

Tulip Siddiq’s scandal and the politics of gratitude



H.M. Nazmul Alam is lecturer at the Department of English and Modern Languages of the International University of Business, Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT). He can be reached at nazmulalam.rijohn@gmail.com.

H.M. NAZMUL ALAM

If Netflix were to produce a political thriller titled *The Minister and Her Many Mansions*, it would likely trend globally within hours. Tulip Siddiq, UK’s anti-corruption minister (yes, let’s all savour that job title for a moment), has become the centre of a political scandal so rich in plot twists, property deeds, and geopolitical side characters that even *House of Cards* feels like an Ikea instruction manual in comparison.

Let’s start with the flats. Pricey properties dotting London’s posh neighbourhoods have been gifted or linked to Siddiq through a delightful labyrinth of “family gratitude,” “political alliances,” and good old-fashioned South Asian familial loyalty. Imagine Monopoly, but instead of “Go to Jail,” the cards read: “Go to Parliamentary Ethics Committee. Do not pass. Go, do not collect public trust.”

The King’s Cross flat, worth a breezy 700,000 pounds, was reportedly a gift from Abdul Motalif, a property developer with ties to Bangladesh’s former ruling party, the Awami League. The justification? Gratitude for the financial support given by Siddiq’s parents during his “challenging time.” Because, as we all know, the standard repayment for a good loan in South Asian families isn’t a box of *mishti*, but prime London real estate.

And then there’s the nuclear subplot. In 2013, Siddiq was photographed alongside Sheikh Hasina, her aunt and former Bangladesh prime minister, and Russian President Vladimir Putin at the signing ceremony of a \$12.65 billion nuclear power plant deal between Bangladesh and Russia. Critics suggest funds from this deal may have trickled into plush

London properties, and honestly, if this were a Marvel movie, that would be Siddiq’s villain origin story.

But don’t worry; her party leader, Sir Keir Starmer, insists he still has full confidence in her. Confidence, as defined in politics, is typically a temporary feeling that lasts right until the next front-page scandal. Meanwhile, Conservative MPs are

accused by Meta of running fake social media campaigns to suppress dissenting voices. Meta, the digital Godzilla, swooped in, shut down accounts, and delivered their report with the dramatic flair of a *Black Mirror* episode.

The media circus around Tulip Siddiq has reached its peak. Daily headlines dissect her financial

But let’s face it: if this is market rate, then London’s property market is a dystopian sci-fi economy.

But wait, there’s more! Siddiq’s mother, Sheikh Rehana, resides in a 1.4-million-pound home in Golders Green, reportedly owned by the son of a close ally and adviser to the former prime minister. The tangled financial web extends further when

remains in her post, steadfastly denying any wrongdoing. Her supporters insist the allegations are politically motivated, crafted by her aunt’s enemies back in Bangladesh. In true South Asian fashion, family and politics remain an inseparable, melodramatic soap opera.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of Bangladesh is now investigating an alleged embezzlement of 3.9 billion pounds linked to the nuclear power plant project. The ACC’s findings will undoubtedly either vindicate Siddiq or turn her into the anti-corruption minister who couldn’t pass her own audit. But here’s the kicker: the UK parliament’s standards watchdog has already reprimanded Siddiq once for failing to declare rental income on one of her properties. The oversight was dismissed as an “inadvertent error,” a phrase that politicians seem to have trademarked.

Her defenders argue that much of the scandal rests on guilt by association. But guilt by association becomes harder to dismiss when said associations involve property tycoons, political dynasties, and, oh yes, Vladimir Putin.

So what now? Will Tulip Siddiq weather the storm, or will this scandal become Labour’s Achilles’ heel in the next election cycle? The Conservatives are certainly banking on the latter, with key MPs already sharpening their rhetorical knives for future debates.

For now, we wait as Siddiq continues her starring role in the gripping saga of politics, property, and “gratitude.” The lesson here? When it comes to political scandals, always follow the money—and, apparently, the Land Registry records.



VISUAL: MONOROM POLOK

The King’s Cross flat, worth a breezy 700,000 pounds, was reportedly a gift to Tulip from Abdul Motalif, a property developer with ties to Bangladesh’s former ruling party, the Awami League. The justification? Gratitude for the financial support given by Siddiq’s parents during his ‘challenging time.’

circling like sharks around Siddiq, demanding inquiries, audits, and perhaps an entire season of *Corruption: The Westminster Edition*.

The subplot also features Tulip’s siblings, Azmina and Radwan, linked to a political think tank

disclosures, her living arrangements, and her curious pattern of inherited, gifted, or strategically rented homes. The latest in this drama says Siddiq now rents a 2.1-million-pound Finchley mansion owned by an Awami League affiliate. Naturally, she insists the rent is “market rate.”

we consider that Siddiq also co-owns another flat worth 865,000 pounds with her husband.

What makes this entire affair ironic is Siddiq’s role as the UK’s anti-corruption minister. It’s like casting Walter White as the head of the DEA. And yet, despite the uproar, Siddiq

Why does the proclamation of July uprising matter?



Monira Sharmin is joint convener and executive member at Jatiya Nagorik Committee.

MONIRA SHARMIN

Growing discontent among citizens over structural problems like pervasive corruption, economic inequality, poor governance, and environmental oversight led to the July uprising. The struggles of marginalised communities were made worse by long-standing complaints about the political and administrative systems’ lack of accountability and transparency. The tipping point was when a number of crises—such as rising economic inflation, declining quality of public services, and the administration’s inaction in mitigating persistent natural disasters—sparked public indignation. The uprising was further fuelled by youth-led movements demanding structural reforms and greater inclusivity in decision-making



FILE PHOTO: NAZIMUR RAHMAN

The July uprising became a manifestation of collective anger against decades of systemic neglect and a demand for transformative change.

such a declaration transcends a mere announcement, serving instead as a foundational ideological pillar that validates the revolution’s legitimacy. It weaves a unifying narrative, articulates collective grievances, envisions a future rooted in equity, and ignites the momentum required for transformative, collective action. By anchoring the uprising in principles of justice, solidarity, and resilience, the proclamation establishes moral and political legitimacy, compelling both adherents and adversaries to reckon with its transformative agenda. Moreover, as a historical document, it immortalises the spirit of the uprising, preserving its significance for posterity.

Throughout history, proclamation has been an essential tool in shaping revolutions and transformative movements. They outline the desires of the masses, capture the spirit of revolutionary intent, and offer a unified plan of action. A proclamation’s capacity to express a distinct vision is the first of several reasons why it is vital. Clarity of purpose matters during times of upheaval when the status quo is questioned. A proclamation unites disparate voices behind a common cause, serving as a manifesto. Take the American colonies’ Declaration of Independence (1776). In addition to reaffirming the colonies’ independence from British domination, this historic

document persuasively presented the philosophical foundations of their demands, which were based on the principles of equality, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The declaration gave the American Revolution broad support and moral legitimacy by outlining complaints and a vision for just governance.

Furthermore, proclamations

demand for self-determination. Though the uprising was suppressed, the proclamation became a symbol of resistance, fuelling the eventual realisation of an independent Ireland.

These are just a few examples of how these documents have influenced their respective revolutions and sparked innumerable fights for equality and justice around the world. Their capacity to turn ideas into deeds and inscribe the spirit of revolution into history is what gives them their enduring impact.

The proclamation of the July uprising, led by a courageous student movement that toppled a fascist regime at the cost of at least 1,500 lives, will be a profound declaration of justice, resilience, and rebirth. It will commemorate the martyrs who paid the ultimate price to liberate the nation from tyranny, while condemning the oppressive regime and its heinous actions under the

The proclamation of the July uprising, led by a courageous student movement that toppled a fascist regime at the cost of at least 1,500 lives, will be a profound declaration of justice, resilience, and rebirth. It will commemorate the martyrs who paid the ultimate price to liberate the nation from tyranny.

processes. Digital platforms played a crucial role in mobilising protests, spreading awareness, and uniting voices across the country.

The July uprising became a manifestation of collective anger against decades of systemic neglect and a demand for transformative change, aiming to establish a more just, accountable, and sustainable governance framework in Bangladesh. This underscores why a proclamation for the July uprising is an imperative clarion call for our time.

In a time marked by systemic disparities and escalating discontent,

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Upazila Engineer

Keshabpur, Jashore.

www.lged.gov.bd

Reference No: 46.02.4138.000.14.001.2024.15

Date: 08.01.2025.

e-Tender Notice No-02/2024-25 (LTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works mention below under LGED, District : Jashore.

| Sl. No | Tender ID No. | Package No. & Name of works | Tender Last Selling Date & Time | Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time |
|--------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1058267 | e-Tender/ADP/Kes/Tri/2024-25/W-01 | 26/01/2025, 17.00 | 27/01/2025, 15.00 |
| 2 | 1058268 | e-Tender/ADP/Kes/Sag/2024-25/W-02 | 26/01/2025, 17.00 | 27/01/2025, 15.00 |
| 3 | 1058269 | e-Tender/ADP/Kes/Moj/2024-25/W-03 | 26/01/2025, 17.00 | 27/01/2025, 15.00 |
| 4 | 1058270 | e-Tender/ADP/Kes/Bid/2024-25/W-04 | 26/01/2025, 17.00 | 27/01/2025, 15.00 |
| 5 | 1058271 | e-Tender/ADP/Kes/Mon/2024-25/W-05 | 26/01/2025, 17.00 | 27/01/2025, 15.00 |
| 6 | 1058272 | e-Tender/ADP/Kes/Kes/2024-25/W-06 | 26/01/2025, 17.00 | 27/01/2025, 15.00 |
| 7 | 1058273 | e-Tender/ADP/Kes/Paj/2024-25/W-07 | 26/01/2025, 17.00 | 27/01/2025, 15.00 |
| 8 | 1058274 | e-Tender/ADP/Kes/Suf/2024-25/W-08 | 26/01/2025, 17.00 | 27/01/2025, 15.00 |
| 9 | 1058275 | e-Tender/ADP/Kes/Gou/2024-25/W-09 | 26/01/2025, 17.00 | 27/01/2025, 15.00 |
| 10 | 1058276 | e-Tender/ADP/Kes/Sat/2024-25/W-10 | 26/01/2025, 17.00 | 27/01/2025, 15.00 |
| 11 | 1058277 | e-Tender/ADP/Kes/Has/2024-25/W-11 | 26/01/2025, 17.00 | 27/01/2025, 15.00 |
| 12 | 1060544 | e-Tender/Raj/Kes/UPZ/2024-25/M-12 | 26/01/2025, 17.00 | 27/01/2025, 15.00 |
| 13 | 1060545 | e-Tender/Raj/Kes/UPZ/2024-25/M-13 | 26/01/2025, 17.00 | 27/01/2025, 15.00 |

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 through any registered Bank's branches up to **17.00, Date: 26-January-2025**.

Further information, Scheme details and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

[N.B-Details Notice Board]

GD-85

(Md. Nazimul Haque)

Upazila Engineer

LGED, Keshabpur, Jashore.

E-mail: ue.keshabpur@lged.gov.bd