



“People with no right to stay in the European Union must be returned effectively.”
EU migration chief Magnus Brunner

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THE DANGER WITHIN

Studies show children face growing threats in familiar spaces, 9 out of 10 predators known to victims

NILIMA JAHAN

In Bangladesh, the threat to children is increasingly emerging from within familiar circles -- neighbours, relatives, teachers, and other trusted individuals.

The issue came under renewed scrutiny following two recent horrific incidents, including the rape and murder of an eight-year-old child in Dhaka's Pallabi area, where the victim's decapitated body was recovered from a neighbour's home on May 19.

In a parallel incident exposing a similar pattern, police in Sylhet on May 12 arrested a neighbour in connection with the rape attempt and subsequent killing of a four-year-old child on May 6.

These are not isolated incidents; a March report by child rights organisation Shishurai Shob, compiled through an audit of published news reports from 2025, debunks the myth of "stranger danger".

“Offenders look for easier targets. Children are more vulnerable, less aware, and often unable to clearly communicate what has happened.”

Sumaiya Iqbal, assistant professor of criminology, Dhaka University.

It revealed that nine out of 10 predators are familiar faces operating within arm's reach of the victim.

According to the data, immediate neighbours accounted for 40.58 percent (125 out of 308 cases) of recorded rape incidents.

Other trusted figures included acquaintances (21.43 percent), teachers or religious instructors (14.61 percent), and close relatives (13.64 percent).

In contrast, strangers accounted for just 9.74 percent of cases.

The report also highlighted how violence against children is concentrated within intimate spaces.

Around 66.12 percent of 124 child murders and 59.09 percent (182 out of 308 incidents) of sexual abuse cases occurred inside the home or family environment.

Biological parents -- often driven by domestic disputes, marital conflict, drug addiction, or mental illness -- were responsible for the killings of 38 children out of 124.

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Holding a placard that reads, "Want Justice in our country", schoolchildren demonstrate near Popular Model High School in the capital's Pallabi, where eight-year-old Ramisa Akter was a student. They demanded justice for Ramisa.

PHOTO: STAR

Public outrage mounts over Ramisa murder Govt promises speedy trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Public outrage over the rape and murder of eight-year-old Ramisa Akter in Pallabi continued to mount in the capital and across the country yesterday, with protesters demanding the highest punishment for those responsible and a speedy trial through a special tribunal for the third consecutive day.

Students, guardians, teachers, and political activists joined demonstrations in different areas, urging law enforcement agencies to play a more proactive role in ensuring justice.

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RAMISA KILLING EXPOSES CHILD PROTECTION GAPS - PAGE 3

RAPE IN MADRASA Suspect held after 10-yr-old dies by suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed a madrasa student on a five-day remand in a case filed over the alleged rape and provocation to the suicide of a 10-year-old boy in the capital's Banasree area.

The accused, Shihab Hossain, 20, a student of Alokito Quran International Hifz Madrasa in Banasree, was arrested on Wednesday from his home in Pabna's

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State enterprises bleed Tk 88,200cr every year: WB study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) drained about Tk 88,200 crore from the national exchequer in a single year, emerging as one of the country's biggest fiscal risks, according to a World Bank study.

The study recommended closing down the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), which is a budget guzzler and its effectiveness in reaching out to the poorest of the poor is debatable.

The TCB was created in 1972 to provide essential food items owing to the war-ravaged economy, inadequacy of domestic production and weakness of private sector-based supply chains.

“After 53 years of independence and a flourishing private

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