

Man sent to jail over rape of speech-impaired woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

A man has been sent to jail in a case filed over the rape of a young woman in Mymensingh's Gouripur upazila.

Md Yasin, 30, of Ghaterkona village, was sent to prison by a Mymensingh court yesterday afternoon following his arrest the night before, said Habibur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Gouripur Police Station.

The victim, a 19-year-old woman who has a speech impediment, has undergone necessary medical attention at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Md Abdullah Al Mamun, additional police superintendent (admin) in Mymensingh, said, "Yasin raped the girl after breaking into her house on Sunday afternoon when her parents were away. When her parents returned later in the evening, the girl managed to inform them about the rape."

The victim's mother filed a rape case against Yasin with Gouripur Police Station on Monday night, leading to his arrest that same night.



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman surrounded by a crowd of students and well-wishers during his visit to Dhaka University to inaugurate a daylong workshop organised by the UGC yesterday. The visit marked his first return to his alma mater since assuming office following the February 12 general election this year.

PHOTO: PMO

2 Bangladeshi migrants' bodies recovered from Libya trafficking den

REUTERS, Tripoli

Authorities in eastern Libya have recovered the bodies of three migrants – including two Bangladeshis – from the Mediterranean coast near Bishr in northeastern Libya.

They also said 120 migrants held captive by human traffickers south of Benghazi were rescued and deported.

A statement from the security directorate in the city of Ajdabiya said an Egyptian migrant, who had escaped and was found lost and exhausted in the coastal town of Bishr, led security forces to the locations where the other migrants were being held.

The Egyptian had been held with compatriots and migrants of other nationalities "inside a den used to torture migrants and blackmail their families", according to the statement released late Monday.

Since the toppling of Muammar Gaddafi in a Nato-backed uprising in 2011, Libya has become a key transit route for migrants fleeing conflict and poverty for Europe via dangerous desert and Mediterranean crossings.

Libya's oil-dependent economy also attracts impoverished migrants seeking work, but poor security across the sprawling country leaves them vulnerable to abuse.

A false shooting claim

FROM PAGE 1

additional inspector general of police (Crime), said the victims of false cases often face harassment and suffer losses that cannot be compensated.

"Though we cannot make up for their losses, we can apply to the court under section 211 of the Penal Code to seek legal action against complainants who file false cases," he said, adding that police are taking such steps in cases related to the July mass uprising.

Section 211 deals with the filing of false charges with the intent to cause harm to someone. It has provisions for punishment for initiating false criminal proceedings, with penalties of up to two years' imprisonment, a fine, or both, or up to seven years' imprisonment if the false charge involves a grave offence.

In July 2024, the demand for quota reform in public jobs soon turned into a mass uprising amid the Awami League-led government's harsh crackdown that left hundreds dead and thousands injured.

According to a UN fact-finding report, around 1,400 people were killed during the mass uprising that culminated in the ouster of the AL regime on August 5.

Police Headquarters (PHQ) data show that 1,855 cases were filed as of April 4 this year against thousands of people, including law enforcers and AL leaders and activists. The cases are now being investigated by different police units, including the PBI.

BIKE ACCIDENT, NOT SHOOTING
Shihab's mother Fatema Akter Parul filed an attempted murder case on November 21, 2024, against 17 individuals, including local political leaders, along with 15 to 20 unidentified people.

In the statement, she claimed that

her son suffered serious bullet injuries when the accused opened fire and threw crude bombs at him in front of the Companiganj Upazila Parishad office gate on August 4, 2024.

However, what the PBI found was entirely different from her account.

According to the agency's final report, Shihab was injured in a collision between his motorcycle and a battery-run auto-rickshaw at a different location and at a different time on the same day, as confirmed by eyewitness statements and an analysis of Call Detail Records (CDR).

Digital evidence and medical records, including documents from Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Hospital, didn't show any firearm injuries.

Investigators, however, confirmed that Shihab had actively taken part in the mass uprising.

Subsequent findings shed light on the motive behind the case.

The PBI report said that incidents of chase and counter-chase between AL supporters and activists of the anti-discrimination students' platform occurred on August 4 and 5, 2024. Later, Yousof Ahmad Jony, a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader, filed a case against 33 people, including Yakub Ali, an AL leader who is Parul's uncle-in-law.

As a counter-move, Parul lodged the false case against the JCD leader and others, the report said.

When this correspondent called the phone number mentioned in the case statement, the complainant's husband, Sharif Uddin, answered the call.

He claimed that his son is a government gazette-listed "July warrior" who was shot during the uprising.

Sharif dismissed the finding that his son's injuries were caused by a motorcycle accident.

He further said they were yet to receive a copy of the PBI report. "We will challenge the investigation report."

LIVING PERSON SHOWN AS DEAD
While probing a case filed over the alleged murder of a 20-year-old man in the capital's Uttara area, the PBI found that the man was very much alive.

His mother, Parul Khatun, 45, lodged the case on November 25, 2024, with the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court against 257 people, including over a hundred local AL leaders and activists.

She alleged that her son, Md Kawsar Mia, was shot dead on July 18, 2024, during a mass procession led by students in Azampur, Uttara, and that his body was never found.

The investigation officer found that Kawsar was alive and had been arrested on June 2, 2025, in a case related to preparations for robbery.

The PBI, however, could not ascertain the motive behind the false case. **'AN ABUSE OF LEGAL SYSTEM'**
Human rights activist Nur Khan Liton described the instances of filing false cases as deeply troubling.

A vested interest group exploited the situation after August 5 to file cases targeting people whom they deemed to be obstacles to fulfilling their personal interests, he said.

"They targeted professionals and political workers who had no plausible connection to the incidents described [in the case statements]. This is an abuse of the legal system. Legal action should be taken against those who filed such cases," added Liton, also a member of the now defunct Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances.

Politicisation in hiring hurt

FROM PAGE 1

of different departments, these matters are usually determined through academic performance."

Dhaka University ranked 584th globally in the QS World University Rankings 2026. It is also placed in the 801-1000 range in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026.

"If we recruit teachers based on merit and academic results, I think this condition can be changed," he said.

He also referred to the lack of research publications among some academics seeking higher administrative positions at universities and urged DU authorities to address the issue.

The prime minister yesterday visited the campus – his first trip to the university since taking office – to inaugurate a workshop titled "Transforming Higher Education in Bangladesh: Roadmap to Sustainable Excellence", organised by the University Grants Commission at the Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan.

At the views-exchange programme following the inauguration, Tarique responded to several students' questions on education, employment, corruption, political culture, museums, language, governance, and other issues.

Around 150 students took part in the event.

At the outset, the PM said he felt nostalgic visiting the DU campus after nearly 35 years. He added that there is a significant age gap between him and the younger generation, and that he wants to know what kind of Bangladesh students dream of, what the government can do for the country, and how students themselves can contribute to nation-building.

Tarique sought students'

cooperation in maintaining a stable political situation.

"If we cannot keep the country's political situation stable, we will not be able to build anything. Even if we do, it will collapse.... We have done a lot of politics on the streets, but there must be stability now. Politics has to move to parliament now. Making noise on the streets will not help build anything."

The PM urged students to learn a third language alongside Bangla and English to expand their employment opportunities worldwide.

Responding to a question about seat shortages in halls and libraries, unemployment, and irregularities in public recruitment, Tarique said corruption and inflated project costs have become major concerns.

Citing a white paper released during the interim government period, he said nearly \$16 billion was siphoned out of the country each year. "If this money had remained in Bangladesh, many student-related issues – including seat shortages – could have been resolved.

He also referred to allegations of excessive spending in public projects.

"The burden of this extra expenditure eventually falls on the people," he said, adding that changing long-standing practices and attitudes would take time and could not be achieved within a few months or years.

Replying to a question about the declining use of Bangla, Tarique said language habits largely depend on family values and mindset, noting that his daughter still speaks Bangla fluently despite spending 17 years abroad.

"Many families in Bangladesh speak English with children attending English-medium schools.... While this may improve language skills, it can weaken their attachment to Bangla and local culture."

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof ABM Obaidul Islam and Marketing Department Professor Morshed Hasan Khan were present on the stage during the programme.

GOVT TO BOOST INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA TIES

Speaking as the chief guest at the "Transforming Higher Education in Bangladesh: Roadmap to Sustainable Excellence" workshop, Tarique emphasised the need to strengthen research, innovation, and skill-based education to make Bangladesh's universities globally competitive, reports UNB.

He said Bangladesh must move beyond a memorisation-based, certificate-oriented education system to meet the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and prepare students for the evolving job market.

The PM highlighted the need for stronger industry-academia cooperation, internships, entrepreneurship development, and technological advancement, while calling for an education system that places greater emphasis on merit, creativity, and knowledge production.

Stressing the need for closer collaboration between universities and industries, he said his government has taken steps to expand apprenticeships, internships, and industry-academia partnerships.

"Initially, universities in divisional cities are being linked with local educational and business institutions under the initiative," he said, adding that the government has introduced plans for seed funding and innovation grants for innovative business ideas at colleges and universities.

"The aim is to create entrepreneurs from campuses."

Tarique also said the government plans to establish innovation and entrepreneurship development institutes and science parks at higher educational institutions.

Measles' unseen toll on the poor

FROM PAGE 1

At IDH, Farzana Akther sat near a third-floor staircase, watching her five-month-old daughter, Sadika Noor Safa, sleep on a mattress. Farzana was waiting for her husband to return with a nasogastric tube to feed the baby.

Their savings had already been exhausted.

The child had recovered from chickenpox only 10 days earlier. Doctors at Shreenagar Upazila Health Complex referred them to Dhaka at the time. The family had then spent around Tk 35,000, including Tk 14,000 for the ambulance, for a nine-day stay at IDH.

Farzana's husband works as a day labourer.

When the baby developed fever and measles on May 5, a lack of ICU support at the local upazila health complex forced the family back to Dhaka again.

Out of money and having already relied heavily on their parents and in-laws, Farzana had to part with a quiet, personal treasure.

"I sold my wedding nose pin for Tk 2,000 to help bring my daughter to Dhaka as quickly as possible," she said.

During this second trip alone, the family has already spent about Tk 13,000 on transport, food, and

supplementary medicines.

At the DNCC hospital, Mohammad Alauddin, an auto-rickshaw driver from Barishal now living in Hazaribagh, waited for test results for his 14-month-old son, who contracted measles and diarrhoea three days ago.

Alauddin himself has been unable to work since fracturing his right arm in an accident over a month ago.

After spending Tk 7,000 at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), he was told he needed surgery. Unable to afford the Tk 35,000 allegedly demanded by hospital brokers, he turned instead to a quack, paying Tk 8,000 upfront with another Tk 7,000 due later.

Now, his three-member family survives only because of his four sisters covering their rent and daily expenses.

"I don't know how I will bear these costs when we are already depending on my sisters to survive," Alauddin said.

Like Alauddin and Farzana, Titu is now planning how to survive financially after leaving the hospital. He hopes to secure a loan from a local NGO at a lower interest rate so he can repay informal lenders and begin reducing his debt burden.

Prof Shimul said the outbreak has hit poor and slum communities

hardest because measles vaccine coverage remains relatively low in those areas.

He added that higher rates of child marriage among low-income groups often lead to low-birth-weight babies and poor nutritional conditions, making children more vulnerable to infection.

Public health expert Mushtuq Husain said the crisis is fuelled by the living conditions of the poor.

Malnutrition and overcrowded environments create fertile ground for infections, putting low-income children at the highest risk, he said.

Fear of massive medical bills also causes many parents to delay seeking hospital care until conditions become critical.

"By the time they are forced to take their children to the hospital, treatment costs rise because of the severity of the illness, and in many cases, the children cannot be saved," Mushtuq said.

He argued that medical treatment alone cannot break this cycle.

Mushtuq called for urgent structural support mechanisms for poor communities, including community-based isolation centres in slum areas, where the government and society can step in to share the burden before a family's financial fear costs a child their life.

debutant Abdullah Fazal (66 off 113), scoring his second half-century of the match. Even after slipping to 121 for five in the 33rd over, Saud Shakeel and Mohammad Rizwan added 31 runs for the sixth wicket, taking the score to 152 for five by the 45th over.

Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto reintroduced Rana, a move that proved decisive. Rana provided the breakthrough that the Tigers desperately needed by having Shakeel (15 off 32) edge one back to the keeper with the third ball of his spell. He then produced one of the most spectacular inswingers, deceiving Rizwan (15 off 46), who shouldered arms only to watch his stumps being uprooted.

Tajjul, who had earlier removed Fazal, joined the party by dismissing Hasan Ali for one in the next over before Rana trapped Noman Ali lbw for four, leaving Bangladesh just a wicket away from a famous victory.

Shaheen Shah Afridi and Mohammad Abbas resisted briefly, but

Rana ended the contest by inducing Afridi to lob a catch to Mominul Haque at short leg, sealing victory with 23.1 overs still remaining.

Earlier, Bangladesh declared their second innings at 240 for nine, setting Pakistan a target of 268 with 76 overs still possible in the day.

Resuming Day 5 at 152 for three, Bangladesh lost wickets at regular intervals but added 88 runs in 20 overs before declaring.

Captain Shanto led from the front, scoring 87 off 150 balls after his first-innings century. He narrowly missed a rare milestone when the left-hander was trapped lbw by Noman while attempting a reverse sweep. Had he reached 100, he would have joined Ricky Ponting, Sunil Gavaskar, and David Warner as the only players to score centuries in both innings of a Test three times.

The second and final Test will be held at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium from May 16.



Islami Bank
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PRICE SENSITIVE DISCLOSURE

This is for information of the Honourable Shareholders of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC and others that the **Board of Directors of the Bank in its 402nd Meeting held on 12th May, 2026 at 04.00 P.M. through Hybrid System** took the following Price Sensitive decisions: -

Sl.	Particulars	Decision
01.	Revised Date & Time of 43 rd Annual General Meeting (AGM)	28th June, 2026 at 10.00 A.M. instead of 25 th June, 2026
02.	Venue of 43 rd Annual General Meeting (AGM)	Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka

This is for your information.
Yours faithfully,

Dated: Dhaka, May 12, 2026.

By Order of the Board
Sd/-
(Md. Habibur Rahman)
SEVP & Company Secretary

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