**HC upholds death penalty in law student murder case**

The Kerala High Court on Monday upheld the death sentence awarded by an Ernakulam court to Ameerul Islam, the lone convict in the 2016 case relating to the rape and murder of an LL.B. student from Perumbavoor in Ernakulam.

A Bench comprising Justices P.B. Suresh Kumar and S.Manu confirmed the verdict of the sessions court while passing a judgment dismissing the appeal of the convict and also answering a reference made by the sessions court for confirming the death sentence.

The 30-year-old law student was raped and murdered at her house in Kuruppampady, near Perumbavoor, on April 28, 2016. Ameerul Islam, a migrant worker from Assam, was arrested 49 days later.

The Bench observed that it was a cold-blooded murder without provocation, for the only sin committed by the victim was that she resisted the attempt of the accused to rape her.

The crime committed is in the nature of extreme brutality, that shocks the conscience of society.

When the attempts made by the accused to commit rape on the victim was resisted continuously by her, the accused out of frustration and vengeance not only inflicted on the victim several stab injuries causing her death, but also mutilated her genital organ brutally and barbarously.