ghanta Ghar in two vehicles and were taken in preventive custody as soon as they alighted, a police official said.

While shouting slogans against

National Conference President Farooq Abdullah, the activists said: "If Farooq Abdullah wants to come to power in Jammu and Kashmir he should shun speaking the language of the separatists."

The detained activists were taken to the Kothibagh Police Station where they were released after completing legal formalities, the official said.

The Jammu unit of the Shiv Sena

had sent a special team to hoist the tricolour in the heart of city following Farooq Abdullah's remarks on Pakistan-administered Kashmir last week.

"They (Centre and BJP) are talking about raising the flag in PoK. I ask them to go and raise the Tricolour at Lal Chowk in Srinagar. They cannot do even that and they are talking about PoK," Abdullah had said.

INTERNATIONAL

Bangladesh moves ahead with controversial Rohingya relocation plan

Dhaka , Dec 6 : Bangladesh is moving ahead with a controversial plan to move Rohingya refugees to a low-lying, flood-prone island, with construction of facilities to begin "very soon".

About 100,000 of the one million Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh will be moved to Thengar Char, a remote island in the Bay of Bengal by November 2019, according to details of the \$278 million plan released by the office of Bangladesh's Minister of Planning Mustafa Kamal, CNN reported.

The island is about 30,000 hectares in size, more than 37 miles from the mainland, officially uninhabited and mostly flooded during heavy rain or monsoon season.

The international community has praised Bangladesh for taking in the refugees but its plan to move some of them to Thengar Char has been met with strong criticism.

Some 626,000 mainly Muslim Rohingyas have arrived in Bangladesh since August, joining an existing Rohingya refugee population of up to 300,000. They say they've fled widespread violence perpetrated by the military in the north

of Myanmar's Rakhine state.

However, the Myanmar military denies any wrongdoing.

The relocation plan was approved by Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on November 28 and the same day Amnesty International called upon the Bangladeshi government to abandon the proposal, calling it a "terrible mistake".

"Having opened its doors to more than 600,000 Rohingyas over the past three months, the Bangladesh government now risks undermining the protection of Rohingyas and squandering the international goodwill it has earned," said Amnesty International's South Asia Director Biraj Patnaik.

"In its desperation to see Rohingyas leave the camps and ultimately return to Myanmar, it is putting their safety and well-being at risk," said Patnaik.

In response to complaints, the Bangladesh Navy conducted a study which found that the island could be made habitable with land reclamation and work to protect the shore line.

The government plans to build nearly 1,500 bar-

rack houses and 120 shelter centres on 60 hectares of land on the island.

"Although the land is flooded due to tidal effect of sea, it is very much controllable by land development and shore protection work," Kamal's statement said.

Bangladesh is also building a 3,000-acre refugee camp at Kutapalong, near the border with Myanmar, where most Rohingyas are currently living in makeshift camps.

Man remanded in custody over plot to kill British PM

London Dec 6 : A 20-year-old man accused of a plot to bomb Downing Street's security gates and then kill British Prime Minister Theresa May was on Wednesday remanded in custody after he appeared at a court here.

Naa imur Zakariyah Rahman from north London was charged with preparing acts of terrorism and was remanded in custody during a hearing at the Westminster Magistrates Court the BBC reported.

He appeared alongside 21-year-old Mohammed Aqib Imran who was accused of trying to join the Islamic State (IS) and preparing acts of terror.

Israel braces for clashes ahead of Trump's Jerusalem declaration

Israel , Dec 6 : Israeli security forces were preparing for clashes with Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank ahead of US President Donald Trump's announcement recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

A military official said the Israeli Army was "preparing for possible escalation", including violent rallies, Xinhua news agency reported.

In the city of Bethlehem on Tuesday night, posters of Trump were burnt at a rally that began after a senior White House official confirmed that the US leader will recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital on Wednesday.

Trump is also expected to announce that the US embassy will be moved from

Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, but the move will not be carried out immediately, according to the official.

The announcement will mark a change in the US policy which has never recognised the annexed city as part of Israel.

Palestinian officials have warned that the move will "kill" any chance for a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians, who consider East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state. East Jerusalem is a predominantly Palestinian territory, which Israel seized from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed it shortly later. The annexation was never recognised by the international community.

Man remanded in custody over plot to kill British PM

Rahman was also charged with assisting Imran in terror planning. Both men will appear at London's Old Bailey on December 20.

They were arrested in raids by the Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism Command in London and Birmingham on November 28. Police believe their plan was to detonate

some sort of improvised explosive device (IED) at Downing Street and attack and kill the Prime Minister in the ensuing chaos Sky News reported.

During the hearing Rahman gave his nationality as Bangladeshi-British while Imran from

Birmingham gave his as Pakistani-British.

The plot was revealed to the British Cabinet on Tuesday by Andrew Parker the head of the security service MI5 who also told the ministers that security services had foiled nine terrorist attacks in Britain in the past year.

Addressing the Cabinet Parker reportedly said the IS had been defeated in Syria and Iraq but was continuing to orchestrate attacks on Britain.

After the meeting the Prime Minister's spokesman said: "The Prime Minister led thanks to the tireless work of staff at MI5 to

combat the unprecedented terrorist threat."

"Cabinet ministers heard that while IS suffered major defeats in Iraq and Syria this did not mean the threat is over. Rather it is spreading to new areas including trying to encourage attacks in the UK and elsewhere via propaganda on social media" the spokesman added.

Downing Street is protected by armed police officers and separated from the public by fortified gates.

Security measures were introduced in the 1970s but were increased in the 1980s as the threat from Irish republican groups grew.

Four more nations join UN Environment's Clean Seas campaign

London , Dec 6 : In a major collaboration to make the oceans litter-free, four more countries -- Chile, Oman, Sri Lanka and South Africa -- on Wednesday joined UN Environment's Clean Seas campaign by committing measures that include plastic bag bans, new marine reserves and drives to increase recycling. Forty countries are now part of the campaign.

While Sri Lanka has made a commitment to implement a ban on single-use plastic products from the next year, South Africa will step up its beach cleanup programme.

The four countries announced their support on the last day of the three-day long UN Environment Assembly in this Kenyan capital.

"For too long, we have treated the ocean as a bottomless dumping ground for plastic, sewage and other waste," UN Environment head Erik Solheim said in a statement.

"The countries supporting Clean Seas are showing the leadership we need in order to end this abuse, and protect the marine resources on which millions depend for their livelihoods."

Sri Lankan Environment Minister Anura Dissanayake said, "Sri Lanka is taking bold action to turn the tide on plastics."

"We have banned plastic bags and are now working to reduce the number of plastic bottles in the country. We want to be a green and blue beacon of hope in Asia and do everything we can to keep the seas clean."

Sri Lanka has made a commitment to implement a ban on single-use plastic products from January 1, 2018, step up the separation and recycling of waste and set the goal of making its ocean and coasts "pollution-free" by 2030, a UN Environment spokesperson told.

Chile is legislating to extend producer responsibility and encourage recycling and establishing more marine protected areas, while South Africa will step up its beach cleanup programme and prioritise action on tyres, electronic waste, lighting and paper and packaging.

Nearly 40 countries from Kenya to Canada and Indonesia to Brazil have joined the #CleanSeas campaign which aims to counter the torrents of plastic trash that are degrading our oceans and endangering the life they sustain. The countries account for more than half of the world's coastline.