

Man gets life term for raping girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A Meherpur court yesterday sentenced a man to life term rigorous imprisonment for raping a child.

The court also fined the convict named Rigan, of Tergharia village in Sadar upazila, Tk 2 lakh in default of which he will have to suffer one more year in jail.

Judge Tajul Islam of the Meherpur Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal delivered the verdict.

According to the case details, on March 15, 2023, around 11:00am, a third grade schoolgirl went to visit her grandparents' house at Sholmary village.

While playing near a local shop, Rigan lured her with chocolates and took her into a room, where he raped her. The victim lost consciousness during the assault.

Locals later rescued the child and admitted her to a hospital.

Following the incident, the victim's uncle filed a case with Meherpur Sadar Police Station.



A farmer weeds a soybean field while holding his young son in his arms. The photo was taken at Ramkathi village in Barishal yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

PUBLIC OFFICES

Women demand breastfeeding corners in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Women under the Upazila Network Committee of Cooperative Societies in Pabna have demanded breastfeeding corners and women-friendly facilities in all local offices, citing difficulties faced by mothers visiting service centres with infants.

Yesterday, a memorandum signed by 2,000 members, including 1,500 women, was submitted to Pabna Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Tamara Tasbiha at a programme held at the CCDB-CPRP office in Jalalpur.

Hamida Khatun, president of the network committee and a union parishad member, said mothers often struggle while accessing services.

"We have to bring our babies, and when feeding is needed, the lack of private space causes distress," she said.

CCDB Gender and Advocacy Coordinator Marzia Prova said the High Court in November 2023 directed all offices, factories and transport hubs to ensure breastfeeding corners, but compliance remains limited.

UNO Tamara Tasbiha assured steps to establish such facilities across Pabna within the year. Local officials and CCDB representatives also pledged support for implementation.

BPSC rolls out

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approach over the past year to address problems including overlapping BCS examination schedules, lengthy recruitment procedures, reliance on manual systems, and capacity constraints. A coordinated roadmap was prepared to streamline examination schedules, which helped resolve multiple ongoing BCS processes at the same time and improve coordination across different stages of recruitment, he added.

The BPSC has also introduced a "One BCS, One Year" approach to ensure a predictable and time-bound recruitment cycle.

Ismail Zabiullah, prime minister's adviser on public administration, said the report reaffirms a commitment to the countrymen that fairness, integrity, and merit would remain the foundation of public recruitment.

Md Abdul Bari, state minister for public administration, said merit would be the final determinant in government recruitments.

Policy and strategy adviser on information, broadcasting and cultural affairs Zahed Ur Rahman said the BCS exam questions should be made harder so that those unsuited to the BCS would move towards other professions earlier.

The report said the reforms were guided by four institutional values – merit, integrity, impartiality, and efficiency – and backed by the BPSC's first five-year strategic plan for 2025–2029.

It mentioned major improvements in exam management, including reduced time for written script assessment from around a year to about three months, alongside digital improvements and automated systems to enable publishing results within around a week.

Moreover, reforms focused on ensuring fair, structured and consistent assessment include changes in question-setting procedures, stronger confidentiality protocols, refined evaluation methods, and introducing competency-based viva exams.

The commission said the introduction of online applications, automated result processing, and unique candidate IDs had improved efficiency, accuracy, and transparency at different stages of recruitment, while application fee has also been reduced to lower financial barriers and widen participation.

Development of a fully automated system in collaboration with Buet was underway, the report added.

Kakina Zamindarbari

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and poet, said the two-storey palace was built with a unique blend of architectural styles, with main features combining European design and Mughal ornamentation. It includes a royal court, guest house, hawa khana, hidden chambers and passages that still bear witness to its past grandeur.

"Once, this palace regularly hosted drama [jatra] and puppet performances, musical events, and various cultural festivals. As a result, Kakina became known as one of the major cultural centres of northern Bengal," he said.

Around 1925, following years of financial crisis, revenue complications, and administrative shortcomings, the estate was auctioned off. Once the feudal system was abolished, the palace fell into gradual decline due to the lack of government or administrative attention. After the independence of Bangladesh, neglect, encroachment, and natural decay left the palace in ruins.

Visiting the palace recently, this correspondent observed

No appeal filed yet

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Meanwhile, two accused in the murder case have already been released from jail.

According to the source, the HC bench judges are busy with urgent tasks, including handling cases and writing judgements and orders.

Defence lawyer Advocate Mohammad Shishir Manir said the trial court had convicted 14 accused. Of them, eight were sentenced to death and six to life imprisonment.

"The HC commuted the sentences of seven death-row convicts. One of them has been given life imprisonment, while the remaining six were sentenced to 10 years in prison," he said.

"Accused Mawlana Akbar and Mawlana Abu Taher were released based on a short order of the HC judgement, as their sentences have already been served. Convicts Arif Hasan Sumon, Mawlana Abdul Hai, Mawlana Shofiqur Rahman, Mawlana Sabbir Shahadat Ullah Zuel, and Hafez Jahangir are in jail in connection with the CPB bomb blast case," he added.

Contacted, Deputy Attorney General Sultana Akter Rubi, who represented the state during the hearing, said she had submitted a note to the Attorney General's Office suggesting an appeal before the Appellate Division to uphold the trial court verdict.

that the roof has collapsed and wide cracks have appeared in the walls. The royal court, guest house, and most other parts of the palace are in a dilapidated condition.

"A part of the palace now hosts the Uttar Bangla College. Nearby stands the Kakina Mahima Ranjan Memorial High School. There are also Kakina Janomilon Kendra, Mission House, Kachhari Ghar, and the historic Hawa Khana, which still helps preserve parts of the palace," said Abdur Rouf Sarkar, principal of the college.

"It is necessary to preserve and renovate the Kakina Zamindarbari through immediate government initiatives before it is lost to oblivion. If this historic architectural landmark is restored, it could facilitate local tourism prospects," he added.

Contacted, Abu Sayeed Inam Tanvirul, field officer of the Rangpur Divisional Department of Archaeology, said they were aware of the palace's present condition.

"We will visit the area and take steps to bring the palace under the DoA's protection," he added.

Dhaka urges

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with through a transparent judicial process," Humaiun Kobir said.

"We told [the Indian side] she [Hasina] is a terrorist. She is irrelevant to Bangladesh. People have moved on."

Humaiun said Dhaka is expecting a goodwill gesture on resuming visas, particularly medical and business, in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma yesterday paid separate courtesy calls on Speaker of Bangladesh National Parliament Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Deputy Speaker Barrister Kayser Kamal at the Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad, according to an Indian High Commission statement.

They expressed interest in promoting deeper exchanges with the Parliament of India, while also discussed possible opportunities for exchanges between the parliamentary committees, capacity-building opportunities for MPs and parliament officials and mutual visits of parliamentary delegations.

Pranay Verma briefed them on various institutional initiatives by the Indian Parliament to strengthen and modernise resources and practices, while also stressing the potential collaboration between the libraries of the parliaments of the two countries.

During a courtesy call, Minister of Information and Broadcasting Zahir Uddin Swapon at the Secretariat and Pranay Verma agreed to enhance exchange visits of media delegations between the two countries to promote mutual understanding. They also exchanged views on cooperation in films, including the organisation of film screening and film festivals between the two countries, as well as collaboration in production and post-production technological support.

Shama Obaed seeks Algeria's support for energy State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed requested enhanced cooperation from Algeria in the energy sector to ensure long-term energy security.

She made the request when Algerian Ambassador Abdelouhab Saidani paid a courtesy call on her at the foreign ministry yesterday.

Both sides discussed avenues to strengthen cooperation in trade and investment, particularly in the energy, infrastructure, pharmaceutical and shipbuilding and manpower sectors.

Shama Obaed emphasised the importance of increased collaboration in the education sector and welcomed the ongoing process of establishing a Joint Consultative Commission.

The ambassador reiterated Algeria's commitment to strengthening cooperation in labour recruitment, as well as collaboration in energy, education and agriculture.

A road to cut through

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According to BELA, various structures have been built in the park over the past seven years under the guise of renovation, significantly restricting access. While regulations allow a maximum of 5 percent infrastructure development in parks, urban planners say about 23 percent of Osmani Udyan has already been occupied.

They also noted that Bangladesh's laws strictly prohibit the use or transfer of parks and open spaces for purposes other than their intended use. Courts have repeatedly directed authorities to protect such spaces and remove unauthorised structures.

"This is a terrible decision," said Adil Mohammed Khan, former president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) and chief executive of the Institute of Planning and Development.

"Destroying parks and playgrounds to accommodate private cars is unacceptable. If this road is built, it will cause irreversible damage to the park's environment."

He added that under existing laws, including the Open Space Conservation Act 2000, there is no scope to interfere with parks in this manner.

Former BIP president Mohammad Fazle Reza Sumon said, "When we don't even have one square metre of park space per person – where at least nine square metres are required – such a move will only worsen the situation for city residents."

"Out of Dhaka's 265 parks, only 42 remain. If the government does not protect them, what will we tell future generations?"

The World Health Organization recommends

at least nine square metres of open space per person within a 15-minute walking distance from home.

IMPLEMENTATION DELAYS

The Osmani Udyan modernisation project, originally scheduled for completion in 2018, has faced repeated delays. Work was stalled for around two years after the initial contractor's contract was cancelled in 2022 over alleged irregularities.

A new contractor was appointed in September 2023, but the project has since missed multiple deadlines. The latest deadline was June 2025, with about 95 percent of the work completed so far.

Officials estimate that at least three more months will be needed to complete the remaining work.

The July monument component is about 70 percent complete and is also expected to be finished by June.

The project includes boundary walls, entry gates, walkways connecting key government facilities, a library, a food court, drainage systems, lake development, an indoor games zone, and parking facilities.

Osmani Udyan, once a key urban green space, is home to rare trees, small lakes, sand islands, sculptures, and an auditorium – features that environmentalists say should be preserved rather than compromised.

New law risks

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individuals or groups responsible for a bank's collapse from returning to ownership even if all funds were repaid, TIB Executive Director Iftekaruzzaman said the inclusion of section 18(a) in the "Bank Resolution Act, 2026" guarantees impunity rather than justice.

"Whatever justification the government may offer, this decision – one that facilitates and shields corruption and plunder – does not ensure legal accountability for those who looted the banking sector; instead, it effectively rewards them on a massive scale, making it self-defeating."

"The fall of authoritarianism does not necessarily mark an end to the abuse of power and forcible capture in the banking sector..." "This move by the government exemplifies that trend and is merely a continuation of the highly controversial decision surrounding the appointment of the Bangladesh Bank governor," Iftekaruzzaman said.

"By what magic have the former owners of crisis-ridden banks, who

were the pioneers of plundering this sector, suddenly attained such purity that they will deposit only 7.5 percent while the remaining 92.5 percent will be repaid over two years at only 10 percent interest?" he said.

He further questioned how such owners would inject new capital, cover existing capital shortfalls, repay depositors and creditors, meet tax obligations, compensate affected parties, and rebuild regulatory compliance frameworks.

Iftekaruzzaman also expressed concern over Bangladesh Bank's ability to enforce post-reacquisition conditions, citing conflicts of interest. He warned that under the guise of meeting conditions, former owners might secure fresh loans on favourable terms and exploit the ongoing normalisation of loan defaults, potentially deepening insolvency in the banking sector.

"The burden of this will ultimately fall on the people," he said.

TIB urged the government to reconsider the move.

Barrister Shafique

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and its Secretary Mahfuzur Rahman Milon, among others, attended the janaza.

Earlier, his first janaza was held at his Indira Road residence around 11:00am.


The third janaza took place at the Central Shaheed Minar before his

burial.

Barrister Shafique died at 5:30pm on Sunday while undergoing treatment at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in Dhaka. He was 89.

Chief Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury expressed shock at his death.

PRAYER TIMING					
APRIL 14					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:45	6:24	7:45	
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	5:00	6:28	8:15	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					



Dhaka South City Corporation

Engineering Department
Electrical Circle

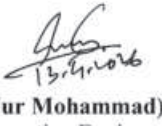
Memo No-46.207.007.09.22.13.2026 Date-13/04/2026

Tender Notice

Tender notice is invited through e-GP Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, Electrical Circle, Dhaka South Corporation for the Procurement of following packages :-

No	Tender ID	Description of Work	Last Selling (Date & time)	Closing (Date & time)
1	1236461	Supply, Fitting & fixing of necessary spare parts for maintenance & repair of existing Air Coolers at Gandaria Community Center, Sutrapur Community Center, Johir Raihan Cultural Center and Outfall Staff Quarter under Zone-5 of DSCC.	26-APR-2026 12.30 PM	26-APR-2026 02.30 PM

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and hard copies/offline will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). If necessary, information please contact to the PE's Support Desk (02-223386009).


(Nur Mohammad)
 Executive Engineer
 Electrical Circle
 Dhaka South City Corporation.
 Phone:02-223386009

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