

Fisherwomen left in the shadows

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which led to serious social consequences, including increased domestic conflicts, separations, emotional abuse, and early school dropouts, which in turn contribute to early marriages.

Additionally, 57 percent of fisherwomen remain excluded from social safety net programmes, while key policies such as the Jalmahal Policy and Fisherfolk Guideline largely overlook their gender-specific vulnerabilities.

Although 63 percent have completed registration, most have yet to receive their ID cards, blocking access to vital aid.

Off season rice aid disproportionately favours male cardholders, and many women are forced to pay fees of Tk 3,000 to Tk 3,500 to obtain VGD cards.

Furthermore, 53 percent report never having received any government or administrative support, exposing significant unfulfilled promises and misaligned interventions.

Samara recommended strengthening the economic resilience of fisherwomen by forming cooperatives with access to revolving funds, providing market-relevant skills training, and ensuring universal issuance of fisherfolk ID cards.

She urged improvements in social protection through a simplified and transparent ID registration process, the creation of gender-specific safety nets, and expanded access to affordable credit to reduce dependence on exploitative lenders.

She advocated for local health camps, support for rainwater harvesting, and the removal of barriers to healthcare access, while emphasising the need to embed women's representation and

priorities into fisheries, climate, and governance policies to achieve a gender-responsive transformation.

At the seminar, widow Farida Begum from Chila union in Bagerhat's Mongla, who has been fishing for 40 years, showing her hands, said, "Look at our hands -- whatever work men do, we do the same. We catch fish, steer boats, and our hands are marked with stains and scars. If male fishers get support, why shouldn't we?"

"We operate boats, get soaked in saltwater, and face tigers in the forest and alligators in the waterbodies to feed our children. Yet, the government provides us with neither food nor water tanks."

"If our names aren't on government records, I urge the government to remove women fishers like me from this earth altogether," said Farida.

Human rights activist Zakia Shishir stressed that discrimination stems from ingrained mindsets rather than policies alone.

"When we say 'fisherman' or 'jel', how many of us picture a woman? The real bias lies within our mindsets, not just in policies," she said.

She criticised policy-making detached from lived realities, calling for local contexts to be factored in and for women's voices to be formally recognised so they can claim their rights effectively.

Zakia criticised how policies are often made by officials detached from the realities of fisherfolk, rarely involving the actual beneficiaries.

She stressed the importance of considering local geographical differences for effective policy implementation.

Calling for formal

recognition of women's work, she pointed out that women face compounded oppression from both social norms and patriarchy.

Badabon Sangho's Executive Director Lipi Rahman echoed the need for formal recognition, stating that many remain unaware of women fisherfolk's contributions, leading to neglect of their rights.

Department of Fisheries Deputy Director Firoz Ahmed acknowledged that after the district-level ID card project ended, the department has struggled to maintain ID card issuance.

While a recent project provided some cards through a vendor, many registered fishers remain without them, he said.

Shahajadi Begum, project coordinator at Oxfam, suggested expanding the scope of definition and registration coverage to explicitly include more fisherwomen.

She also emphasised the need to provide women-friendly alternative livelihood options using local resources, especially for those involved in catching fish fry, as many of these women lack skills for other types of work.

Speaking as chief guest, Dr Md Abdur Rouf, director general of DoF, assured that the definition of fishers will be revised to explicitly include women, as the 2016-17 registration guidelines currently omit specific mention of female fishers.

Illegal fishers are also being removed from the registration list, while genuine fishers are newly included.

Women fishers make up of 12 percent of the registered fisherfolk across the country, he said, adding that in the past six months, 37,910 fishers have been newly registered, and 23,644 registrations have been cancelled.

Lawyers scuffle

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MK Rahman argued that Haque, who retired a decade ago, had been detained on July 24 in a murder case filed a year earlier.

He condemned the treatment Haque received, including being brought to court with his hands tied behind his back, and criticised the judiciary's silence on the matter.

Mohsen Rashid, another lawyer for Khairul, urged DAG Rasel not to dictate the court and highlighted the humiliation faced by Haque. "Insulting judges has become a trend in South Asia," he said.

A government-backed lawyer held Haque responsible for the judiciary's decline and the killing of around 1,500 people.

This statement was opposed by lawyers supporting Haque, leading to shouting, chaos and scuffle despite repeated requests from the judges to calm down.

Justice Haque was arrested on July 24 from a house in Dhaka's Dhanmondi by the detectives in connection with the murder of 16-year-old Jubo Dal activist Abdul Kaiyum Ahad, killed in Jatrabari on July 18 last year.

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HC upholds life term for two former cops

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Both Zahidur and Qamaruzzaman will have to pay Tk 2 lakh each in compensation to Jonny's family and Tk 1 lakh each as a fine to the state.

Meanwhile, former assistant SIRashedul Islam's life sentence was reduced to 10 years in prison. He was ordered to pay Tk 25,000 in compensation to Jonny's family and Tk 50,000 as a fine to the state, said defence lawyer Md Abdur Razzak Razu.

Police informer Russell, sentenced earlier to seven years in jail, was acquitted. Another informer, Sumon, who had also received a seven-year sentence, has already served his term.

Delivering the verdict on the appeals of three convicted accused, the court said documents and evidence, including inquest and post-mortem

reports, proved that Jonny, an innocent young man, was illegally detained and brutally tortured to death by police in custody.

As a state institution, the police cannot avoid responsibility for the illegal detention, inhuman torture, and death, the court observed.

The court also said the fact that there were 86 police personnel present at Pallabi Police Station during the incident, none of whom reported it to the verdict but urged the state to take responsibility for Jonny's two children and provide them with compensation.

According to the case statement, police informers Sumon and Russell called law enforcers after Jonny slapped Sumon for stalking and harassing women at a wedding programme in Pallabi's Idrani Camp area.

Then, a team of 25-26 police officers, including

that he was satisfied with the upholding of Zahidur's life sentence but expressed concern for his safety following the commutation of another sentence and the acquittal of Russell.

"I was already living in fear and panic. Now that one accused has been acquitted, I don't know what will happen," he said.

Jonny's mother Khurshida Begum said she was satisfied with the verdict but urged the state to take responsibility for Jonny's two children and provide them with compensation.

On September 9, 2020, a Dhaka court sentenced Zahidur, Qamaruzzaman, and Rashedul to life imprisonment and informers Sumon and Russell to seven years in jail.

Qamaruzzaman remains on the run, while Russell, who had been absconding during the trial court verdict, later surrendered.

**Request for Expressions of Interest (National)
Selection of Individual Consultant – 01 Position**

Date: 11 August, 2025

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1	Ministry/Division	Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Division
2	Agency	Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme
3	Client Name	Project Director, Aspire to Innovate Programme
4	Client Code	Not used at present
5	Client District	Dhaka
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	1. Consultant (Data & SDG) – 1 position
7	EOI Ref No	56.83.0000.006.11.001.25.
8	Date	11 August, 2025

KEY INFORMATION FUNDING INFORMATION

9	Source of Funds	Development Budget and Government of Bangladesh.
10	Development Partners (if applicable)	UNDP

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11	Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	223038900
12	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme

13	EOI Closing Date and Time	27 August, 2025	11.45 AM (BST)
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INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

14	Brief Description of Assignment	Selection of the 1. Consultant (Data & SDG) – 1 position <i>For detail Terms of Reference (TOR) please visit: https://a2i.portal.gov.bd/site/view/jobs/</i>
15	Qualification and Experience	Academic Qualification & Years of Experience: • As per Terms of Reference (TOR)

16	Other Details (if applicable)	Aspire to Innovate Programme invites the interested eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services in accordance with the Terms of References (ToR) provided in RFA. This shall require confirmation through submission of application forms and other documents described in the Request for Application (RFA).
		Expression of interest shall be submitted by 11:45 am (BST), 27 August, 2025 via email recruitment@a2i.gov.bd or hardcopy.

	Interested applicants are required to submit their Expression of Interest in accordance with the application form (email or Hard Copy) which may be obtained (RFA) from the Aspire to Innovate Programme website: https://a2i.portal.gov.bd/site/view/jobs/ or ICT Division website: https://ictd.gov.bd or Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA) website: www.cptu.gov.bd Applicants may also obtain RFA document through email. Please send your request to: recruitment@a2i.gov.bd .
	For those who are to submit hard copy, a box will be kept in 13th floor of ICT Tower, a2i Office, Agargaon Dhaka to submit application & necessary documents.

	Consultants will be selected following PPA-2006 and PPR-2008. It is expected that the services will commence in September 2025 .
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	For query, please contact: Mohammad Arifur Rahman, HR Officer Address: Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme, 13th floor, ICT Tower, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh Telephone No.: 9144848 Ext. 132, Mobile no. +88 01841030208
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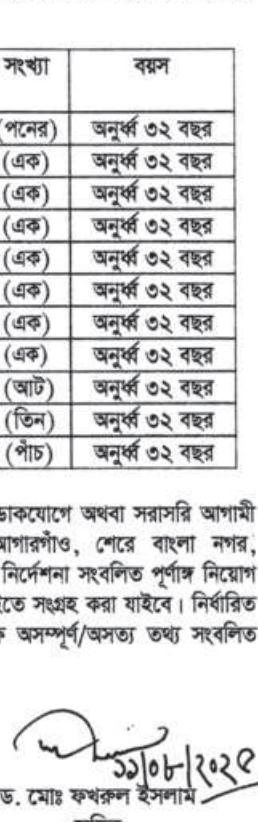
21	The Client reserves the right to reject all EOI's
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Md. Rashidul Mannaf Kabir

(Joint Secretary)

Project Director (Additional Responsibility),
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