

## Tk 8,711cr for EVMs impractical

Says Mujibul Haque Chunnu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnu yesterday said the Election Commission's decision to buy EVMs at a cost of Tk 8,711 crore is not practical.

The EC on Monday finalised the Tk 8,711 crore project for purchasing two lakh electronic voting machines and their management. Chunnun also said the EC's decision to buy EVMs despite opposition from the political parties proves that it is not impartial.

He called for the withdrawal of the decision to buy EVMs.

The JP lawmaker said this at a meeting with the Pallibandhu Parishad at the JP chief's Banani office.

Chunnun said the current EC belongs to Awami League. "We know everyone in the EC. All of them

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BNP supporters at a rally in the capital's Khilgaon yesterday. The Dhaka south city unit of the party organised the rally to protest the increase in prices of daily necessities and the recent deaths of BNP men allegedly in police firing.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Polls under AL govt, nothing but a joke: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The talk about fair elections during the Awami League regime is nothing but a "joke", said BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday.

Addressing a rally at Khilgaon, the BNP leader said the people of the country should get united to oust the government as it is destroying all the achievements of the country.

The event was organised by Dhaka south city unit of the party, protesting the recent attacks on its different programmes in the capital and demanding the release of their arrested leaders and activists.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in an interview with BBC said free and fair elections are held only during the Awami League's regimes as she always fought for democracy and democratic rights in the country.

The BNP leader alleged that the ruling party leaders are siphoning off money from the country through corruption and that corruption takes place in the name of mega projects.

Fakhrul alleged that the ruling party men attacked BNP standing committee member Selima Rahman, vice chairman Barkat Ullah Bulu and executive committee member Tabitha Awal with an intention to kill them.

"You (government) cannot stop the movement this way. People of the country always raise their voices against misdeeds and they will do so," he said.

Reiterating the demand for the resignation of the government, the BNP leader said the government must resign from office and hand it over to a neutral government to hold a free, fair, and acceptable election.

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## Newsroom not for women!

They make up only 10pc of employees; 5.72pc of reporters, says MRDI report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Female employees make up only 10 percent of newsrooms, and only 5.72 percent of the reporters are women.

Besides, only 13.58 percent of "decision-makers" in newsrooms are women.

These findings were unveiled in a report, titled "Gender Equality and Media Regulation Study", presented yesterday by Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI).

Despite having a plethora of laws, policies and guidelines governing the media industry, hardly any address gender equality in the sector, said the report.

The same can be seen for the industry's regulatory bodies, an overwhelming majority of which do not have any written guidelines to ensure gender equality.

Only five media organisations were found to have written editorial guidelines regarding ensuring gender equality in content.

This is in a landscape where there are as many as 30 private television channels in operation (along with four more run by the state), 22 FM and 18 community radio stations, 1,323 daily newspapers and 177 online news portals.

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## State must look after them

Say speakers about rape survivors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The state must provide compensation to rape survivors by establishing a (state) fund, and take responsibility for their health, education, and employment so that they don't feel alienated from the state mechanism, said speakers at a views exchange meeting yesterday.

The event, titled "Establishing a State Compensation Fund for Rape Survivors: What to do", was organised by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) in the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

Taqbir Huda, coordinator of Justice for All Now (JANO), said, "We do not want conviction only, rather we want compensation for those who need to be compensated. It must be ensured through a different mechanism as the current one is inadequate."

Taqbir mentioned that Under the

RECOMMENDATIONS	
» Establish a state fund	» Ensure shelter homes, livelihood opportunities
» Take responsibility for survivors' health, education	» Sensitising judges on draft act

**The criminal justice system is not designed in a way to ensure reparation of the victims. Because, a victim will only receive the compensation if the case is proved, where the conviction rate of our rape cases is only one to three percent.**

TAQBIR HUDA  
Coordinator, Justice for All Now

Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000, judges can direct the amount of fine to be given to rape victims and their families as compensation.

"The criminal justice system is not designed in a way to ensure

reparation of the victims. A victim will only receive the compensation if the case is proved, where the conviction rate of our rape cases is only one to three percent," he said.

"Even if the victim manages

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## 'Introduce cyber security in curriculum'

Speakers tell seminar on children's safety in cyberspace

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Educationists, journalists and civil society members demanded the inclusion of cyber security in the textbooks to ensure that children are safe in cyberspace in a seminar yesterday.

Speakers also stressed the need for awareness among students at the seminar organised by Society for Media and Suitable Human-communication Techniques (SoMaSHTe), in collaboration with the US Embassy in Dhaka, in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

The risk of children falling victim to cybercrime has increased as students started using mobile phones and other devices during the pandemic without any prior notice to prepare them well.

As lousy content on online platforms and social media has increased, children are also becoming involved in various criminal activities, they said.

Attending the seminar as chief guest, Prof

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