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Shariat court: Honour killings equal murder

Muzaffarnagar (UP): Close on the heels of three cases of suspected honour killings in the district, a Shariat court here has ruled that such crimes should be treated as murder and are punishable under Islamic law.

"Islam does not permit illicit relationship, but killing a girl for this reason is a cold-blooded murder and is a serious offence under Islamic law," chairman of Shariat court Maulana Irfan Mufti Zulfikar said.

The court made this observation on an application moved by a social activist highlighting recent cases in which three girls were killed by their relatives "to protect their family's honour".

The killing of an innocent girl is a shameful act, members of the religious court observed.

Last month, 17-year-old Shamshida was allegedly killed by her brother Shamshuddin in Charthawal town because she eloped with her lover who came from a different community. Police arrested Shamshuddin who "confessed" to killing his sister Shamshida for "tarnishing the family's name", the police said.

On November 14, another girl—18-year-old Farzana—who had eloped with her lover, was murdered allegedly by her brother at Sarai Rasulpur village in the district. AGENCIES