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RAMISA RAPE, MURDER

Sohel, Swapna sentenced to death

Trial completed in 4 working days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday sentenced prime accused Sohel Rana and his wife Swapna Khatun to death for the rape and murder of eight-year-old schoolgirl Ramisa Akter, a crime that shook the nation.

Delivering the verdict in a packed courtroom, Judge Masrur Salekin of the Dhaka Metropolitan Children Violence

Suppression Tribunal observed, "When a child becomes the victim of sexual abuse, violence, or a heinous crime such as murder, it not only devastates a family but also deeply wounds



the penalty for murdering Ramisa after rape, while Swapna, 26, was sentenced for aiding and abetting.

People from various walks of life, including students, gathered on the court premises to hear the verdict amid tight security.

As the judge began reading out the verdict at 11:00am, with the accused couple standing in the dock, the courtroom fell into a hushed silence. Seated on a bench at the back was the victim's father Abdul Hannan Mollah, quietly awaiting the court's decision.

"Ramisa's

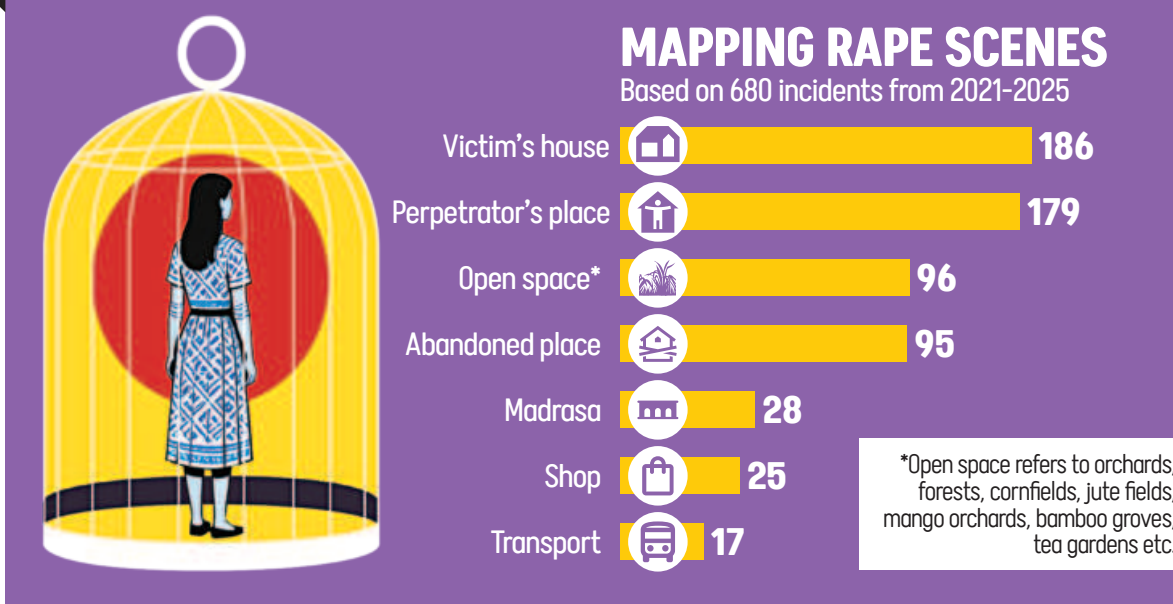
Industrial hubs emerge as major hotspots

Over half the victims are young girls

Assaults frequently involve known individuals, including relatives, neighbours, teachers

Victims also include young boys, raped allegedly inside religious institutions

Experts say weak enforcement allows perpetrators to act with impunity



3 DAYS



Mexico's historic treble

Mexico is set to become the only country to host matches in three different World Cups.

They hosted the tournaments alone in 1970 and 1986, and will co-host the 2026 World Cup alongside the United States and Canada.

**Visit the Star website to also read: 'The king's farewell'

RAPE INCIDENTS

Inside homes, by familiar faces

Star analysis shows

ABIR AYON and TAREK HOSEN

Most rape incidents in Bangladesh do not happen in dark alleys or isolated streets. They occur in places people trust the most -- inside homes.

An analysis by The Daily Star of 8,067 rape cases recorded by the Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO) between 2012 and 2025 shows that one of the most common crime scenes is the victim's own home. A closer look at 680 reported cases from the last five years found 186 incidents took place inside victims'

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CJ to set up HC bench for women, child abuse cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury will constitute a dedicated High Court bench to hear death references and appeals in cases involving crimes against women and children, including cases similar to that of the rape and murder of eight-year-old schoolgirl Ramisa Akter.

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Push-in attempts risk further strain on Dhaka-Delhi ties

PORIMOL PALMA

Continued attempts by Indian authorities to push people into Bangladesh could further strain Dhaka-Delhi relations at a time when both countries have significant stakes in maintaining stable ties, according to international relations experts.

They say political rhetoric surrounding state elections in Assam and West Bengal has increasingly translated into action, even as both countries seek to rebuild relations that deteriorated following the fall

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TIMELINE		
May 19 - Ramisa's body found; Sohel, Swapna held	submitted, accepted	June 3 - Suspects examined
May 20 - Father files case	June 1 - Tribunal frames charges	June 4 - Closing arguments conclude
May 24 - Charge sheet	June 2 - Witnesses testify, cross-examined	June 7 - Verdict delivered

society as a whole and raises questions about the effectiveness of the state's justice system."

The judgment came 19 days after the horrific incident in the capital's Pallabi area that set off a fierce wave of public outrage, prompting the government to pledge swift justice. The charges were framed on June 1. The law minister said this was the fastest trial in Bangladesh.

According to the verdict, Sohel, 31, got

case is not merely a criminal trial; it is a profound and difficult test of the society's conscience, humanity, law enforcement system, and commitment to the rule of law," said the judge.

"Every page of this case, filed over the allegation of brutally extinguishing the life of an innocent child, is filled with pain, anger, concern, and the expectation of justice," he said.

The judge noted this tribunal,

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ASIAN DUPLEX TOWN

THE NEW LIVING CULTURE

আপন মনে আপন ভূতনে

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