

Police probing two

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Contacted, Sourav told The Daily Star he ran a rent-a-car service and Zakir was working as a driver for the last three months.

"I came to Dhaka to drop off a person at the airport. Mizan tagged along as his relative booked the car. Zakir and Mizan were supposed to pick up some relatives from Sirajul Islam hospital around 11:00am yesterday and return to Chatkhil. Since there were too many passengers, I got off at the hospital gate and took a bus to Noakhali from Sayedabad," he said.

"I called Zakir in the evening since he was supposed to be back in Noakhali by then, but got no response," he added.

Md Mizan, the hospital's security-in-charge, told reporters he was conducting his routine inspection when he noticed the men inside.

"I knocked on the window but got no response. When I pulled the door open, I found them unconscious. I immediately informed the hospital authorities, who called the police," he said.



A mother and her two children wait patiently for hours to buy essential goods at subsidised prices from an OMS truck. These trucks are often the only option for low-income groups. The photo was taken in the Ring Road area of Mohammadpur, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Towards a stigma-free, sustainable mental healthcare

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Founded in 2018 as a social enterprise under SAJIDA Foundation, it blends international clinical standards with a deep commitment to accessible, compassionate care. In doing so, it is not only challenging stigma but also setting new benchmarks.

"You can't separate the mind from the body," Kabir said, leaning forward slightly, as if to emphasise the urgency of a national blind spot.

"The aim was to create a credible, self-sustaining model -- one that could be scaled down over time without compromising clinical quality."

"We had to prove this was not just talk therapy. This is medical science," said Kabir during an exclusive interview with The Daily Star.

From its inception, PHWC brought together psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, and psychological counsellors under one roof. The team was led by psychiatrist Dr Ashique Selim, the centre's first managing director, and psychologist Nissim Jan Sajid.

Under their leadership, PHWC was not merely reactive but rather proactive -- offering diagnosis, ongoing treatment, and a wide range of services, including therapy for individuals, couples, and families.

To date, it has delivered over 40,000 therapy sessions to over 7,000 individuals, and partnered with more than 110 organisations. Its outreach has included 450+ workshops on emotional intelligence, stress management, and psychological safety.

Kabir sees this not merely as service delivery, but as a way to change the system.

"We're trying to shift how people think about mental health -- from taboo to tool."

Earlier this year, SAJIDA launched another venture: The HUB -- Neuroscience & Psychiatry Hub, Bangladesh's first private long term psychiatric admission facility.

Designed to treat severe conditions such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and psychosis, it fills a longstanding gap in care.

There was no place in Dhaka where you could admit a loved one without fear of stigma or substandard care," Kabir said. "So we built one."

It's this approach -- identifying the gap and creating the solution -- that has made SAJIDA's work in mental health an outlier in a country with little policy or regulatory clarity on the sector, she said.

"We had to navigate a vacuum," Kabir explained. "There were no licensing frameworks, no unified oversight. We engaged with ministries, councils, and local authorities -- no one had a blueprint."

"With support from global experts and institutions, PHWC developed on its own. Clinical supervision, data privacy protocols, and ethical governance -- all were implemented internally, long before others caught up," she also said.

"We weren't waiting for permission to do the right thing."

Perhaps PHWC's most radical feature is not its services but its structure: a for-profit social enterprise designed to make purpose

sustainable, Kabir continued.

"Donor funding dries up. We've seen it too many times," she said. "Mental health needs long-term commitment. And that means financial sustainability."

That sustainability enables PHWC to continually reinvest -- in people, in infrastructure, and in quality, Kabir explained.

And while its fees make it more accessible to Dhaka's middle and upper classes, the long-term plan is broader -- creating regional centres, expanding digitally through SAJIDA's "Shojon" telehealth platform, and partnering with universities to build a stronger, better-trained mental health workforce, she said.

"If we want to serve more people, we need more trained people. And we have to pay them well enough to retain them," she added.

Kabir stressed that this is not just a social issue -- it's also economic.

"When people are unwell, they miss work. They underperform. That impacts companies, families, and GDP," she continued.

She connected mental wellness to Bangladesh's broader development goals. "We talk about demographic dividend, skills development, and innovation. However, without psychological resilience, all that falls apart."

Looking ahead, SAJIDA is exploring expansion into divisional cities and underserved urban areas. Kabir is adamant, however, that scale will never come at the expense of quality.

Perhaps PHWC's most radical feature is not its services but its structure: a for-profit social enterprise designed to make purpose

"We took seven years to get this model right. Every centre, every therapist, every session must reflect that standard."

Back in her office, sunlight split through the glass as Kabir paused. "This isn't just a care facility," she said. "It's a culture shift."

In a society where

mental health has long been relegated to the shadows, PHWC is offering more than treatment, she said. "It's offering an opportunity -- to speak, to seek help, to believe that wellness includes the mind."

"We're not done," Kabir smiled. "But we've started something that matters."

Indigenous rights

FROM PAGE 3

She said more than 4 million people from over 54 indigenous groups have been living in the region since ancient times, preserving their distinct customs, traditions, and ancestral beliefs.

The keynote paper mentioned that the absence of a reform commission on indigenous affairs, as well as the exclusion of indigenous peoples from dialogues in other reform commissions, reflects an undemocratic and authoritarian approach.

"Although the Women's Affairs Commission sought opinions from both mainstream and marginalised women, including indigenous women, the initiative and its recommendations faced fierce opposition from fundamentalist groups. As a result, no signs of positive change for indigenous women are visible even under the current government," the paper added.

It also noted that in artificial intelligence (AI), indigenous communities are often neglected or misrepresented in ways that are false and misleading. "The datasets from which AI

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MADHABPUR IN HABIGANJ

Key road turns impassable

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

"At least a 10-kilometre stretch from Jagdishpur to Shahjibazar in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj has become virtually impassable due to prolonged neglect and lack of maintenance, causing immense suffering for thousands of residents."

The road, a key link connecting several industrial zones to the Dhaka Sylhet highway, is riddled with potholes and water at several points, posing hazards for all types of vehicles.

Locals said the road, despite being vital for transportation of goods and daily commuting, has not been repaired in years.

"Every day we risk accidents. The road is full of potholes and water. It's been like this for two

years," said Rashid Mia, a driver who uses the route daily.

Sadlon Karmakar, a former UP member of Jagdishpur Bazar, said, "This road is essential -- it's the only link to the district town for many people."

"This road was last paved about 10 years ago. No renovation has been done since then. The road is crucial for tourists, but now it's completely broken," said Simon Mormu, a member of Telapara Tea Garden Union Parishad.

Contacted, Madhabpur LGED Engineer Rezaul Nabi said, "We have submitted a project proposal for financial allocation to repair several roads, including the Jagdishpur Road. If approved in the current fiscal year, the road will be repaired."



With so many factories now lining both sides, it should be widened and renovated for workers and other commuters; but nothing has been done, he added.

WFP **World Food Programme**
বিশ্ব খাদ্য কর্মসূচী

**SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES**

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION FROM RICE MILLER COMPANIES FOR PROVIDING SUPPORT IN RICE MILLING, BLENDING, AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR ALL AREAS OF BANGLADESH

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) invites applications from interested and eligible rice milling companies for registration as vendors to provide rice milling, blending, and transportation services for the supply of fortified rice all over Bangladesh.

Pre-Qualification for Entry:

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Valid ownership documentation, including trade license, demonstrating eligibility to provide fortified rice blending services.
2. Possession of both a Miller License and Food Grain License issued by the Directorate General of Food.
3. A minimum of 2 years of operational experience in the relevant field.
4. Demonstrated experience working with the Government of Bangladesh, UN agencies, international organizations, NGOs, or local enterprises.
5. Companies with multiple operational units must submit valid supporting documents and separate address details for each unit.
6. Multiple applications from the same address, telephone, or fax number will not be accepted.
7. Submission of experience certificates from previous clients, particularly the Government or WFP, is mandatory.
8. Valid email address and functional email communication capabilities are essential.
9. Presence of qualified personnel with experience in fortified rice blending and quality control is required.
10. Limited companies must submit audited financial statements for the past two years.
11. Ownership or access to a dedicated warehouse or food storage facility with a minimum capacity of 300-400 MT.
12. Strict adherence to child labour laws - no employment of child labour.
13. Membership in the "Association of Rice Mills in Fortified Rice Blending" will be considered an advantage.
14. At least 6 months of experience in fortified rice distribution systems.
15. New millers meeting all the above criteria and possessing all required documents are also eligible to apply.

Required Documents

Interested companies must submit the following documents:

1. Company profile.
2. Completed and signed WFP questionnaire for fortified rice blending and transportation (available at the following link: <https://cutt.ly/BrDtvOIX>).
3. Proof of relevant past experience (e.g., contracts, purchase orders, recommendation letters).
4. Copy of a valid Trade License.
5. Rice blending validation certificate (if available).
6. Tax Identification Number (TIN) certificate.
7. Bank solvency certificate (with account number) or bank statements for the past two years.
8. Copy of recent work approval for fortified rice blending and transportation from current or recent clients.
9. VAT registration and Income Tax certificate (if applicable).
10. If operating from leased or rented premises, a copy of the lease or rental agreement must be submitted.

Submission Instructions

Interested vendors must submit the completed and signed WFP questionnaire along with all supporting documents in a sealed envelope clearly marked:

"Expression of Interest for Enlistment as Rice Milling, Blending, and Transportation Services"

or via email to: ban.logistics@wfp.org

Deadline for submission: 31 August 2025 (by 4:30 PM)

Submission Address:

Head of Supply Chain

World Food Programme (WFP)

UN Office - House 01, Level 08, Road 86/88, Gulshan-2, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh

For any queries, please contact the WFP Logistics Unit via email at: ban.logistics@wfp.org

Please note: This is not a Request for Quotation or Invitation to Tender. No prices are required at this stage. Submission of an EOI does not constitute a guarantee of any contractual engagement with WFP.



SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER (IFIT)

19	Tender Security Amount	Lump Sum BDT 1 (One) million or equivalent USD in the form of Pay Order/revocable Bank Guarantee from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of IsDB-BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2). The Tender Security furnished by a Foreign Bank must be counter guaranteed by a Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.
20	Experience Criteria of Tenderer	<p>a) General Experience: Local Tenderer/Foreign Tenderer must be a Bonafide Contractor/Supplier having minimum 5(five) years of experience in supply and installation of building Facade Work.</p> <p>b) Specific Experience: Local Tenderer/Foreign Tenderer or their JV Partner(s) must have successfully completed at least 1(one) work of Supply, Fitting, Fixing and Installation of Facade Work (Aluminium Frame and Glazing) of 10-Storyed and above Commercial Building in all respect in last 5(five) years.</p>
21	Financial Criteria of Tenderer	<p>a) Minimum Average Annual Turnover: Local Tenderer/Foreign Tenderer must have minimum Average Annual Turnover for Building Construction Work of BDT 20 (Twenty) million or equivalent USD in last 5(five) years.</p> <p>b) Liquid Asset/ Working Capital/ Credit Limit: Local Tenderer/Foreign Tenderer must have a Liquid Asset/ Working Capital/ Credit Limit for an amount of BDT 20 (Twenty) million or Equivalent USD for this particular project.</p>
22	Name, Designation, Address & Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Neaz Khan Chief Executive Officer IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Telephone No. +880 2223 374 601 & +880 9638 917 000 E-mail: tender@isdb-bisew.org Website: www.isdb-bisew.org
23	Any further changes /up-date/ modifications regarding this Tender	Should be available in the official Website of IsDB-BISEW (www.isdb-bisew.org) in the form of Corrigendum and Addendum. Link for Tender information: www.isdb-bisew.org/tender
24	Special Instructions and Conditions:	<p>a) If the Government declares holiday on the opening day of Tender, Tender shall be received and Technical Offer shall be opened at the same time on the next working day.</p> <p>b) Applicants without having the requisite experience and qualification need not apply for issuance of Tender Document.</p> <p>c) This Invitation for Tender can be seen in the Website of IsDB-BISEW.</p> <p>d) The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders or any Tender or annul the Tender proceedings without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever.</p>

Neaz Khan
Chief Executive Officer
Islamic Development Bank-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational Waqf (IsDB-BISEW)
IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka
Phone No.: +880 2223 374 601 & +880 9638 917 000
Website: www.isdb-bisew.org, E-mail: tender@isdb-bisew.org

Legal Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1316 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:
Ahammed Faisal Monzor
-VERSUS-
BARISAL FISHING LIMITED and another

..... Respondents

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that Ahammed Faisal Monzor filed an application under section 81(2), 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 ("the application") seeking an order to hold Annual General Meeting for the calendar year 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 of respondent No. 01 Company, Barisal Fishing Limited for submitting the audited balance sheet and profit and loss account for the year ended on 30th June 2020, 30th June 2021, 30th June 2022, 30th June 202