

Cops hunt for man accused of killing wife

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 29

A MAN allegedly killed his wife and injured his mother-in-law after the two refused to join him in a fight he was having with his neighbours over drying clothes near his rented room in Virar (East) on Sunday night.

The police lodged an FIR on Monday and are on the lookout for accused Jagdish Gurav, who works in a private company selling train tickets outside Vasai station. The deceased has been identified as Supriya Gurav (28).

The incident took place around 9 pm in a flat owned by Supriya's mother Sushma Shetty (47), a domestic help at Narendra Brahma complex. Since the death

of Shetty's husband in 2020, Supriya, Jagdish and their three children had been staying with her.

An officer said Jagdish picked up a fight with his neighbours because they were drying clothes outside the flat. "He asked the mother and daughter to join him in the fight. Supriya refused as she was busy with chores... Soon after, Jagdish returned and started abusing them. Shetty confronted him but he bashed her head against a wall," the officer added.

"Seeing this, Supriya pushed him away but Jagdish picked up a kitchen knife and stabbed her in the chest. When Shetty tried to stop him, he slashed her hand and fled," the officer said. The neighbours took the two to Siddhivinayak hospital.

MALEGAON BLAST ANNIVERSARY

13 years on, trial against seven continues

SADAF MODAK MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 29

THIRTEEN YEARS since a terror attack at Malegaon, the trial against the seven accused in the case continues with 198 witnesses having deposed so far, and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) submitting that it is likely to examine over 60 more.

While the accused, including BJP MP Pragna Singh Thakur and Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit, remained behind bars for nine years before being granted bail, the trial has now been expedited with a special court exclusively designated to hear the case on a daily basis.

On September 29, 2008, days before Eid, a blast at Bhiku Chowk in Malegaon had killed six persons and injured over 100. This was the second terror attack in the powerloom town. In 2006, four blasts in quick succession had killed 31 people. That case is be-

ing prosecuted by the NIA separately. Unlike the 2006 case, where the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) arrested nine Muslim men claiming their involvement in the blast, the ATS then headed by Hemant Karkare claimed to have cracked the case with Thakur's arrest on October 23, within a month of the blast.

She was the first suspect to be arrested. The ATS also alleged that intercepted calls had shown the involvement of two others - Purohit and retired Major Ramesh Upadhyay - claiming that the conspiracy was the handiwork of newly-formed right wing outfit Abhinav Bharat, floated by Purohit, towards establishing a Hindu Rashttra.

Purohit, who has denied the allegations, has said in one of his applications for discharge pending before the Bombay High Court that he was an intelligence officer who was on duty and had nothing to do with the blast. This contention also forms a crucial part of the trial.

Last February, when the trial in the 2008 attack began, witnesses included victims who suffered injuries. Some spoke of where they were around 9.35 pm when the explosion took place, some who found themselves at hospitals and others similarly injured and shocked by the incident. Special Public Prosecutor Avinash Rasal said that since one of the accused had refused that a blast had taken place, the NIA had to call victims and doctors who treated them or did postmortem on those who died, to prove that the deaths and injuries were caused by the explosion. Among the 198, nearly 115 are such witnesses.

Among the other witnesses who have deposed so far include those who were present as independent panchas during the arrest of the accused, house searches or seizures. The NIA has also brought before court police officers, including those who initially filed the complaint at Malegaon, those involved in the probe, a few forensic experts and an official of the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad. The central agency has also



A blast at Bhiku Chowk killed six and injured over 100 people. File

Justice Bharati H Dangre was hearing pleas filed by Kapoor's wife Bindu and daughters Roshini and Radha Kapoor-Khanna. The three had challenged a special CBI court order that had rejected their bail pleas. The HC had reserved its verdict on September 23.

In their bail pleas before the HC - filed through advocate Archit Jaykar - the applicants have claimed that the special court "grossly erred" in observing that allegations against them

prima facie showed complicity with other co-accused in having fraudulently and dishonestly receiving loans as quid pro quo for favours shown by Yes Bank to DHFL.

Justice Dangre said in his order, "It is apparent that all the applicants are alleged to have indulged in commission of offences, which have resulted in serious dent to the financial health of the state as well as defrauding the public at large. Such offences are occurring in plenty

and have resulted in stultifying overall growth of the nation and also have caused tremendous impairment to the economy of the nation." "These crimes are more heinous in nature as they intend to destroy the economic fabric and financial edifice of the state. They have the tendency to degrade and defy the faith of the public in a law and order situation as it tantamount to a serious blow to its economic/financial condition."

Chavan told the court that section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the IPC is wrongly applied in the case and the same is arbitrary and it cannot be applied as Patil is still alive.

After the prosecution lawyer sought time to take instructions from the investigators, the HC adjourned the hearing to October 12 and granted interim protection from arrest to Khan till then.

While NIA and ATS have differed in their probes on certain aspects of the case, specifically on Thakur, both agencies are being represented by Rasal with the court ruling that ATS' assistance be sought whenever required since there can only be one prosecuting agency.

The previous prosecutor, Rohini Salian, had told The Indian Express in 2015 that she had been asked "to go soft" in the case by a NIA officer.

Among those who have deposed so far, at least three have turned hostile. They included a witness linked to a financial transaction related to Abhinav Bharat. The person denied his earlier statement on Tuesday. Another witness who turned hostile had earlier said he attended a camp in 2008 in Panchmarhi, where the ATS had alleged Purohit gave a lecture on terrorism on religious lines. Special Judge Prashant R Site will continue to hear the case on Wednesday.

BJP leader alleges manipulation in nullah cleaning work by BMC

Mumbai: Ameet Satam, the BJP MLA from Andheri west, targeted the BMC on Tuesday for alleged manipulation in the percentage of work done in cleaning nullahs in the city. Satam said the BMC has spent more than Rs 950 crore on nullah desilting works across the city in the past 10 years, according to information he procured through RTI. "In the past ten years, the civic body has spent Rs 1,000 crore on cleaning nullahs. But streets in Mumbai are still waterlogged even after moderate rains. Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal said 104 per cent of the cleaning project of nullahs was completed this year and last year it was 112 per cent. But there is no relief from floods in Mumbai," said Satam. ENS

DHFL case: HC refuses bail to Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor's wife, two daughters

'Such offences occurring in plenty, stultifying nation's growth, denting economy'

OMKAR GOKHALE MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE BOMBAY High Court on Tuesday refused bail to Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor's wife and two daughters booked in connection with the alleged multi-crore fraud in the DHFL money laundering case. The court also denied bail to Rajiv Anand, the former business head of Yes Bank.

A single judge bench of

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BODYBUILDER'S SUICIDE BID

HC grants interim protection from arrest to Sahil Khan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE BOMBAY High Court on Tuesday granted interim protection from arrest to actor and fitness enthusiast Sahil Khan in connection with a suicide attempt by Manoj Patil, a bodybuilder.

A single-judge bench of Justice Prakash D Naik was hear-

ing Khan's anticipatory bail plea, which was filed after the sessions court denied him pre-arrest bail in the case. Khan was named in the FIR filed by Oshiwara police on Friday in connection with a suicide attempt by Patil, who won the Indian Body Builders Federation (IBBF) Mr India title for best sports physique in 2016.

Patil had tried to end his life by taking an overdose of sleep-

ing pills at his Oshiwara residence and was rushed to hospital where he is recovering. Khan, along with others, have been booked for pushing him to take the extreme step, an officer said.

Advocate Rajiv Chavan for Khan argued that his client had no criminal antecedents and that the complaint lodged by Patil was false, bogus, motivated and registered with 'malafide' in view of past grudges.

Mumbai: A Thane court issued a showcause notice to poet-lyricist Javed Akhtar on a complaint by an RSS member over the former "drawing parallel" between RSS and Taliban in a TV interview earlier this month. The complainant said Akhtar had made defamatory remarks and was "well planned" to defame RSS and "discourage, disparage and misguide" people who have joined RSS.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate's court in Thane issued the showcause notice to Akhtar asking him to respond before November 12. The complainant said Akhtar, a former Rajya Sabha member, had said the goal of RSS is the same as that of Taliban "even after the highest democratically elected officebearers of Bharat like the incumbent president, vice-president, prime minister and several cabinet ministers... have been supporters and members of RSS". He said Akhtar had made the comments "without proof" of even one member having acted "like Taliban". The complainant sought Re 1 as damages and compensation and a permanent injunction against making such statements. ENS

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