

## ACC sues 11, including five cops, over Tk 3.94cr graft

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has filed a case against 11 individuals, including five police officers, over allegations of embezzling over Tk 3.94 crore by creating fake ration cards at the police ration store in Jhalakathi Police Lines.

ACC Assistant Director Md Zakir Hossain filed the case yesterday under The Penal Code and The Prevention of Corruption Act.

The accused are ASI Md Alauddin; police inspectors Arif Mahmud, Md Al Mamun, Md Rezaul Karim and Kazi Raziul Zaman; constables Md Atikur Rahman, Md Saiful Islam and Mehedi Hasan; office assistant Md Toufiq Elahi; ration store weigher Md Zahir Uddin; and sales assistant Syed Jasim Uddin.

According to the case statement, the accused allegedly created 252 fake ration cards through fraud and forgery between 2013 and December 2021.

Using these fraudulent cards, they withdrew ration supplies and embezzled a total of Tk 3,94,40,885 from government funds.



Sunflower cultivation has increased in the Barind region of Rajshahi compared to previous years. Farmers say good yields of sunflower oil fetch favourable prices and encourage further production. The photo was taken in the Rajabari area of Godagari yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## GOUTHIA MOSQUE IN BARISHAL

# A gleaming beacon of architecture and faith

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, back from Barishal

Along the Barishal-Banaripara road, a gleaming white structure rises into view, immediately drawing the attention of travellers passing by.

The striking landmark is Baitul Aman Jame Mosque, popularly known as the "Gouthia Mosque", which captivates visitors from all walks of life.

enhances its artistic appeal. A separate mosque adjacent to the main building offers a dedicated prayer space for women.

The single-storey complex provides 13 rows inside, accommodating around 1,200 worshippers, with three additional rows on the verandah.

Beyond the prayer hall, the vast campus includes an Eidgah ground capable of hosting more than 20,000 people in a

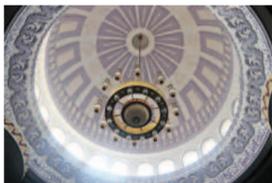
two from Jeddah, and one from Ajmer Sharif. It also contains a handwritten amulet attributed to Abdul Qadir Jilani (R), two coins from his shrine and water from the Zamzam well.

While the mosque is impressive in daylight, it becomes even more enchanting after sunset. Soft light illuminates the entire complex, and two fountains at the front create a serene nighttime spectacle.

Barishal, said he brings his family whenever he can.

Saifuzzaman Apu, visiting with friends, noted that the mosque has given the entire area a distinctive identity.

Md Lutfor Rahman, caretaker of the mosque, said more than 1,000 people attend the Friday prayers, while visitors from all districts arrive throughout the week. Another caretaker, Mozammel Hawlader, added that



The mosque, spanning 14 acres in Changuria village of Gouthia union under Barishal's Wazirpur upazila, represents a modern take on classical Islamic architecture.

Its most imposing feature is a 193-foot minaret that dominates the skyline. The structure also includes 20 domes, including a grand central dome that channels natural light into the prayer hall.

Intricate Arabic calligraphy, etched with painstaking detail on both interior and exterior walls,

congregation, an orphanage, parking facilities, a lake, and a large pond. At the entrance, a wide ghat by the water serves as a peaceful gathering space where visitors can sit to rest while gazing at the mosque's grandeur and the surrounding landscape.

To the left of the entrance stands a unique pillar preserving the legacy of the former mosque.

The pillar was built using soil from 20 sacred sites – eight from Makkah, nine from Madinah,

Nearly two decades after its construction, Gouthia Mosque has grown into a major attraction, drawing visitors from across the country. Fridays, Saturdays and public holidays see the largest crowds.

For Jashim Uddin, a first-time visitor from Jhalakathi, the mosque's sight was "deeply moving" and its architecture "extraordinary".

Santu Hawlader, who arrived with his wife and child from

people of other faiths also come to admire the architecture.

Security personnel and staff remain on duty round the clock to ensure a safe and welcoming environment.

Constructed entirely at the personal expense of local resident and philanthropist Sarder Sharfuddin Ahmed Shantu, the mosque today stands as both a spiritual sanctuary and one of Bangladesh's most admired cultural and architectural landmarks.

## Three incidents of rape reported in 3 districts

STAR REPORT

Three rape incidents have been reported across three districts over the last few days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Bagerhat, police arrested one Ferdous Hawlader, 30, in Kachua upazila yesterday for his alleged involvement in the gang rape of a pregnant woman.

The 19-year-old victim filed a written complaint with the Kachua Police Station naming Ferdous and two others.

According to the complaint, the incident took place around 9:30pm on March 10.

Medical officials confirmed that the victim was brought to the local hospital with signs of trauma. Dr Moni Sankar Paik, resident medical officer at the hospital, told reporters, "After finding evidence of physical assault, we provided her with primary care."

She was later moved to a Bagerhat hospital under police escort for advanced medical examinations.

Kachua Police Station Officer in Charge Md Shafiqul Islam said, "We are trying to arrest the remaining suspects."

In Netrokona, a case was filed in Barhatta upazila yesterday under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act against a 17-year-old boy for allegedly raping a seven-year-old child.

The victim's father filed the case with Barhatta

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## KARNAPHULI AT CHANDRAGHONA

# Local residents renew demand for bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Residents along the Rangamati-Rajasthali-Bandarban route have long demanded a bridge over the Karnaphuli River near Chandraghona, as they currently depend on the Kaptai Chandraghona ferry ghat for crossing.

Thousands of people and vehicles use the route daily. Although two ferries are supposed to operate at the ghat, locals say only one is often available, forcing passengers to wait long periods.

The situation becomes particularly difficult for emergency patients trying to reach hospitals.

Due to these problems, locals have repeatedly demanded a concrete bridge to ensure smooth communication. Over the years, political leaders have promised to build one, but little progress has been made.

During the 13th National Parliament Election, BNP candidate Dipen Dewan pledged to construct the Chandraghona

Bridge. After winning the election, he was appointed minister of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry, raising hopes among residents.

Md Akter Hossain of Kaptai's Lichubagan area said a five-minute crossing sometimes takes 20 to 25 minutes, and at times even an hour due to ferry delays.

Arun Joy Tanchangya of Rajasthali said many emergency patients struggle to reach hospitals on time.

CNG driver Md Yusuf said ferry travel becomes risky during the monsoon when strong currents raise water levels at the dock.

Officials said the Roads and Highways Department began examining the feasibility of building a bridge in 2022 and proposed a 550-metre structure across the river.

Sabuj Chakma, executive engineer of Rangamati RHD, said a Project Selection Committee meeting on March 9 decided to move forward with the project and send it to the Planning Commission after necessary revisions.



Central Admission Office, University of Dhaka  
(Room # 214, Administrative Building)  
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh  
Fax: 880-2-55167810  
Email: office@eis.du.ac.bd  
Phone: 02-55167724

কেন্দ্রীয় ভর্তি অফিস, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
(কক্ষ # ২১৪, প্রশাসনিক ভবন)  
ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ  
ফ্যাক্স (৮৮০)-২-৫৫১৬৭৮১০  
ই-মেইল: office@eis.du.ac.bd  
ফোন: ০২-৫৫১৬৭৭২৪

### e-GP Tender Notice

DU/CAO/OTM/eGP/2025/002 তারিখ: ১২/০৩/২০২৬

e-GP Tender is invited in the National e-GP System ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the procurement of goods mentioned below under University of Dhaka.

Sl No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of work	e-Tender last selling date & time	e-Tender closing date & time
1	1178448	DU/CAO/OTM/eGP/2025/002	Supply of three (03) multi-functional color laser printers and cartridges for Central Admission Office, University of Dhaka	06-Apr-2026 11:29	06-Apr-2026 15:29

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online branches of any registered bank branches. Further information and guidance are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

*Sharif*  
12/03/26

Professor Dr. Md. Shariful Islam  
Convenor  
Online Admission Committee  
University of Dhaka

GD-583

## Couple killed in motorcycle-pickup collision

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A man and his wife were killed when the motorcycle they were riding collided with a pickup van on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Manikganj's Shiboloy upazila yesterday.

Deceased Monayem Khan, 40, and his wife Josna Akter were residents of Chalabon area of Dhaka's Dakkhinkhan.

According to police, a pickup van heading towards Dhaka from Paturia collided head-on with a motorcycle heading towards Paturia leaving the bike rider and his wife seriously injured.

Upon receiving information, police rushed to the spot and rescued them. Monayem died on the way to the hospital, while Josna was admitted to Manikganj 250-bed General Hospital, where she died while undergoing treatment.

Police recovered the two damaged vehicles. Although the incident disrupted traffic on the highway for some time, the situation was normalised later.

Harun Or Rashid, officer-in-charge of Borongail Highway Police Station, said necessary legal action is underway over the accident.

ICT DIVISION BANGLADESH COMPUTER COUNCIL IDEA

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিভাগ  
বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার কাউন্সিল

'উদ্ভাবন ও উদ্যোক্তা উন্নয়ন একাডেমী প্রতিষ্ঠাকরণ' (আইডিয়া) প্রকল্প  
আইসিটি টাওয়ার, (লেভেল ১৪), প্লটঃ ই-১৪/এক্স, আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭  
ওয়েবসাইটঃ [www.idea.gov.bd](http://www.idea.gov.bd)

নম্বরঃ ৫৬.০১.০০০০.০২৪.০৬.৩০৬.২৪-১০২৪ তারিখঃ ১২ মার্চ, ২০২৬

### বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ আইডিয়া প্রকল্পের আওতায় আইসিটি নির্ভর এসএমই উদ্যোক্তাগণের উন্নয়ন ও সম্প্রসারণে ৫০ হাজার টাকা অনুদান প্রাপ্তির জন্য আবেদন আহ্বান।

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিভাগের আওতাধীন বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার কাউন্সিলের অধীনে পরিচালিত 'উদ্ভাবন ও উদ্যোক্তা উন্নয়ন একাডেমী প্রতিষ্ঠাকরণ (আইডিয়া) প্রকল্প' থেকে আইসিটি নির্ভর এসএমই উদ্যোক্তাগণের উন্নয়ন ও সম্প্রসারণে ৫০ হাজার টাকা অনুদান প্রদান করা হচ্ছে। আগ্রহী উদ্যোক্তাদের অনলাইনে আবেদন জমা দেওয়ার জন্য আহ্বান জানানো হলো।

(১) আবেদনের পদ্ধতিঃ  
আগ্রহী এসএমই উদ্যোক্তাগণ অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে পারবেন। বিস্তারিত তথ্য প্রাপ্তি এবং অনুদানের জন্য আবেদন করতে আইডিয়া প্রকল্পের অফিসিয়াল ওয়েবসাইটে (<https://apply.idea.gov.bd/sme>) ভিজিট করতে হবে;

(২) আবেদনকৃত উদ্যোক্তাদের পণ্য/সেবা এবং ব্যবসা পরিকল্পনা পর্যালোচনা করে তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিভাগ কর্তৃক এ লক্ষ্যে গঠিত সিলেকশন কমিটির মাধ্যমে অনুদান প্রাপ্যতা চূড়ান্ত করা হবে;

(৩) ইতোপূর্বে আইডিয়া প্রকল্পের আওতায় এসএমই অনুদানপ্রাপ্ত উদ্যোক্তাগণ পুনরায় অনুদানপ্রাপ্তির জন্য যোগ্য মর্মে বিবেচিত হবেন না;

(৪) কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল, পরিবর্তন/পরিমার্জন, পরিবর্তন এবং আবেদন বাতিলের ক্ষমতা রাখে।

*Harun Or Rashid*  
১২/০৩/২০২৬

মুর্তুজা জলকার নাসীন নোমান  
প্রকল্প পরিচালক (যোগাযোগ)  
আইডিয়া প্রকল্প

ক্রিডি-৫৭৪