

Youth gets bail for 'rape' of childhood sweetheart

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Calcutta High Court on Tuesday granted bail to a 22-year-old rape accused from Rampurhat in Birbhum. A 16-year-old girl had alleged that Nayan Mondal had entered into a physical relationship with her after promising marriage.

Mondal's advocates Phiroze Edulji and Anirban Khastagir, however, submitted before the court that medical reports had failed to prove rape and that sexual intercourse with a woman, after promising marriage, did not amount to rape. On January 15, 2005,

Mondal was arrested based on a complaint by the girl. The girl alleged that she and Mondal had been in love since childhood and both their families were aware of the relationship.

She alleged that on January 10, Mondal tried to have sex with her. He apparently applied sindoor on her forehead and told her that from that moment, they were man and wife. After the girl's family heard of this, they went to Mondal's house with a marriage proposal. According to the complainant, Mondal's family demanded a huge dowry, much beyond her father's means. She also alleged that

Mondal's family then turned her father out of their house.

Earlier, Mondal's bail plea had been rejected by the sub-divisional judicial magistrate of Rampurhat.

Mondal's advocates Phiroze Edulji and Anirban Khastagir submitted before the court on Tuesday that their client was innocent and was being framed after a love affair turned sour.

"The petitioner has already spent 73 days behind bars and further detention would amount to a pre-trial conviction," Edulji told the court.

After hearing the matter, Justices D.P. Sengupta and Arun Bhattacharjee granted bail to Mondal.

