



Protesters carrying lit torches march on Dhaka University campus under the banner of Bangladesh Against Rape and Abuse yesterday evening. Top right, former and current DU journalism students demonstrate in front of Raju Sculpture. Bottom right, students of printing and publications department take out a procession.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, ANISUR RAHMAN

Six more land in jail

FROM PAGE 1
officer-in-charge (OC) of Gouripur Police Station.

The girl's father filed a rape case following the incident on March 6.

The victim is now undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said police.

In Narayanganj, a 40-year-old man was sent to jail in a case filed on charges of raping his sister-in-law on multiple occasions.

According to the case statement, he first raped her in May last year and filmed the incident. Then, he raped her multiple times, blackmailing her with the tape. He last raped her on February 15, this year.

Police arrested him yesterday following the case filed by the victim, said Araihazar Police Station OC Enayet Hossain.

In Rangpur, a 50-year-old man was sent to jail in a case filed over the rape of a nine-year-old child.

Ruhul Amin, of Mithapukur upazila, appeared before the district court yesterday with a bail prayer. The court rejected it and sent him to jail, said Mithapukur Police Station OC Abu Bakkar Siddique.

Ruhul raped the girl on February 21 morning, when she went to Ruhul's yard to collect flowers, according to the case filed by the girl's father.

In Savar, two men were sued in two separate cases filed over the rape of their stepdaughters – one of whom is a 10-year-old and the other is a 14-year-old.

The victims' mothers filed the cases with Ashulia Police Station—one on Wednesday and the other yesterday.

The accused are on the run, and police are trying to arrest them, said Ashulia Police Station Inspector (Investigation) Kamal Hossain.

According to the case statements, the 10-year-old girl was raped on March 9 at her residence. The 14-year-old victim was first raped around one year ago, and a second time on February 15 this year.

In Dinajpur, a teenage boy was sent to jail yesterday for attempting to rape a fourth grader at Biral upazila.

In Bandarban, a man was sent to jail yesterday for attempting to rape a mentally challenged girl at Rowangchhara upazila.

In Netrokona, Rab early yesterday arrested Shahidul Islam, 22, a rape accused who fled from police custody on February 17 from Dhaka court premises.

[Our correspondents from respective districts contributed to this report.]

Trial may begin in a week

FROM PAGE 1
trial may proceed without the DNA report. This will depend on the judges' satisfaction," he noted.

Meanwhile, an ordinance amending the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act is expected to be issued next Sunday.

The amendment will introduce provisions for the establishment of special tribunals to expedite trials in cases of child rape and abuse, he said.

According to the proposed draft, the time frame for investigating rape cases will be reduced to 15 days from 30 days, while the trial period will be shortened to 90 days from 180 days.

Asif Nazrul further said, "The government has taken all necessary steps swiftly. There has been no negligence on the part of the authorities."

He also assured that all future actions would be carried out with diligence.

"If we make any errors, you are welcome to point them out, but creating chaos and causing suffering to people will not be tolerated."

Nation engulfed by grief and anger

FROM PAGE 1
made it through, I would never have let her go anywhere alone again."

She added that she wants to see the perpetrators meted out the highest punishment.

The girl's death touched off a wave of outrage in Dhaka and other parts of the country, as reports of children being raped continued to come from different parts of the country – a grim reminder of the persistent threat to women and children's safety.

Netizens flooded social media with posts expressing both sorrow and anger. One of them, writer Sohel R Rana, shared a photo of the victim's crying sister on Facebook.

He wrote, "Today, when the girl was crying and saying, 'My sister, who will I talk to now? I couldn't bear this! As an ordinary citizen of the country, I can only say that I demand justice. I demand severe punishment for this brutality. No ifs or buts. Full stop!"

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus expressed deep sorrow and instructed the authorities to bring the culprits to justice without delay.

Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Farida Akhter, along with the girl's mother, accompanied the body on the helicopter to Magura.

"The state and the government are treating this with utmost importance. The rape of such a young girl is unimaginable and unacceptable," Farida told reporters.

Earlier in the afternoon, the Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate said the girl could not be saved despite advanced medical care and the best efforts of specialist doctors.

In a statement, the ISPR said the child, who was transferred to the CMH in a critical condition on March 8, suffered three cardiac arrests in the morning. While doctors managed to stabilise her after the first two, she did not regain a pulse after the third.

National Citizen Party leaders Hasnat

The Bangladesh Army extended its condolences to the bereaved family and pledged to stand by them in their time of need, the ISPR said.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir also called for exemplary punishment to those responsible. "The way the child left us, leaving us in sorrow and shame, is beyond words," he said in the press release.

According to a case filed by her mother on March 8, the third grader was raped while visiting her elder sister's house in Magura town between the night of March 5 and the morning of March 6.

Her sister's husband, his parents and brother were arrested and placed on remand.

They urged the public to stand in solidarity with the Mancha's five point demand and support the platform in pressuring the government to expedite justice for rape victims.

Demonstrators of another platform, Bangladesh Against Rape and Abuse, brought out a torch procession on the campus.

Many protesters stressed that the government should refrain from making populist decisions and instead focus on reforming the laws related to women and children's safety for a permanent solution.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.

The protesters said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will have to step down if he fails to ensure justice for rape victims and improve women's security.

In a statement, the National Citizen Party said, "The torture inflicted on the child and her subsequent death is a severe disgrace to our state and societal systems."

It called on the interim government to restore citizens' trust by ensuring justice through a proper investigation into incidents of rape and abuse.

They also called for clarifying the legal definitions of rape, which they say are currently ambiguous.