

RMG worker raped while fiance forcibly detained in Bhola

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A readymade garment (RMG) worker was allegedly gang raped by two local youths after her fiance was beaten and tied up on the Meghna river embankment in Manpura upazila of Bhola district early Friday.

Police said the incident occurred in Taltoli area of Char Goalia union around 2:20am.

The victim is from Sunamganj, while her fiance is a resident of Manpura. Both work at a garment factory in Dhaka and had come to Manpura recently for family arrangements ahead of their marriage.

The victim filed a rape case with Manpura Police Station against five named individuals and three to four unidentified persons, said Sub-Inspector Ibrahim Nayan, also the investigation officer.

According to the case statement, the 18-year-old victim and her fiance, Sajib Hossain, arrived in Manpura on January 14. Their wedding was scheduled for January 15, and she was staying at Sajib's grandmother's

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A sap collector climbs a date palm tree in the Duhorpara area of Barishal's Uzirpur upazila early yesterday to collect date palm sap. After collecting the sap, he pours it into containers wrapped with banana leaves and sells it at local markets, inset. He makes around Tk 1,200 a day. PHOTO: TITU DAS



4 killed, 18 hurt in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and 18 others injured in road accidents in three districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Sylhet, two people were killed and 12 others were injured as two buses collided head-on and another bus hit them from behind on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Dayamir area, said Md Morshedul Hasan Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Osmaninagar Police Station.

The deceased were identified as Md Mujibur Rahman, 55, from Dashai Hawladar village in Naria upazila of Shariatpur; and Bakul Rabidas, 26, from Kaponkhalpar village in Osmaninagar.

Firefighters from Tajpur along with police carried out rescue operations and took the injured to a nearby hospital.

In Sunamganj, a bus collided head-on with a pickup on the Sylhet-Sunamganj regional highway in Bhuiyan Gaon area of Chhatak upazila, leaving the pickup driver dead and at least five others injured.

The driver -- whose identity could not be known immediately -- died on the spot.

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Pushed towards extinction

Retaliatory killings, habitat loss threatening fishing cats across country

SAKIB AHMED

A worrying rise in retaliatory killings of fishing cats across Bangladesh, driven largely by conflict with local communities who blame the animal for losses to poultry and pond fish, is gradually pushing the species to the brink.

Bangladesh is a key global habitat for fishing cats (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), a medium-sized wild feline species with a stocky build, brownish olive-grey coat, short rounded ears and a muscular tail marked with dark spots and stripes.

At least 160 fishing cats were killed between 2005 and 2021, most of them by fish and duck farmers and their associates, according to a study that analysed more than 360 media reports. Around 47 percent of the recorded incidents involved a kill on-sight response, the study found.

Contacted, the study's corresponding author, Muntasir Akash, said that fishing cats are found across most parts of the country, except in the hilly regions, but the situation has become dire.

"People believe the cats enter homesteads and prey on poultry. However, a significant number are killed on sight even in areas where there is no proven economic loss," he said.

The research, published in June in

Global Ecology and Conservation on ScienceDirect, documented conflict involving at least 395 adult fishing cats and 170 kittens. Of them, 117 were released back into the wild, while 34 were sent to zoos or rescue centres located more than 20 kilometres from the conflict sites.

However, Akash, also a zoology professor at Dhaka University, said releasing the animals far from conflict



zones may not offer a lasting solution, as human settlements continue to expand into natural habitats.

Conservationists said fear and misidentification drive much of the violence, as villagers often mistake fishing cats for more dangerous predators such as tigers or leopards due to a lack of awareness.

Recent research, however, offers some hope. A separate study conducted

between 2020 and June 2024 in four districts of the northeastern Sylhet region found that a site-based rescue-and-release approach can serve as an effective short-term conservation measure.

During the study period, researchers recorded 86 live fishing cats and seven dead individuals. Of the live animals, 76, including 35 kittens, were released within a week at or near their capture sites. Reunification of released kittens with their mothers was successful in 62 percent of cases, according to a study published in December in Global Ecology and Conservation on ScienceDirect.

MA Aziz, a zoology professor at Jahangirnagar University and one of the study's authors, said the Sylhet region was selected after being identified as a conflict hotspot.

"The landscape there is dominated by scattered swamps, patchy reserve forests and tea gardens, which provide an ideal habitat for fishing cats. That is why our research focused on improving rescue and release practices in the Sylhet region," he said.

Aziz said timing is crucial for successful releases, particularly for kittens.

"Our study recommends releasing rescued kittens within 24 hours to

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EU deploys 56 Probe body formed

FROM PAGE 3

citizen observers and youth activists, not only in the cities, but also in small towns and in villages," Lase said.

The observers have received extensive briefings on the electoral process, the political environment, the legal framework, and the media and social landscapes in Bangladesh.

The mission was deployed following an invitation from Bangladesh's authorities and is led by Chief Observer Ivars Ijabs, a Member of the European Parliament.

The observers will monitor election-day proceedings, including voting, counting, and tabulation of results. A delegation of Members of the European Parliament will further reinforce the mission.

Station, said, "The owner is still out of touch, and we have not yet been able to contact anyone from his family."

No case had been filed over the incident as of yesterday.

"Police have filed a general diary over the incident. We will register a formal case if any of the victims' families approach us," the OC added.

Regarding the building's status, the OC said the Criminal Investigation Department concluded evidence gathering and unsealed the building yesterday.

However, no residents were seen returning to the building as of yesterday

evening.

The six victims, three from one family and three from another, were buried yesterday at their family graveyards in Cumilla and Mymensingh.

The victims are Kazi Fazle Rabbi, 38, his wife Afroza Akter Suborna, 37, and their two-year-old son Kazi Fayaz Rishan; and Hares Mia, 52, his 17-year-old son Rahab, and 14-year-old niece Rodela.

Afrin Jahan, sister of Afroza, told The Daily Star, "Our whole family is still traumatised by what happened. We are in mourning."

"We may think about taking legal action later. But not right now," she added.

'Action' if EC allows dual citizens

FROM PAGE 3

Expressing concern over the electoral process, Asif said the current election appears to be following the pattern of the previous three polls.

"We will not allow this Election Commission to organise a designed, one-sided election like the previous three commissions. NCP will work with alliance partners to resist this," he said.

He said the final day of the appeal hearing is today and that the party will decide its next steps after observing

the commission's conduct.

"If the commission remains within its mandate and ensures impartiality by adhering to the Representation of the People Order and the Constitution, our cooperation will continue," he said. "If they make any mistake there and try to push through loan defaulters and dual citizens through bias or loopholes, we will take action against the Election Commission," he warned.

Asif also alleged that the BNP is violating the

Constitution and existing laws ahead of the upcoming national election.

"We clearly see BNP candidates flouting the Constitution and prevailing laws. Yet the BNP portrays itself as a democratic force in various forums, which contradicts its actions," he said.

"They present themselves as champions of democracy, but their activities reflect the opposite. They are acting against democracy, the Constitution of Bangladesh, and existing laws," he added.

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(SPECIAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 2293 OF 2025

An application under Section 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF:
Daraz Bangladesh Limited

... **PETITIONER**

-VERSUS-

Mercari Asia Limited and others

... **RESPONDENTS**

Notice is hereby given that an application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 has been filed before the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for condonation of delay and to pass order to call, hold and conduct annual general meetings of Mercari Asia Limited (Company) for the years 2024 and 2025 and to pass necessary direction to hold board meeting/s and to continue usual activities of the Company. The Hon'ble Company Bench presided over by his Lordship Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has been pleased to admit the aforesaid application by an order dated 30.12.2025.

Any person wishing to contest or oppose the aforesaid application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through a duly appointed Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of requisite costs.

Hossain Mohammad Shahidul, Barrister-at-Law
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Concord Ovalash (1st Floor), House No.-62, Road No. 11A
Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka-1209
Tel: 01766-282950

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(SPECIAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 2292 OF 2025

An application under Section 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF:
Daraz Bangladesh Limited

... **PETITIONER**

-VERSUS-

SourceCo Limited and Others

... **RESPONDENTS**

Notice is hereby given that an application under Sections 81(2) read with Section 85(3) and Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994, has been filed before the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for condonation of delay and to pass order to call, hold and conduct annual general meetings of SourceCo Limited ("Company") for the years 2024 and 2025 and to pass necessary direction to hold board meeting/s and to continue usual activities of the Company. The Hon'ble Company Bench presided over by his Lordship Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has been pleased to admit the aforesaid application by an order dated 30.12.2025.

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SALE OF USED MOTORCYCLES

Expression of Interest is invited from genuine buyers by a private foreign company for the purchase of the following **59 used motorcycles**, being sold on an "as-is, where-is" basis. Sealed offers must be submitted **on or before 22 January 2026**.

Sl no	Particular	Model	Motorcycle C.C	Number	Current Location
1	Bajaj Platina	2014	100	11	a. Dhaka - 43 units
2	Bajaj Platina	2012	100	10	b. Chittagong - 06 units
3	Hero Honda	2010	100	5	c. Cox's Bazar - 01 units
4	Hero Passion Xpro	2020	110	1	d. Bogura - 03 units
5	keeway	2019	100	9	e. Khulna - 04 units
6	Mahindra	2015	110	6	f. Sylhet - 02 units
7	Mahindra	2017	110	17	
Total				59	

Inspection:

By appointment only, between **18-22 January 2026**, during office hours. **Contact:** +8801313-209012

Terms & Conditions:

- Each offer must be accompanied by a **refundable security deposit** via **Pay Order**, amounting to **10% of the bid value**.
- Failure of the highest bidder to complete the purchase in due time will result in **forfeiture of the security deposit**.
- The selected bidder must **collect the motorcycles at their own cost and effort** from the respective locations.
- The company reserves the right to **accept or reject any offer**, or **cancel the tender in whole or in part**, without assigning any reason.

Plot for Sale

A 8.00+ katha residential plot is available for sale in Baridhara Diplomatic Zone. Only interested and genuine buyers are kindly requested to contact for further details.
Contact: 01842456904