

## 5 held over rape of teen

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Lalmonirhat

Police yesterday arrested five people in connection with the rape of a teenage girl in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram.

The arrestees are Mainul Haque, 22, Hasanur Rahman, 20, Yakub Ali, 24, Lal Mia, 40, and Sohel Rana, 21.

The five were arrested from different areas after a rape case was filed against them with Phulbari Police Station on Wednesday noon, said Mamunur Rashid, officer-in-charge of Phulbari Police Station.

Quoting the case statement, the OC said Mainul, one of the five alleged rapists, had an affair with the girl. Mainul called her out of the house on Wednesday. He took her to a garden, where he and his four accomplices raped her.



**Golam Hossain, a 57-year-old farmer, scatters organic fertiliser across his Boro field in the Baraikhali village of Babuganj upazila in Barishal yesterday. He said fertiliser helps sustain the growth of the crop, ensuring he gets high-levels of yield down the line.**

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## BARISHAL CITY

# CCTV cameras meant to catch thieves stolen

SHUSHANTA GHOSH

All CCTV cameras installed by the Barishal City Corporation (BCC) have either become inoperative or have been stolen, raising serious concerns about the city's security.

According to BCC sources, in 2017, 420 CCTV cameras were installed across 30 wards covering 58 square km of the city at a cost of Tk 2.5 crore.

Seventy monitoring booths were also set up; however, most of these booths are now in ruins, with cameras missing and cables stolen.

As a result, the entire city is currently without CCTV surveillance, complicating law enforcement efforts to solve crimes.

BCC's superintendent engineer, Humayun Kabir, said the CCTV project lacked logistical support, which led to the gradual deterioration of the cameras.



**An inoperative CCTV camera in Barishal city.**

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Some were stolen, and there was no proper maintenance system in place to keep them functional.

BCC sources revealed that after August 5, nearly all CCTV cameras and cables installed by the city corporation were stolen, including 70 cameras from the Nagar Bhaban (City Hall) itself.

BCC Chief Executive Officer Md Rejaul Bari announced that an investigation would be conducted to determine if there was any negligence on the corporation's part.

He also mentioned that they are currently working to reinstall the cameras within the city corporation premises.

Meanwhile, the Barishal Metropolitan Police (BMP) have installed 207 CCTV cameras for crime prevention and traffic management.

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## JULY UPRISING 4 cops detained over killing of student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four policemen, including former officer-in-charge of Konabari Police Station in Gazipur, were arrested yesterday for their alleged involvement in the killing of Muhammad Hridoy, a college student, during the mass uprising in Gazipur on August 5.

The other three arrestees are former Gazipur Detective Branch inspector Mohammad Shafiqul Islam and constables Fahim Hasan and Mahmudul Hasan Sajeeb.

Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim, prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal, said the four policemen were produced before the tribunal later in the day in connection with Hridoy's killing.

The tribunal ordered them to be sent to prison.

Tamim said a team from the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch made the arrests, but he could not specify the locations.

Hridoy, 20, was an eleventh grader at Hemnagar Degree College and also worked as an auto-rickshaw driver in the Konabari area.

On August 5 last year, Hridoy was chanting slogans against the government on Konabari Road when some officers picked him up and slapped him. At one point, they opened fire, killing him on the spot.

A viral video shows police dragging Hridoy's motionless body inside Konabari Police Station, but his family never found his body.

In September last year, police constable Akram Hossain was arrested in connection with the killing.

## Accreditation gets difficult for freelance journos

### Press Accreditation Policy formulated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freelance journalists will now face stricter requirements to enter the secretariat under the new accreditation policy, as they must have at least 20 years of experience in journalism or be actively working on press issues to qualify.

According to the new Press Accreditation Policy, 2025, a news organisation can receive accreditation cards for up to 30 percent of its journalists, with a maximum of 15 per media outlet.

The policy applies to journalists working for both national and international media within Bangladesh.

The new policy serves as an update to the existing regulations, according to a gazette issued yesterday by Information and Broadcasting Ministry Secretary Mahbuba Farzana.

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## Ensure free drinking water at public places HC gives govt one year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in a verdict yesterday declared the access to pure drinking and usable water a fundamental right of the citizens, saying it is the state's responsibility to ensure this right.

The court also directed the government to ensure pure drinking water for people without any cost at every important public place in the next one year. The public places include the courts, religious premises of worship, hospitals, railway stations, bazars and airports.

The HC also asked the state to take necessary measures to ensure pure drinking and usable water for every citizen at an affordable price within the next 10 years, said Deputy Attorney General Md Monjur Alam.

The bench of Justice Md Ashrafur Kamal and Justice Kazi Waliul Islam came up with the directives after holding a hearing on the suomoto (voluntary) rule issued in 2020 in this regard.

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