

22 services identified to be availed thru' NID

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) has asked the government to make a law for mandatory usage of national identity cards (NID), which will be prepared during the preparation of voter list, to get access to services and facilities in 22 fields.

Asking the caretaker government to initiate necessary steps, the EC on Wednesday sent the draft law to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, sources in the EC Secretariat said.

The EC has decided to simultaneously prepare the voter list with photographs and NIDs in a bid to encourage eligible people to register their names in the voter list by visiting voter registration centres and the NIDs will be issued only to voters at

this moment.

Once the law is made, none will be allowed access to the specified facilities or services, of which most are related to people's daily lives, unless they produce the NID or the government relaxes the related provisions of it.

According to the draft, one will have to show his NID for a new passport and driving licence or their renewal, Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), admit cards to participate in public examinations including those at the secondary and higher secondary levels, applying for jobs, business identification number, opening a bank account, getting loan from bank and micro credit institutions, drawing government allow-

ances, sale and purchase of land and properties, trade licence, identification as voter in different elections and participating in insurance schemes.

The NID will also be needed for admission to educational institutions, marriage registration, purchasing vehicles, connection of gas, electricity, water, telephone, mobile phone, internet and cable for satellite television channels, government facilities like subsidy and assistance, filing any case, appeal or petition with the court, applying for share and opening of BO account and other services and facilities, which will be fixed by the government time to time.

"Under the provision or the law every citizen will have to submit or

CA seeks private help in relief opeation

UNB, Sirajganj

Welcoming private initiatives, Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said the government has no reservation about private-level relief operations for the flood victims.

"We want to carry out relief operations in a coordinated way that will yield good results," he told reporters after distributing relief among the flood victims at Chatiantali High School & College flood shelter in Sayedabad Union of Sadar upazila in the morning.

Replying to a question, the CA said the government has not yet made any formal appeal for foreign aid to cope with the exigency caused by rising flood in the country.

He said upazila and district administrations, the joint forces



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Flooding of a large stretch of Dhaka-Aricha highway now threatens road communication between the capital and quite a few districts of south and south-western parts of the country. The photo was taken yesterday.

Flood approaches Dhaka

Rivers around the city swell further

STAR REPORT

Floodwater is approaching the eastern fringe of the capital as water levels of all major rivers surrounding the city continue to rise.

Even though the Buriganga at Dhaka is still flowing 32cm below the danger level, the Balu at Demra, Turag at Mirpur, the Tongi canal at Tongi and the Lakhya at Narayanganj have risen by 30-39cm.

Due to the absence of a flood-control embankment at the eastern part of the city, three quarters of Bashabo, Nandipara and Trimohini went under water. Boats have become the only means of transport in those areas.

Flood Forecasting and Warning

Centre (FFWC) sources said more parts of the Dhaka city are likely to be inundated in the next few days.

Water scientist and former executive engineer of FFWC Mohammad Selim Bhuiyan told The Daily Star that the flow of water in the Brahmaputra is falling at all upstream points while the water levels of the Padma have started to decline at some points. The floodwater would now submerge the middle part of the country, which includes Dhaka, Demra, Narayanganj, Manikganj and Munshiganj.

During the next 48 hours, the water levels of the rivers surrounding Dhaka would rise sharply, he told.

Meanwhile, Disaster Management

Bureau sources said school and college buildings and other government buildings would be used as flood shelters.

International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) hospital had to set up tents yesterday for the ever-increasing number of diarrhoea and cholera patients overwhelming the hospital. Usually, the hospital has 150-200 patients but now it has at least 500 patients.

Doctor SK Roy, senior scientist of ICDDR,B said most patients were from the low-lying areas of Dhaka city and they were infected with diarrhoea and cholera by drinking impure water.

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Army chief asks all to help flood victims

UNB, Manikganj

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday urged all, irrespective of party and opinion, to come forward in aid of the flood victims.

"Bangladesh is now under water. Now the only task is to stand by the flood-affected people," he said while addressing a meeting at the deputy commissioner's office in this flood-hit district town.

The army chief observed that there is "no need of any banner for helping the affected people, no matter whether there is emergency or not. There is no relation between relief distribution and politics".

In view of a ban on politics under the state of emergency in the country, political parties have not yet come forward in aid of the flood-

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Deluge damages 75 embankments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventy-five flood control embankments across the country have been damaged by raging floodwaters so far, contributing to the worsening flood situation, Water Development Board (WDB) sources said.

The damaged embankments are in Faridpur, Sirajganj, Tangail, Mymensingh, Gopalganj, Noakhali, Cox's Bazar, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Bogra, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj districts.

The embankments in the western and eastern parts of the capital, however, remained safe while the city's Banasri, Basabo, Badda, Khilgaon, Goran and Mothertek areas are unprotected as there is no

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Manpower export spawns Tk 4,000cr hundi business

PORIMOL PALMA

Recruiting agencies are smuggling around Tk 4,000 crore every year to the manpower receiving countries, especially in the Middle East and Southeast Asia, in absence of an authorised business mechanism.

The amount is estimated considering the migration of around 4 lakh workers every year and spending over Tk 1 lakh in commission for each of them in the destination countries.

Other businesses are allowed to open letter of credits (LCs) for

importing products. But there is no such mechanism for manpower business though it requires foreign currency in buying job demands and exploring new markets.

The recruiting agencies send the money through hundi, which has been banned by the government, mainly to pay commissions to their foreign counterparts, outsourcing companies and sometimes even the employers, industry insiders said.

"Whether we accept it or not, the ground level reality is that every

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TAX EVASION CASE Bashundhara chief's properties attached

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday attached the movable and immovable properties of Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam and his family and sealed their Gulshan house following a court ruling issued four days ago in connection with a tax evasion case.

During the eight-hour raid in the three-storeyed building on Road No 88 in Gulshan-2, police made a list of the properties seized. They sealed the house at around 8:00pm and took it under their control.

Police sources said that they have

made a seizure list of over 175 goods inside the house, which is not possible to move.

"As we have not found a place yet to keep the large number of goods, the residence was sealed and kept under police supervision," Sub Inspector Rezaul Karim of Gulshan Police Station said.

Some employees and officials of the Bashundhara Group were brought to the house to help the law enforcers find and list their chairman's properties.

None of the Shah Alam family has been living in the house since

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Nation won't take responsibility of CG's failure

AL, BNP leaders say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation would not take any responsibility if the present caretaker government failed, said speakers at a discussion in the capital yesterday.

Brig Gen (ret'd) ASM Hannan Shah, adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, criticised Law Adviser Mainul Hossain for his Thursday's remarks in which he said the country might face a dire situation if the caretaker government fails.

Awami League (AL) Organising Secretary Mahmudur Rahman Manna said that if the law adviser made the comment knowingly a fearful situation might occur in the country.

They were speaking at the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap organised by

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