



## The horror that befell Ramisa

Charge sheet reveals chilling details; home minister says trial completion likely within a week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a five-day investigation, police yesterday submitted the charge sheet in the case over the brutal rape and murder of eight-year-old Ramisa Akhter in the capital's Pallabi.

According to the charge sheet, prime suspect Sohel Rana raped and murdered the child and destroyed evidence. His wife, Swapna Khatun, 26, is accused of destroying evidence and giving false information to protect Sohel.

The filing of the 47-page document marks one of the fastest charge sheet submissions in recent times.

Judge Masrur Salekin of the Children Violence Suppression Tribunal in Dhaka Metropolitan accepted the charges and set June 1 for a hearing on the charge framing, said Pankoj Peter Gomes, bench assistant of the tribunal.

Earlier in the day, Pallabi Police Station Sub-Inspector Ohiduzzaman submitted the charge sheet before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka. After a hearing, the case was transferred to the Children Violence Suppression Tribunal.

Also yesterday, the government appointed Supreme Court lawyer Musa Kalimullah as a state defence lawyer to represent the accused.

Earlier on Sunday, the government appointed Azizur Rahman Dulu as special public prosecutor in the case.

The charge sheet said Sohel, 30, an autorickshaw mechanic, told a Dhaka metropolitan magistrate on May 20 that he regularly took drugs



A man, unable to join his family for Eid due to work, bids farewell to his children as they leave with their mother for their village home in Chapainawabganj. The photo was taken yesterday at Kamalapur Railway Station.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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### TIMELINE

**May 19**  
Ramisa's body recovered; prime suspect, wife arrested

**May 20**  
Case filed; prime accused confesses before magistrate

**May 20-24**  
Protests held nationwide demanding justice for Ramisa

in the mornings after others in the shared flat left for work.

Around 9:30am on May 19, Sohel saw Ramisa next door and called her in. Once she came, he took her to his bathroom. "When she screamed, Sohel clamped a hand over her mouth and stuffed rags into it before raping her," the confessional statement read.

When the child lost consciousness, Sohel thought she had died. He then used a knife to mutilate her body in an attempt to destroy evidence, the statement said.

According to the autopsy report, Ramisa died from haemorrhage and shock caused by decapitation. All of her injuries were antemortem -- inflicted before death.

Sohel's confession also narrates the chain of events that followed.

He said, "Around 10:30am, while people were searching for Ramisa, her mother saw Ramisa's shoes in front of my room and started calling out for her. As there was no response, people began banging on my door. At that, I panicked.

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### BETWEEN LIBYA AND ITALY

## No trace of 23 Bangladeshi men for over 2 years

Families want closure, punishment to brokers, human traffickers

PORIMOL PALMA and JAHID HASAN, from Shariatpur

A tin-roof house sits quietly beside a narrow road in Shariatpur's Tulatala village. It belongs to Selim Jamadar -- a farmer and a part-time cattle trader -- and by all appearances, an ordinary man living an ordinary life. Inside, his wife Rina Begum was going about her morning, washing up in the kitchen, the clatter of utensils filling the small room.

Nothing seemed out of the ordinary. Until it did. One of our reporters asked about the family's only son -- Rashedul Islam, who had set off for Italy via Libya in 2023 and never arrived.

In a quiet voice, she started talking about the brokers who persuaded her 24-year-old son to take the perilous route, the wait, and the phone calls that slowly stopped coming. Then her voice gave out entirely.

"Two years have passed, yet I still do not know whether my son is alive or dead," she said, breaking into tears.

Not only Rina, but also members of nearly two dozen families across several villages in Shariatpur have been waiting for their loved ones who disappeared somewhere between Libya and Italy.

At least 23 young men -- 18 from Shariatpur

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## Dhaka to get \$1.4b from ADB amid economic strain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide Bangladesh with \$1.4 billion in funding, including \$1 billion in budget support, in response to the government's call for support amid the economic situation over the Middle East war.

A bilateral agreement in this regard was signed yesterday between the Economic Relations Division (ERD) and the ADB at Hotel InterContinental in Dhaka.

The funding will support the Strengthening Economic Management and Governance Programme (Subprogramme 2); Strengthening Social Resilience Programme (Subprogramme 2); the SASEC Dhaka-Sylhet Corridor Road Project; and the Narayanganj Green and Resilient Urban Development Project.

Officials said the \$1 billion allocated for the economic management social resilience programmes would come

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PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Women farm workers carrying harvested Boro paddy in Kalikabari village of Khulna's Dacope upazila recently. During the harvest season, local women work six to eight hours a day cutting, gathering, and carrying paddy from the fields, while earning only Tk 100 per hour -- nearly half the wage paid to male workers for the same work.

## Nearly 6,000 minor girls raped in 10yrs

Says rights group Odhikar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 5,942 minor girls were raped across the country between January 2016 and March 2026, human rights organisation Odhikar said in a statement yesterday.

Of them, 1,018 were victims of gang-rape, 236 were murdered after the assault, and 44 died by suicide.

The organisation noted that the figures likely represent only a fraction of actual cases, as many incidents remain unreported due to stigma, fear of retaliation, and harassment during

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### RAPE, ABUSE OF GIRLS

## Nine more held in 7 districts over 2 days

Most victims children, teens; two accused minors

STAR REPORT

At least nine people were arrested in the last two days on charges of rape and attempted rape in seven districts.

In Bandarban, a 15-year-old boy has been accused of raping a five-year-old girl in Thanchi upazila yesterday.

The victim's relatives filed a complaint with Thanchi Police Station around 10:30am yesterday.

Officer-in-Charge in Thanchi Police Station, Kanan Sarkar said, "Based on the case, the accused was detained with assistance from locals. He was produced before the Bandarban District Court."

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

সঠিকভাবে পশুর চামড়া ছাড়ানো ও লবণ দিয়ে যথাযথভাবে সংরক্ষণ পদ্ধতি

পশুর চামড়া সঠিকভাবে ছাড়ানোর পদ্ধতি

- চামড়া ছাড়ানোর সময় প্রথমেই পশুর সামনের এক পা থেকে বুকের উপর দিয়ে অন্য পা পর্যন্ত লম্বালম্বিভাবে এবং পেছনের এক পা থেকে অন্য পা পর্যন্ত লেজের গোড়া থেকে প্রায় ৪-৬ ইঞ্চি উপর দিয়ে লম্বালম্বিভাবে কাটতে হবে। একই সাথে চামড়ার জবাই স্থান থেকে পেটের উপর দিয়ে লেজের গোড়া পর্যন্ত লম্বালম্বিভাবে কাটতে হবে।
- জবাইয়ের পর চামড়া আড়াআড়ি কাটার জন্য সুচালো মাথার ছুরি এবং চামড়া ছাড়ানোর জন্য অবশ্যই বাঁকানো মাথার ছুরি ব্যবহার করতে হবে।
- কোরবানির পশু জবাইয়ের পর রক্তমাখা ছুরি কোনোভাবেই পশুর চামড়ায় মোছা যাবে না, এতে চামড়ার ক্ষতি হতে পারে।
- কাঁচা চামড়ার বড় ধরনের ক্রটি (লেস-কাট); যা অসতর্কতা, অজ্ঞতা ও ভুল ছুরি ব্যবহারের মাধ্যমে হয়ে থাকে। উপযুক্ত প্রশিক্ষণ, সতর্কতা ও বাঁকানো মাথার ধারালো ছুরি ব্যবহার করে লেস-কাট হ্রাস করা সম্ভব।

কাঁচা চামড়া সংরক্ষণ পদ্ধতি

- চামড়া ছাড়ানোর পর লবণ দিয়ে সংরক্ষণের পূর্বে অবশ্যই চামড়ায় লেগে থাকা চর্বি, মাংস, রক্ত, মাটি এবং গোবর ভালোভাবে পানি দিয়ে ধুয়ে চামড়ার পানি বরিয়ে লবণ প্রয়োগ করতে হবে।
- কাঁচা চামড়া ছাড়ানোর পর সংরক্ষণের জন্য (গরুর চামড়ার ক্ষেত্রে ৭-৮ কেজি এবং ছাগল/ভেড়ার চামড়ার ক্ষেত্রে ৩-৪ কেজি) লবণ প্রয়োগ করতে হবে। লবণ এমনভাবে প্রয়োগ করতে হবে যেন চামড়ার ফ্লেশ সাইডের কোনো অংশ ফাঁকা না থাকে, লবণ সমভাবে চামড়ায় ছড়িয়ে দিতে হবে।
- চামড়া ছাড়ানোর ৪-৫ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে অবশ্যই লবণ লাগাতে হবে এবং সংরক্ষণের জায়গা একটু ঢালু হতে হবে যেন চামড়া থেকে পানি ও রক্ত সহজেই গড়িয়ে যেতে পারে।
- লবণ দেওয়া চামড়া এমন জায়গায় রাখতে হবে, যেন রোদ বা বৃষ্টির পানি না লাগে এবং বাতাস চলাচল স্বাভাবিক থাকে।

“জাতীয় সম্পদ চামড়া, রক্ষা করবো আমরা”