

# Bail for wife in husband murder

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** A division bench of Calcutta High Court comprising Justice D.P. Sengupta and Justice Arun Bhattacharya on Monday granted bail to Lakshmi Bose Roychowdhuri who was accused of masterminding the murder of her doctor husband in Haldia. Appearing for the petitioner, advocates Sekhar Basu, Debasish Roy and Phiroze Edulji submitted that their client had been arrested after the police failed to frame her in another case.

Lakshmi, a resident of Dum Dum, and Swapan Bose Roychowdhuri were married in 1991. Roychowdhuri, a medical practitioner,

was later appointed by Indian Oil Corporation and in 1999 was posted to the Haldia refinery. On January 19, 2000, Roychowdhuri was found dead on the banks of the river in Haldia. A case was registered at the Durgachak police station.

Lakshmi's marriage with Roychowdhuri was opposed by the latter's parents and after his death, the woman, who has a 12-year-old son, was allegedly subjected to mental and physical torture from her in-laws. Lakshmi lodged a complaint against her in-laws before a Tamluk court. A few days before his death, Roychowdhuri had made his will. In 2001, Lakshmi filed for probate of this document before

the district delegate of Alipore. Roychowdhuri's father Pratul also filed for probate of the same document and this led to a suit. Pratul later accused his daughter-in-law and others of forging Roychowdhuri's signature in order to get a will made in her favour. Though Lakshmi was arrested, she was granted bail on the same day.

"After he failed to get Lakshmi arrested in this matter, Pratul, out of personal vendetta, accused her of masterminding his son's murder. Lakshmi was arrested on November 4, 2004. Though the police failed to frame charges against her, she continues to remain behind bars," Lakshmi's counsel said.