

A 17-year-old female student of Grade IX from Bhalukghar Village under Satbaria Union in Keshabpur Upazila, Jashore District, was subjected to rape.

On **15 July 2026**, before leaving for her madrasa, the survivor went to a nearby pond to bathe. At that time, a 35-year-old man from the same village allegedly called her to his house, claiming he needed to discuss an urgent matter. Upon entering the house, the survivor found that no other family members were present. When she attempted to leave, the accused allegedly restrained her by force, sexually assaulted her, and threatened to kill her if she disclosed the incident. Due to fear, trauma, and social stigma, the survivor did not immediately inform her family. Over the following days, her mental condition deteriorated significantly, and she reportedly attempted suicide. After being rescued by family members, she disclosed the incident. She was then taken to **Keshabpur Upazila Health Complex** for medical care. Following the doctor's advice, her mother filed a case with **Keshabpur Police Station**. After the investigation began, the accused was arrested on **21 July 2026** and was subsequently sent to jail through the court.

Initiatives Taken by the HOPE Project: After learning about the incident, on **23 July 2026**, representatives of the **Keshabpur Upazila CSO**, formed under the **HOPE Project of Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB)**, along with members of the HOPE Project team, jointly visited **Keshabpur Police Station** to discuss the progress of the investigation with the Investigating Officer. The delegation, led by **Harunur Rashid Bulbul**, President of the Keshabpur Upazila CSO, and **Ujjal Kumar**, Field Facilitator of the HOPE Project, subsequently visited the survivor's family. During the visit, they met with family members to understand their immediate needs and expectations, expressed solidarity with the survivor, and assured them of continued support in accessing appropriate medical and legal services. The team also committed to closely monitoring the case and advocating for a fair investigation and timely justice.

Survivor's Expectations

- To ensure a fair, impartial, and transparent investigation of the case.
- To receive appropriate legal assistance throughout the judicial process.
- To ensure the speedy trial of the case and the maximum punishment for the perpetrator in accordance with the law.
- To ensure the survivor's safety, dignity, and protection throughout the legal proceedings.
- To ensure access to necessary medical treatment and psychosocial support.

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