

LAUNDERING TK 100CR  
CID sues 33,  
including 3  
former MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday filed a case accusing 33 recruiting agents, including three former MPs, of laundering over Tk 100 crore involving labour recruitment to Malaysia between 2016 and 2024.

The accused included former MPs Masud Uddin Chowdhury, Nizam Uddin Hazari, and Benjir Ahmed.

The case was filed with Banani Police Station by Md Moniruzzaman, sub-inspector (financial crimes) of the CID. Additional cases against other members of the syndicate are underway, said CID sources.

According to the case statement, CID investigation found that the accused are part of a syndicate. Former MP Masud Uddin Chowdhury of Feni, managing director of recruiting agency Five M International Ltd, in collusion with others, allegedly laundered about Tk 100.75 crore between August 18, 2016, and May 30, 2024.

For processing the documents of 9,372 Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia, the agencies collected Tk 150,000 per worker in addition to government-fixed recruitment fees of Tk 78,990.

Workers also paid Tk 10,000 for passports, Tk 17,000 for Covid-19 tests, Tk 6,500 for medical fees, and Tk 3,000 as uniform fees.

The case notes that receipt, transfer, and handover of such money, under the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2012, are punishable offences.

The investigation will be conducted by the Additional Inspector General of CID.

On August 20, the CID seized assets worth about Tk 500 crore belonging to Ruhul Amin Swapan, alleged chief of a syndicate sending manpower to Malaysia.

150-year-old printing  
press left to decay

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The remains of a printing press, believed to be around 150 years old, have been left abandoned for decades near Mrittunjoy School in Mymensingh.

City residents, researchers, and activists are demanding that this historic printing press be preserved before it is completely destroyed.

In early August, members of the Antiquities Preservation Committee – a local group comprising researchers and social and cultural activists – found the decaying press left under the open sky, with most of its parts missing.

Abdul Kader Chowdhury, a member of the committee, claimed the press is about 150 years old.

Citing The Monthly Sourav, a newspaper edited by Kedarnath Majumder in Mymensingh's history, archaeology researcher Swapon Dhar said Harchandra Roy Chowdhury, a zamindar of Sherpur, brought the printing press to Mymensingh in 1875. Later, Girish Chandra Roy Chowdhury, Sreekantha Sen, Sreenath Roy, Horikishore Ray, and Upendra Kishore Ray from Sherpur and Kishoreganj were also involved with the press, mainly for literary works, he said.

In 1947, Anath Bandhu Guha, founder of Mrittunjoy School, also used the press, Dhar added.

"After a few years of use, responsibility for the press was handed over to Maulana Shamsul Huda Panchbaghi, an Islamic scholar, social reformer, and political leader from Mymensingh's Gafargaon upazila. The press continued

operating even after Bangladesh's independence, mainly printing political leaflets and posters," Dhar said.

However, in an essay titled Mymensingher Patrapatrika, published in 1987 to mark two centuries of Mymensingh town, Prof Abdul Kader Khan noted that Mymensingh has a rich history of printing presses, many of which were established primarily for literary works.

Prof Khan wrote that this press was brought to Mymensingh from Sherpur in 1893.



Referring to historical evidence, Rezaul Karim Aslam, a collector of ancient musical instruments in Mymensingh, said the design of the printing press shows it was manufactured by HS Cropper and Co, a company established by Henry Smith Cropper in the United Kingdom.

The company produced such presses between 1866 and 1892. The press's nameplate bears the inscription PATENT 2403, corresponding to a patent registered in 1867.

The Cropper press, operated by a

foot pedal, was widely popular for small-scale printing jobs such as letterheads, invitations, programmes, business cards, and other forms of job printing, Aslam added.

Imtiaz Ahmed Tansen, member secretary of the committee, said they submitted an application to the Department of Archaeology on August 25 to protect the press, as it holds archaeological value.

Shankar Basak, 55, who lives near the printing press, said he has seen it abandoned since his boyhood.

Nowab Ali, 85, a journalist and former student of Mrittunjoy School, said he saw the press in operation as a third-grader at the school.

Both, along with other residents, demanded that the printing press be preserved for the sake of Mymensingh's history and culture.

Contacted, Sabina Yeasmin, field officer of the Department of Archaeology (Dhaka and Mymensingh Division), said she has already forwarded the application to the regional director for further action.

Over 1,500 sued  
for looting stones  
from Sada Pathor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday submitted two compliance reports to the High Court stating that 1,500 to 2,000 unidentified individuals have been sued over the large-scale looting of stones from Sada Pathor, a major tourist site in Bholaganj of Sylhet's Companiganj upazila.

The case was filed on August 15 with Companiganj Police Station under the Mineral Resources Act and relevant sections of the Penal Code, according to a report from the secretary of power, energy and mineral resources ministry.

In another report, the Sylhet deputy commissioner said 50 lakh cubic feet of stone and 11 lakh cubic feet of sand have already been reinstated at the Bholaganj stone quarry.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Freeze 120 bank  
accounts of ex-  
land minister  
Court passes order

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to freeze 120 bank accounts of former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, his family members, and their beneficiaries over corruption allegations brought against them.

The former land minister and others deposited Tk 44,24,70,965.87 in these accounts.

Judge (in-charge) Md Ibrahim Miah of the Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after ACC Deputy Director Md

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Aarti Pal makes malsha (traditional clay bowls), a staple household item made by artisans of Kumar Para. Each bowl is sold to traders across Khulna and beyond at a wholesale price of Tk 5–7. The photo was taken in the Palpara area of Sharafpur union yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

HABIGANJ-SHAYESTAGANJ

Illegal sand trade  
damaging road

MINTU DESHWARA

If you travel along the Habiganj-Shayestaganj road, particularly near the Sudiakhal area, you will see large piles of sand stacked on the roadside.

Locals allege that certain individuals have been illegally extracting and selling this sand without government permits.

They claim that the stockpiling of sand has caused severe damage to the Habiganj-Shayestaganj road, turning it into a deadly stretch prone to frequent accidents.

Residents are now demanding that the administration launch an immediate drive to remove these illegal depots.

During a visit, this correspondent found sand heaped along the Sudiakhal section of the regional road. The sand is dredged from the other side of the road and later transported across Habiganj on tractors.

Locals blame these overloaded tractors for damaging the road.

According to sources, the business is run by a man named Nazim Ahmed.

One resident, requesting anonymity, said Nazim operates alongside an influential syndicate. Out of fear, locals avoid speaking against them publicly, though anger over the issue is widespread.

Faruk Ahmed, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, said, "Sand is often loaded onto tractors. This has broken

several spots on the road, and a major accident could happen anytime."

Residents of Chunarughat added that the illegal extraction continues "right under the nose of the authorities," undermining both environmental and institutional integrity.

Pedestrian Minhaj Mia said,

permission, he denied causing damage to the road. "I am not involved in these things [damaging the road]. Some people are doing this to tarnish my reputation," he said.

Tofazzal Soheli, a member of the central executive committee of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA) and general secretary of Habiganj



"Accidents frequently happen here. On rainy days, when sand mixes with rainwater, the risk increases. We want this illegal sand business removed."

Local resident Alamgir Mia noted that an illegal depot has been built beside the road for easier transport, disrupting traffic.

He added that indiscriminate dredging is altering riverbeds and worsening erosion.

Although Nazim Ahmed admitted to running the sand trade without

BAPA, told The Daily Star, "Unplanned sand extraction is collapsing canal banks and cutting into farmland and tea gardens. Bamboo groves, trees, and homes near canals are also at risk. The sand sold on the roadside is causing many accidents. Without urgent government action, both accidents and environmental disasters will worsen."

Shayestaganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Pallab Hom Das said, "I am not aware of the matter. Necessary measures will be taken immediately after investigating the issue."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Pirojpur  
E-mail: pirdivisionrhd@gmail.com

Corrigendum/Amendment-01

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Road Transport & Bridges/Road Transport & Highways Division			
2	Agency	Roads & Highways Department			
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur			
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A			
5	Procuring Entity District	Pirojpur			
6	Corrigendum for	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for Bekutia Bridge at 41st Km of Barishal-Jhalokathi-Pirojpur-Bagerhat-Khulna Road (N-807) for 3(Three) years under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2025-2026			
7	Corrigendum Ref No	35.01.7980.462.99.171.20-2384			
8	Date	28/08/2025			
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement Method	NCT & OTM			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB			
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12	Project/Program Code (if applicable)	N/A			
13	Project Name (if applicable)	N/A			
14	Tender Package No.	01/Manual/PSN/PRD/2025-2026			
15	Tender Package Name	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for Bekutia Bridge at 41st Km of Barishal-Jhalokathi-Pirojpur-Bagerhat-Khulna Road (N-807) for 3(Three) years under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2025-2026			
16	Tender Publication Date	13/08/2025			
17	Pre-Tender Meeting Date	27/08/2025 at 12:00 p.m. Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur (Zoom Meeting ID- 634 685 4277; Passcode: 12345)			
18	Tender Last Selling Date	14/09/2025 up to 05:00 p.m.			
19	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date	Time		
20	Tender Opening Date and Time	15/09/2025		12.30 p.m.	
21	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address			
	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur			
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Barishal			
	Receiving Tender Document	(i) Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Barishal Circle, Barishal (ii) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur			
	Opening Tender Document	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division Pirojpur			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contract under the Applicable Law.</li><li>Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organisations registered in Bangladesh.</li><li>Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh</li><li>As per requirements specified in TDS &amp; TOR</li></ul>			
23	Brief Description of Services	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for Bekutia Bridge at 41st Km of Barishal-Jhalokathi-Pirojpur-Bagerhat-Khulna Road (N-807) for 3(Three) years under Pirojpur Road Division			
24	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	TK . 4000.00 (Four Thousand) Only			
25	Package No	Identification of Package	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Weeks / Months
	01/Manual/PSN/PRD/2025-2026	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for Bekutia Bridge at 41st Km of Barishal-Jhalokathi-Pirojpur-Bagerhat-Khulna Road (N-807) for 3(Three) years under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2025-2026	Pirojpur	25,00,000/- (Twenty-Five Lac)	36 (Thirty-Six) months
26	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings. This notice will be available on RHD website www.rhd.gov.bd and CPTU website www.cptu.gov.bd.				

Corrigendum/Amendment No. 01  
Corrigendum Text: This corrigendum has been made due to unavoidable circumstances

Field Name	Old Value	New Value
Specific Experience [ITT 11.1 (b)]	5.5 Crore (Five Point five Crore) Taka	4.5 Crore (Four Point Five Crore) Taka
Average Annual Turnover [ITT 12.1 (a)]	3.00 Crore (Three Crore) Taka	2.75 Crore (Two point seven five crore)
Liquid Asset/working Capital [ITT 12.1 (b)]	8.00 Crore (Eight Crore) Taka	6.00 Crore (Six Crore) Taka
Section 6. Activity Schedule Table A	As per Table attached in previous Tender Document	Table has been rearranged (Attached in updated Tender Document)
Section 6. Activity Schedule Table B	As per Table attached in previous Tender Document	Table has been rearranged (Attached in updated Tender Document)
Section 6. Activity Schedule Table C	As per Table attached in previous Tender Document	Table has been rearranged (Attached in updated Tender Document)
Section 6. Activity Schedule Table D	As per Table attached in previous Tender Document	Table has been rearranged (Attached in updated Tender Document)

\*\*All the tenderers who have already purchased the tender document before 28/08/2025 are requested to collect amended tender document from the respective tender selling offices free of cost and return the previously sold tender documents.

Tanvir Ahmed  
ID No. 602308  
Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD,  
Road Division, Pirojpur

GD-1899