

Man arrested over rape of teenager

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Jhenaidah

Police yesterday arrested a man in a case filed for raping a 17-year-old girl and recording the video of the incident in Jhenaidah.

Saurav Kumar Nitai, 22, was held after the victim's mother filed a case with Kotchandpur Police Station on Monday.

Police said around 11:00pm on March 25, Saurav forcibly took the victim to a mahogany garden near her house and raped her.

Inspector (Investigation) Ansarul Haque told The Daily Star the case was filed under the Rape and Pornography Act.

Police arrested the accused and sent him to court yesterday morning. The victim was sent to a hospital for medical examination.

Flash floods submerge 372 hectares of cropland

MASUK HRIDOY, Brahmanbaria

Flash floods have inundated around 372 hectares of boro paddy fields in the haor regions of Brahmanbaria, affecting at least 1,000 farmers, with Nasirnagar upazila bearing the brunt of the damage.

Triggered by several days of heavy rainfall, water levels in the haors rose sharply, submerging low-lying fields almost overnight. Mature crops in Medir Haor and surrounding wetlands went under water before many farmers could harvest them.

Official estimates put the submerged area at 372 hectares, though farmers say the actual losses are higher.

A brief spell of clear weather yesterday prompted a frantic harvesting effort. Farmers rushed to their fields at dawn, cutting



PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY

paddy while standing in waist-to chest-deep water. However, an acute shortage of labourers slowed progress.

Nasir Mia, a farmer from Sonatola village, said he spent Tk 2 lakh cultivating 25 bighas this season. "Seven to eight bighas are now completely submerged. The

water is neck-deep, so there's no way to harvest. By the time it recedes, everything will be lost," he said.

Fazar Ali, another farmer, faces similar losses. "I took loans to cultivate. Now I cannot even harvest the crop. I'm worried about how I will repay the debt and support my family," he said.

According to the upazila agriculture office, about 11,000 hectares were cultivated with boro paddy in Nasirnagar this season. While nearly 70 percent has already been harvested, the remaining crops are now at risk, with around 305 hectares still submerged.

Dr Mostafa Imran Hossain, deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension in Brahmanbaria, said farmers in Nasirnagar have suffered the most.

Alongside boro paddy, about 100 hectares of Aus seedbeds, maize, sesame, and vegetables have also been damaged.

"Lists of affected farmers are being prepared. They will be prioritised for government incentives, relief support, and paddy procurement programmes," he said.

Govt to review

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of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB) at a city hotel in Dhaka.

The minister said regulation should not mean constant pressure. "The government will listen to your problems and assist you in how you can advance."

He said private universities should have operational freedom but warned that they must not create space for militancy. "Such freedom must not lead to another Holey Artisan," he said.

He said the government does not want to shut institutions or harm investments, adding that private universities can contribute to human capital, foreign currency earnings and intellectual property.

He also said Bangladesh should learn from countries like Malaysia and Singapore, citing Malaysia's success in reversing brain drain under Mahathir Mohamad.

At the event, APUB Chairman Md Sabur Khan presented proposals on taxation, UGC reform, research, industry linkage, and cross-border higher education.

He said private universities have expanded access to higher education, but policy and administrative barriers limit their potential. Despite receiving no government grants, they pay taxes and VAT, which increases tuition fees and pressurises students, he added.

APUB proposed dividing private universities into profit-making and non-profit categories, with tax and VAT exemptions for non-profit institutions.

It also proposed forming endowment funds to support meritorious and underprivileged students

and student-led innovation, said Sabur.

The association called for a more supportive UGC, with file disposal within 30 days and automatic approval within 45 days.

It suggested a KPI and ranking system based on research, innovation and graduate employment rates.

On cross-border education, APUB urged encouraging international collaboration while ensuring quality.

UGC Chairman Mamun Ahmed said the commission is open to criticism and aims to work with all universities.

He said there should be no demarcation between private and public universities, as all universities and students fall under the UGC's responsibility.

Prime Minister's Education Adviser Mahadi Amin said the government believes there should be no VAT on higher education at higher universities.

Private universities can help turn brain drain into brain circulation by engaging expatriate academics, he added.

North South University VC Prof Abdul Hannan Chowdhury called for a dedicated student visa process to attract foreign students and easier access to foreign research grants.

He said NSU lost over Tk 20 crore in research funding due to approval complications under the Public Procurement Rules 2025.

Prof Hannan also called for student loans and PhD approval based on faculty strength, not university type.

East West University VC Shams Rahman said private universities should have representation in the UGC.

Sujan, Noor get bail 'Can't sit and wait for India on Teesta'

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Division and if the apex court does not stay the High Court order. Sujan was arrested on September 16, 2024.

The three cases against Sujan were filed with Jatrabari Police Station in Dhaka and in Panchagarh on separate murder charges after the political changeover on August 5, 2024. His lawyer said there is no specific allegation against him.

Two cases were filed against Noor at the Nilphamari Police Station. He was arrested on September 15, 2024. He is

accused of the killing of Siddique Ali by running him over with a car and of the 2013 killing of local BNP leader Golam Rabbani, said Deputy Attorney General Syed Shajia Sharmin.

The HC granted Noor bail in the Rabbani murder case but denied bail in the Siddique Ali killing case, she said, adding that the court earlier granted him bail on May 4 in a case related to the July uprising.

As Noor was not granted bail in the Siddique Ali murder case, he cannot be released from jail, the DAG said.

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yet been formed in West Bengal, and what they will do is for them to say. It is not my job to read their minds."

He added, "We hope that the agreement reached at that time can be considered again under the current circumstances. But we cannot just sit and wait for that. We have our own work to do."

In September 2011, water resource ministers of both countries reached a consensus on the Teesta deal, expected to be signed during then Indian prime

minister Manmohan Singh's Dhaka visit.

It was blocked by opposition from then West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee. With the deal stalled, Bangladesh launched the "Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project," later seeking Chinese assistance during Sheikh Hasina's 2019 Beijing trip.

Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman yesterday flew to China on a three-day visit, the first since the BNP government took office.

He will meet Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to discuss trade, investment, and funding. Bangladesh will seek low-interest loans, extended repayment periods, and new investments.

A foreign ministry official said, "There have not been major Chinese investments in Bangladesh. The Chinese side was slow in taking up new initiatives since the events after the July uprising. Now that there's a new political government, China is revamping its activities."

On Monday, China's foreign ministry spokesperson said Beijing attaches great importance to ties with Bangladesh and hopes to enhance political trust, deepen cooperation, and promote Belt and Road projects.

The spokesperson described the two countries as "friends, close neighbours and comprehensive strategic cooperative partners," noting that relations have steadily progressed over five decades on the basis of mutual respect and equality.

Parties demand

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Haque described the incident as a "massacre" and claimed the July uprising was built on the foundation laid by the events of 2013.

He made the remarks while inaugurating a photography exhibition organised by Bangladesh Khelafat Chhatra Majlis at the Nalinikanta Bhattacharya Exhibition Gallery of the National Museum in Shahbagh.

He alleged that sections of the media and intellectuals validated the crackdown.

He reiterated the demand for an independent probe commission and called for punishment of those responsible. He also demanded that "responsible media outlets also be put on trial."

Elsewhere, Hefajat-e-Islam's Baridhara Zone held a memorial and prayer session for the May 5 victims. The prayer was led by Abdul

Hamid Madhupuri, central naye e-ameer of Hefajat.

The National Citizen Party also organised a discussion titled "From Shapla Mass Killing to July" at its Bangla Motor office yesterday.

At the event, NCP lawmaker Akhter Hossen demanded justice and recognition of the victims of Shapla Chattar killings as martyrs, accusing the Awami League government of a decade-long cover up and silencing victims' families.

He also urged strict accountability, democratic reforms, and an end to extremism.

In the afternoon, Islami Chhatra Shibir held a human chain at Shapla Chattar.

Meanwhile, International Crimes Tribunal Chief Prosecutor Aminul Islam said investigators have so far identified 58 deaths linked to the Shapla Chattar crackdown across four districts.

BNP eyes

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the opportunity to work in the organisations," he added.

As part of the process, top leaders of the affiliated bodies have already started holding meetings at the party's Nayapaltn central office to discuss how to usher in new leadership, party insiders said.

Meanwhile, aspirants for different posts have begun lobbying, with many submitting their profiles to senior policymakers and contacting influential figures within the party and the government.

Party leaders said the new committees would try to strike a balance between experienced organisers and younger leaders for active leadership in their grassroots and sectoral wings.

The overlap between party and government responsibilities is also visible in the BNP's metropolitan units. Dhaka Metropolitan North BNP convener Aminul Haque is now a state minister, while Dhaka Metropolitan South BNP convener Rafiqul Alam is serving as an MP.

Moreover, many committees have also been functioning long after their terms expired.

For instance, Mohila Dal's committee, formed in 2016 for a two-year term, has remained in place for nearly a decade. Muktijoddha Dal and Sramik Dal are being run

by committees formed more than a decade ago.

Jubo Dal's central committee is yet to be expanded to its full structure more than a year after it was partially constituted and announced on July 9, 2024.

The Chhatra Dal central committee expired on March 1 this year.

Party leaders said restructuring of these affiliated bodies is being prioritised before the BNP holds its national council, the party's highest policymaking forum, expected later this year.

The BNP last held its national council on March 19, 2016.

While the council is supposed to be held every three years as per the party constitution, party leaders said it could not be held in the past 17 years due to political, legal, and organisational constraints during the previous Awami League government.

The BNP high command now aims to hold the council after completing the restructuring of its affiliated bodies, they added.

Sources said discussions are also underway over possible leadership changes in several bodies, including Swachhasebak Dal, prioritising candidates' organisational experience, educational background and proven involvement in party activities.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Power Division
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
Admin-3 Section
www.powerdivision.gov.bd

No. 27.00.0000.043.07.042.25 Date: 05.05.2026

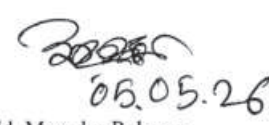
e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited through the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

SL No.	Tender ID	Description	Tender Publish Date	Tender Closing Date
1.	1266821, GR-03	Procurement of Computer Consumables	05-May-2026 16:00	18-May-2026 14:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted through National e-GP Portal. No hard copy will be accepted. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through any registered branch of enlisted banks. Further information and guidelines are available on the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Size: DG-1315/7025(5x3)


05.05.26
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GD-1020

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Senior Superintendent
Chattogram Central Jail

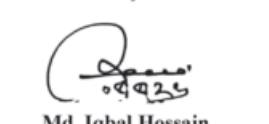
Memo No. 58.04.1500.111.04.028.26- Date: 05-05-2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal.

SL. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing date Closing date
1	1260227	Tender/Schedule -ka/pakage-1	30-Apr-2026 23:00:00, 17-May-2026 13:30:00
2	1262049	Tender/Schedule -ka/pakage-2	30-Apr-2026 23:00:00, 17-May-2026 13:30:00
3	1262051	Tender/Schedule -kha/pakage-3	30-Apr-2026 23:00:00, 14-May-2026 13:30:00
4	1262052	Tender/Schedule-ka/pakage-4	30-Apr-2026 23:00:00, 17-May-2026 13:30:00
5	1262061	Tender/Schedule-ka/pakage-5	03-May-2026 23:00:00, 14-May-2026 13:30:00
6	1262062	Tender/Schedule-kha/pakage-1	30-Apr-2026 23:00:00, 17-May-2026 13:30:00
7	1262063	Tender/Schedule -kha/pakage-2	03-May-2026 23:00:00, 14-May-2026 13:30:00
8	1262065	Tender/Schedule-kha/pakage-3	03-May-2026 23:00:00, 14-May-2026 13:30:00
9	1262066	Tender/Schedule-kha/pakage-4	03-May-2026 23:00:00, 14-May-2026 13:30:00
10	1262067	Tender/Schedule-kha/pakage-5	03-May-2026 23:00:00, 14-May-2026 13:30:00
11	1262068	Tender/Schedule-Ga/pakage-1	04-May-2026 14:00:00, 17-May-2026 13:30:00
12	1262069	Tender/Schedule-Ga/pakage-2	03-May-2026 23:00:00, 14-May-2026 13:30:00
13	1262070	Tender/Schedule-Ga/pakage-3	03-May-2026 23:00:00, 14-May-2026 13:30:00
14	1262072	Tender/Schedule-Ga/pakage-4	04-May-2026 14:00:00, 17-May-2026 13:30:00
15	1262073	Tender/Schedule-Ga/pakage-5	03-May-2026 23:00:00, 14-May-2026 13:30:00
16	1262074	Tender/Schedule-Ga/pakage-6	03-May-2026 23:00:00, 14-May-2026 13:30:00
17	1262076	Tender/Schedule-Gha/pakage-1	30-Apr-2026 23:00:00, 17-May-2026 13:30:00
18	1262077	Tender/Schedule-Gha/pakage-2	03-May-2026 23:00:00, 14-May-2026 13:30:00

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Md. Iqbal Hossain
Senior Jail Super
Chattogram Central Jail

GD-1019

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (HED)
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
F-14/F-1, AGARGAON, SHER-E-BANGLA NAGAR, DHAKA.
www.hed.gov.bd

Memo No. 45.02.0000.000.006.07.0086-26-95 Date: 05/05/26

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Goods, details are given below:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of Work	Last Date & Time of Selling Tender Document	Tender Closing date & Time
1.	1268906	GD-43/DPP (GOB)-HED	Procurement of Furniture for Kaptai 50 Bed Upazila Health Complex (UzHC) in Rangamati District.	17.05.2026 11:00	17.05.2026 13:00
2.	1268907	GD-45/DPP (GOB)-HED	Procurement of Furniture for Belachari 50 Bed Upazila Health Complex (UzHC) in Rangamati District.	17.05.2026 11:00	17.05.2026 13:00
3.	1268908	GD-55/DPP (GOB)-HED	Procurement of Furniture for Borairgram 50 Bed Upazila Health complex (UzHC) in Natore District.	17.05.2026 11:00	17.05.2026 13:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://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's branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


05/05/26
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GD-1022

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e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Reference No.	Description of goods/works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
1	ID-1270436	EE-GRL-34 (FY:2025-26)	27.11.0000.304.26.225.26, Date: 05/05/2026	Supply of 50KVA 6.35/0.23KV Single Phase Distribution Transformer	24-May-2026, 17:00	25-May-2026 14:00	25-May-2026 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

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For more details please contract to the PE's Support Desk (01768015538).

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-১১৫৬(২)/০৫/০৫/২৬


05/05/26
Md. Shahedul Azim
ID No. 1-01460
Director
Directorate of Purchase
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GD-1030