

ACC sues Obaidul

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member Ali Ullah Ahmed.

According to the case statement, the accused abused their authority and bypassed several critical stages of the project. Recommendations from foreign experts were ignored, while the environmental impact assessment, feasibility study and an independent tunnel board were skipped.

As a result, the project's cost rose abnormally, causing an estimated Tk 585.29 crore loss to the state exchequer, the ACC said.

The commission has also formed a three-member investigation team led by ACC Deputy Director Mohammad Sirajul Haque, with Assistant Director Abdul Malek and Assistant Deputy Director Anisur Rahman as members.

SAIFUL ALAM, 8

OTHERS SUED OVER

MONEY LAUNDERING

Mohammad Saiful Alam, chairman of S Alam Group, and eight others have been sued over allegations of embezzlement and money laundering involving Tk 548 crore.

Akhter Hossain, director general of the Anti-Corruption Commission, yesterday confirmed that the anti-graft body filed the case after primary investigation.

The other accused include Miftah Uddin, former EVP of Islami Bank Bangladesh; Mohammad Monirul Mawla, former managing director of the bank; Akij Uddin, former

deputy managing director; Md Moshiur Rahman, managing director of Shob Meher Spinning Mills Ltd; Mohammad Shawkat Usman, director of Shob Meher Spinning Mills Ltd; Md Alomash Ali, proprietor of Top Ten Trading House; Bedarul Islam, proprietor of Gold Star Trading House; and Nurul Alam, proprietor of Alam Trading and Business House.

According to the ACC, the accused allegedly conspired to abuse their authority and breach trust to commit large-scale financial fraud.

The accused allegedly embezzled a total of Tk 548 crore and transferred or converted it into S Alam Group affiliated companies, committing punishable offences under Sections 409, 109, and 420 of the Penal Code 1860, Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1947, and Sections 4(2) and 4(3) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2012.

The documents obtained by the ACC show that on October 1, 2024, Tk 521.52 crore was withdrawn from Top Ten Trading House's account via debit vouchers and deposited into the accounts of several S Alam Group affiliated companies, including S Alam Super Edible Oil Ltd and Sonali Traders. The ACC alleged that these transactions constitute a clear case of money laundering.

Dhaka city getting

signals will have a dual-mode system. Manual mode: traffic police can control signals via lights instead of hand gestures. Automatic Mode: where the lights will operate on pre-set timers, adjusted for peak and off-peak hours.

A control box will be placed inside nearby police boxes. Where police boxes are absent, alternative arrangements will be made, he said.

Officials stressed that traffic signals alone will

not solve congestion unless certain preconditions are met. These include strict control of jaywalking through fencing, zebra crossings, footbridges, closing of unauthorised medians except at designated pedestrian crossings, and removal of illegal and unregistered vehicles from primary roads.

Disciplined bus operations -- stopping in queues at designated bays, not side by side -- is also necessary for reducing traffic congestions, they said.

Freeze 120 bank

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Moshirul Rahman, who is leading the investigation team, submitted an application in this regard.

In the application, the ACC official said that Saifuzzaman and others might attempt to transfer the money from the accounts at any time and from anywhere. If they do so, it could hinder the investigation into the allegations brought against

them. Therefore, an order was required to prevent such transfers.

On July 9, the same court directed the ACC to freeze 26 Beneficiary Owner's (BO) accounts owned by Saifuzzaman, his family members, and their beneficiaries over similar corruption allegations.

The former land minister and others deposited Tk 576,08,77,730 in these accounts.

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

A large crowd gathers behind a TCB truck in Mohammadpur's Ring Road area yesterday, hoping to buy essential items at subsidised prices. For many, this is the only way to provide basic necessities for their families.

PHULPUR UPAZILA IN MYMENSINGH

Erosion leaves school on the brink of collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A primary school in Mymensingh's Phulpur upazila has been at risk of river erosion for years.

Talukdara Government Primary School, established in 1982 in a remote area, has faced serious threat from erosion over the last couple of years. This year, however, the situation has reached its peak and the school could be washed away at any moment, feared locals.

The school serves several villages. Tofazzol Hossain, a member of Singerswar union, said erosion began some 15 years ago but no proper steps have yet been taken. Almost all of the school's 35 decimals of land has already been devoured.

Headteacher Arjuman Ara Begum said due to erosion by the Kongsho and Bhogai rivers in recent

years, the school has become a victim. This year, it is on the verge of collapse if the ongoing erosion continues with the monsoon rains, she said.

She said Water Development Board officials have visited the site on several occasions, but to no avail. The road leading to the school has already

broken down, forcing teachers and students to use an alternate route.

Once the school had around 400 students from Talukdara and Dhanbarhita villages, but due to

erosion the number has dropped to about 100 over the years, she said. Only a few students attend classes now.

Saima Akter, a fourth grader, said they feel unsafe continuing classes as the school has no protection.

Fifth grader Mohammad Al Amin echoed her.

Phulpur Upazila Education Officer Shanewaz Begum said high officials of the department have been informed about the matter.

UNO Sadia Islam Shima said they had informed WDB officials through a letter two months ago. Quoting WDB officials, she said protection work for the school will begin soon.

SM Abid Hossain, sub-divisional engineer of WDB in Mymensingh, said an assessment will be made to start protection as soon as possible.

It's a national crisis

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safe learning environments, formulating a national child protection strategy, raising awareness of child helplines, and encouraging responsible media reporting.

The rising number of child rape and sexual abuse cases is a national crisis and must be addressed through a multi-sectoral response. Behind every number is a child whose life has been irreparably harmed and a family struggling with trauma, stigma, and the pursuit of justice. Many incidents remain unreported or unresolved, reflecting systemic failures in protecting children," the statement said.

"The future of Bangladesh depends on the safety and well-being of its children. The trauma of an unsafe environment hinders development and leaves lasting impacts. Protecting them from violence is not optional; it is our moral, legal, and national duty," it added.

The organisations called for urgent measures to ensure all reported cases are promptly investigated and perpetrators brought to justice without delay.

They stressed the need for strict monitoring systems to track the progress of the

cases, expansion of child protection social workers, and stronger services to provide support to survivors, such as the Child Helpline 1098 and Child Protection Units (CPU).

They also demanded full implementation of recent legal amendments, including completing investigations within 15 days and trials within 90 days.

They also emphasised the need for stronger oversight of child welfare boards at national, district, and upazila levels to ensure all relevant child protection authorities are functioning effectively.

For a child-sensitive justice system, they urged the establishment of child-friendly courts and legal procedures, as well as legal aid and comprehensive psychosocial support for survivors and families.

The groups also called for nationwide awareness campaigns to challenge social stigma, promote children's rights, and encourage prompt reporting of abuse.

Community-based child protection committees should be strengthened to detect risks early, respond effectively, and intervene before abuse escalates, they said.

They further demanded zero tolerance for harassment in educational institutions, including schools and madrasas, as well as confidential reporting systems and strict disciplinary measures against abusive staff.

A national child protection strategy should integrate law enforcement, education, healthcare, and social services to safeguard children's safety and dignity, the organisations emphasised.

They urged raising awareness of helplines such as 999 and 1098 for immediate reporting of abuse and called on the media to report responsibly to avoid victim stigmatisation while highlighting trials and convictions to ensure justice and accountability.

ASK data shows that from January to July this year, 306 girls were reportedly raped, up from 175 cases during the same period in 2024. Among them, 49 victims were between 0 and 6 years old, while the rest were between 7 and 17. Cases were not filed in 152 instances, leaving many victims outside the justice system. The statement warned that the actual number of cases is likely

much higher, as many cases remain unreported.

Citing Bangladesh Mahila Parishad data, it noted that 60 percent of all rape cases involve children under 18.

Boys are also victims, with ASK recording 30 cases during this period, though the true figure is believed to be much higher, the statement also said.

The statement was signed by Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF; Suman Sengupta, country director of Save the Children in Bangladesh; and Kabita Bose, country director of Plan International Bangladesh.

Transport, safety to shape

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turnout of non-residents may be low. I myself am in two minds about voting."

Several candidates have demanded more buses on election day to boost turnout. But DU authorities have not made a decision in this regard.

Naushin Arshi, a statistics student, said, "None of our friends are contesting, which makes me even less interested. Female students living far from campus are less likely to vote."

Rumia Rumman of fine arts, added, "We struggle with food, rest areas, pharmacies and hygienic washrooms. There is also no control over transport pricing or traffic around campus. I'll vouch for candidates who commit to solve these problems."

Some students, however, are more optimistic. Candidates are trying

to reach us, and we are reviewing their manifestos," he claimed, while accusing DU authorities of apathy.

"Shutting down the TSC metro station on polling day is a deliberate act to discourage non-residential students."

Thanbir Al Hadi Mayed, assistant general secretary candidate from the Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal-backed panel, said they are reaching non-residents through JCD activists in Dhaka city.

He said JCD urged the Election Commission to increase polling booths and buses on election day.

Chief Returning Officer Prof Mohammad Zashim Uddin yesterday said voting would take about eight minutes per student.

"Everyone will be able to vote. There is no reason to worry about irregularities. We expect a high turnout this time," he said.

3 witnesses testify

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Deputy Director of Anti-Corruption Commission Md. Salahuddin and Assistant Directors Afan Jannat Keya and SM Rashadul Hasan -- testified before the court.

The anti graft body -- between January 12 and 14 -- lodged six cases with its Dhaka Integrated District Office-1 over alleged irregularities in the allocation of plots under the Purbachal New Town

project.

The ACC alleged that Hasina, in collusion with senior Rajuk officials, unlawfully secured six plots -- each measuring 10 kathas, in the diplomatic zone of Sector 27 of the Purbachal New Town project for herself, her daughter Saima Wazed Putul and son Sajeeb Wazed Joy; Rehana and her son Radwan and daughter Azmina despite their ineligibility under existing regulations.

Service barriers

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Sharing his experience, Mahmudul Hasan, a winner from last year's Climate Justice Idea Competition, said under existing government regulations, an individual under 18 cannot obtain a trade licence or open a bank account.

"These are big problems for the country's young aspiring entrepreneurs to sustain," he said, adding that while ideas come easily, existing systems make it complicated to turn them into action.

Jahra Nanziba, a winner of this year's Youth-led Action Research on Green and Digital Transformation, said their winning idea was to produce an "algae lime paint", which is eco-friendly and non-toxic. She said when they reached out to people, they refused to accept it, as theirs was not a well-known brand. Finding a suitable platform for product promotion remains a challenge, she added.

Rafiqul Alam Khan, manager at BYLC Ventures, urged young entrepreneurs to be patient for success.

SM Fahim Shahriar, CEO and co-founder of SustainLaunch Labs, also addressed the event.

The roundtable was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous, in-charge of NGOs and foreign missions at The Daily Star.

Over 1,500

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The reinstatement and monitoring are ongoing, and a list of offenders is being prepared, said the DC.

The reports were submitted to the HC through Deputy Attorneys General Nur Mohammad Azami and Md Ershadul Bari Khandakar.

The HC bench of Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque and Justice Aynun Nahar Siddiqua ordered the ministry and the DC to submit further progress reports by October 22.

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 29

Fazr Juma	Asr	Maghrif	Esha
AZAN 4-30	12-30	4-45	6-33
JAMAAT 5-05	1-15	5-00	6-36

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Ferry Division

Shiromony, Khulna

Email: efdkh@rhd.gov.bd

Memo:- 237

Date:-28/08/2025.

Notice for e-GP Tender

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<a href="http://