

Barguna teacher pleads for fresh medical test



Primary school teachers form a human chain in Barisal Sadar upazila yesterday. Their demands include exemplary punishment for the criminals who raped a female teacher inside a school building in Barguna.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Barguna schoolteacher who was allegedly raped on August 17 by six people inside her primary school demanded a fresh medical test and security.

She made the demand on Tuesday after the medical test conducted at Barguna General Hospital could not find any significant evidence of rape.

Meanwhile, primary school teachers associations at district headquarters all over the country yesterday formed human chains demanding punishment to the attackers of the teacher in Barguna.

On Tuesday, the teacher told this correspondent that she was emotionally distressed and feeling insecure after her husband -- an Indian national -- left the country on Saturday after she gave a statement before a judicial magistrate the same day.

Her husband had told her that he would have to leave her as his family would not accept her after what had happened to her.

As directed by her husband and to save the marriage, she did not make any claim of rape before the magistrate, she said.

Despite complying with his demand, "he left me... I already lost all my dignity and honour... [to regain a bit of it], now I only want a fresh medical test," the young woman said sobbing.

"I want to live... I plead for justice and security. I pray that no woman experience

the brutality I have endured."

After raping her on the first floor of the school building, the assailants exited the building by climbing down service pipes, she said, alleging that there were over a hundred people who gathered downstairs during the incident, but none came to her rescue.

Local member of Upazila Parishad, Mantu Biswas, later rescued her after breaking open the lock of the main gate, she said.

Dr Ajmeri Begum, gynaecologist of Barguna General Hospital, who conducted the medical test on her, said the test did not reveal any significant evidence that could prove the crime as rape. However, there were some injury marks on the female teacher's body.

She also apologised for making speculations of rape during primary investigations.

Dr GK Chakrabarti, eminent gynaecologist in Barisal city, who treated her on Tuesday under police protection, said he could not conduct any investigation as he was not provided any court order for it.

However, by noticing several signs and symptoms on her body, he could assume that she had been violated, he said.

On Tuesday, an investigation team of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), led by Abu Ahmed Fazlul Kabir, visited the area where the primary school is located in Betagi upazila of Barguna.

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A member of the ASK team, Mita Rani Dey, told this correspondent that at least three miscreants have brutally beaten up and violated the victim.

"She still has internal bleeding. We believe that the claim of the violation and brutal torture is not false," she said.

Bijoy Chandra Basak, superintendent of police in Barguna, did not wish to make any comment over a "judicial matter" as the victim and her husband had already given their statements to a magistrate.

Betagi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mamunur Rahman said they so far arrested four including two accused in the case and they were launching drives to arrest the other accused.

One of the accused -- Mehedi Hasan alias Rabiul, 18, son of Sultan Hossain of Kadamtala village in Hosnabad union -- was arrested on August 20, while another accused Jewel, 30, on August 22. Two other people -- Abdul Hakim Hawlader, 45, and Kuddus Kazi, 42, of Kadomtala village -- were arrested for helping the assailants flee the crime scene.

On August 17, the female teacher was finishing up administrative work afterhours on the first floor of the school while her husband was keeping her company. The main entrance downstairs was locked at the time as all students, teachers and staff had left the building.

According to the case filed the same night, six people -- Sumon Biswas, 35, Mohammad Rasel, 24, Sumon Kazi, 30, Mohammad Robiul, 18, Mohammad Hasan, 25, and Jewel, 30 -- climbed up and entered the classroom where the teacher was working. They beat up the couple and raped her while confining the husband to another classroom.