



NID SERVICES

Move to Home unconstitutional

Eminent citizens say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The moving of services related to National Identity cards from the Election Commission to the home ministry was contrary to the constitution, eminent citizens said yesterday.

Taking part in a discussion organised by civil body platform Shushasoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), they said such a move might create a scope for misuse of citizens' personal information. And it might also give the opportunity to police to harass people and get involved in corruption.

Former election commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) Sakhawat Hossain said if the NID-related services went to the home ministry, it would be "contrary to the constitution and curb the independency of the Election Commission".

He added that he did not know why the government is interested in moving NID services to the home ministry. But it could

arouse controversy.

"The decision of moving NID services to the home ministry without discussing with the commission was degrading for the commission," he added.

He also said if necessary, a statutory body could do the NID services after having infrastructures.

Eminent lawyer Shahdeen Malik said the moving process proves that the government does not care about democracy, good governance and the rule of law. The way the government made the orders seems that the government now considers the EC as its division or ministry.

"In the 2014 national election, over 150 MPs were elected unopposed and in the 2018 election, voting took place the night before the election day. It seems to me that moving of NID services is like another method for holding the next polls," he added.

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People discard bottles, containers, and polythene bags into the capital's Shyampur canal, polluting the water and clogging the canal. Water stagnates and the canal becomes a breeding ground for mosquitos. Its cleanup and development work has been halted for a long time. The photo was taken on Saturday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Ruling party MPs blast govt for graft

2 BNP lawmakers join in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A senior ruling party MP yesterday in parliament lambasted the government for rampant corruption and money laundering in the country.

Senior Awami League MP Md Ali Ashraf from Comilla-7 was also joined by senior AL MP Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir from Chandpur-1 and BNP MP Harunur Rashid from Chapainawabganj-3, who criticised the government for imposing taxes on the income of private universities and medical colleges in the budget, which was proposed before parliament on Thursday.

Harun and another BNP MP Rumeen Farhana, who was elected in reserved seats for women in parliament, came down heavily on the government for its poor handling and mismanagement in tackling Covid-19 in the country.

Rumeen said the government was bureaucrat-dependent and was behaving recklessly. She also demanded that the case against The Daily Prothom-Alo journalist Rozina Islam be withdrawn immediately in the interest of freedom

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DELTA VARIANT OF COVID It's '40pc more transmissible'

Says UK health minister

AGENCIES

The Delta variant of the coronavirus is estimated to be 40 percent more transmissible than the Alpha variant that caused the last wave of infections in the UK, Britain's health minister said yesterday.

But people who have received two doses of vaccine, should be equally protected against either variant, he added.

"That figure, around 40 percent more transmissible, is indeed the latest advice I have," Health Secretary Matt Hancock told Sky News.

The Delta variant, also known as the Indian variant, is now the dominant strain in the UK, according to Public Health England figures.

It was the Alpha variant, previously known as the Kent variant, that forced the UK into lockdown in January.

Hancock said the 40 percent figure

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

2 largest currency denominations withdrawn

JUNE 7, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

PAKISTAN WITHDRAW 500- AND 100-RUPEE BILLS

The Pakistani government removed from circulation today part of the nation's currency in an effort to check the economic effects of looting from banks in East Pakistan.

The two largest denominations of Pakistani money, 500- and 100-rupee notes, worth respectively \$106 and \$21 at the legal rate of exchange, were recalled.

Also taken out of circulation were any other bank notes overprinted with the slogans of the Bangladesh movement.

President Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan said recently that \$100 million in rupees had been taken from banks in East Pakistan by militant Bangalee "separatists" in March and April.

Tonight, the government said this money, if it remained within the Pakistani economy, would be likely to have an inflationary effect. It asked that 500- and 100-rupee notes be turned in to

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BANGABANDHU KILLERS Four convicts stripped of gallantry awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has revoked the state gallantry awards of four convicted killers of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The liberation war affairs ministry issued a gazette notification in this regard yesterday.

All the four convicts -- Nur Chowdhury, Shariful Haque Dalim, Rashed Chowdhury and Moslehuddin Khan -- have been absconding.

In 1973, the then government had conferred the awards on them for their "contribution" to the

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'Reef stars' promote growth of dying coral



REUTERS, Nusa Dua

Using a snorkel and protective gloves, Pariama Hutasoit dives down into the clear waters off the Indonesian island of Bali to pull away plastic from a "reef star" installed by her conservation group to encourage new coral growth.

The Nusa Dua Foundation has installed almost 6,000 of the stars, hexagonal-shaped steel structures

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 7

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:05 12:45 5:00 6:45 8:15
JAMAAT 4:40 1:15 5:15 6:50 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION