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Monday January 16, 2006

Evening jog turned fatal for 25-year-old

By **TUNKU SHAHARIAH**

SUNGAI PETANI: An evening jog in the neighbourhood turned fatal for a 25-year-old marketing executive.

Choo Gaik Yap, who was jogging in Taman Ria Jaya around 6pm last Saturday, was found dead less than nine hours later. She had been raped and brutally stabbed.

Her half-naked body was found sprawled on the ground, about 200m from the housing area, at 2.35am yesterday.



It is believed the victim, a Universiti Utara Malaysia graduate, could have been tailed by her assailant, kidnapped and taken elsewhere to be raped and killed before her body was dumped near the housing estate.

Kuala Muda OCPD Assistant Commissioner Law Hong Soon said police were investigating the case under Section 376 and 302 of the Penal Code for rape and murder respectively.

Choo: Went jogging around 6pm last Saturday and was found dead less than nine hours later

Police recovered a pair of blood-stained jogging shoes beside Choo's body.

It is believed earth found on the soles of the shoes matched soil from another residential area, about 500m away.

Choo's body was sent to the Sungai Petani Hospital mortuary after the Alor Star's police forensic unit arrived at about 4am yesterday.

Her family members were too distraught to talk to reporters at the mortuary.

Choo, who had been working for three years, and her younger sister had gone jogging together last Saturday.

However, her sister, who was trailing behind Choo, lost sight of her as they reached a secluded corner along a service road.

When Choo did not turn back after some time, her sister returned to their parents' low-cost flat in Paya Nahu here.



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The family panicked when Choo failed to show up after several hours and lodged a missing person's report at the Kuala Muda police headquarters at 8.45pm the same day.

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It is learnt police have spoken to several witnesses.

Police also questioned the driver of a vehicle, which was spotted cruising near the victim around the time of the incident. The man was later released.

According to a neighbour, Choo often went jogging with her mother and sister in the evening.



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