

EC enrols 79.83 lakh new voters

Final list on March 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday announced a draft voter list with an enrolment of 79.83 lakh new voters, who will become eligible to cast their votes in the next parliamentary elections for the first time.

Among the new voters, 40.72 lakh are men and 39.10 lakh women, EC Secretary Jahangir Alam said while talking to reporters at his EC office.

Anyone will be able to raise objections over the voter list by February 7 at all upazila elections offices and the EC will hold a hearing on February 14 to settle the objections.

The draft list will be displayed at important places at the EC field offices.

The final voter list will be published on March 2, Jahangir said adding that the next general polls will be held using this list.

The EC is planning to hold the 12th parliamentary polls in late December this year or early January next year.

This was the last registration process for prospective voters before the next election. EC enumerators went door-to-door in May-June last year, to gather information.

This time, EC representatives also collected data on citizens born on or after January 1, 2005, January 1, 2006, and January 1, 2007, who would gradually be included in the electoral roll when they turn 18.

Jahangir also said that while updating the voter list, the names of 22.09 lakh deceased voters were dropped.

The total number of voters in the country now stands at 11,90,61,158 among them 5,86,77,209 were women, he added.

Till March 2, 2022, there were 11.32 crore voters in the country.

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A fisherman tries to catch fish in the dark water of the Turag. Rampant dumping of pollutants by factories and homes nearby has caused the water to turn black. The photo was taken from a rail bridge in Tongi recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

AL MP Golap owns nine properties in New York City

Finds OCCRP probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League lawmaker Abdus Sobhan Miah Golap concealed information about being an American citizen and owning nine properties in New York City in his election affidavit in 2018, found an investigation by a global media agency — raising questions about his seat in the parliament.

Golap, who was given the post of central committee's publicity and publication secretary in the AL's national council last month, bought the properties between 2014 and 2019, according to a report by the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), a global network of investigative journalists.



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PROPERTIES IN DUBAI

Investigate allegations against 459 Bangladeshis

HC asks 4 govt agencies to submit reports in 30 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to conduct separate enquiries into the allegations against 459 Bangladeshis of purchasing properties in Dubai without disclosing information about those.

The Anti-Corruption Commission, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFUI), Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Police and National Board of Revenue (NBR) have been directed to conduct the enquiries and to submit progress reports to the HC in 30 days.

In response to a writ petition, the court also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain why their inaction to take appropriate steps against those who are responsible for purchasing houses, flats, cars and other properties by money laundering in Dubai, capital city of United Arab Emirates, should not be declared illegal.

In the rule, the HC also asked the respondents to explain why they should not be directed to take action against the Bangladeshi nationals who purchased properties using money laundered to Dubai.

The respondents to the rule include the Cabinet, finance and law secretaries; chairmen of the ACC and NBR; heads of BFUI and CID; and the Bangladesh Bank governor.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Khizir Hayat Lizu passed the order following a writ petition.

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YEARLY REPORTS ON CRASHES

Secretary, transport leaders slam road safety campaigners

Also question authenticity of WHO report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transport authorities and leaders yesterday came down heavily on road safety organisations for publishing what they claimed to be "fabricated" reports on road crashes, creating confusion among the people and tarnishing the country's image abroad.

Speaking at a workshop, they claimed the numbers of both road accidents and deaths have come down significantly last year, compared to previous years, if the rise in the number of vehicles is taken into account.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority organised the workshop at its headquarters to exchange views on its digital services and to inform the attendees about the rules of the Road Transport Act-2018. However, accident-related issues dominated the discussion.

One of the leaders said the activities of road safety organisations are tantamount to treason, and demanded legal action against them if their reports are not based on facts.

"Those who are publishing the reports [of accidents], please give us proof. If you fail to provide it, then tell the people you have published reports based on assumptions," said ABM Amin Ullah Nuri, secretary of the Road Transport and Highways Division.

"We won't give anyone the authority to publish fabricated reports."

He also questioned the authenticity of the accident report by the World Health Organization, saying the UN body prepares

reports based on very limited samples.

However, representatives of two road safety organisations present there said their reports were based on media reports and prepared with due diligence.

Meanwhile, a representative of another organisation was not allowed to speak due to "time constraints".

Officials from the road transport and bridges ministry, BRTA, police, transport associations, road safety organisations and experts, and journalists took part in the workshop, in which Nuri was chief guest and BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder was the chair.

ACCIDENTS, DEATHS DECLINE: BRTA

Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity, Nirapad Sarak Chai and Road Safety Foundation, like previous years, published their annual accident reports early this month and said the number of road crashes and deaths have increased last year compared to 2021.

According to Jatri Kalyan Samity, 9,951 people were killed in 6,749 road crashes last year. The numbers of crashes and deaths are the highest since 2015 — 19.89 and 27.43 percent higher than those in 2021.

Meanwhile, the Road Safety Foundation said 7,713 people were killed in 6,829 crashes last year — 27.14 and 22.74 percent higher than in 2021.

Over the last five years, the country has so far witnessed three movements, including a

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2 bullet-hit in row over MFS transaction in Gulshan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were shot in the capital's Gulshan area yesterday afternoon following a dispute over an MFS (Mobile Financial Services) transaction, say police.

Injured Abdur Rahim, a rickshaw van driver, and Aminul Islam, a professional driver, were hit in their legs.

They were taken to the United Hospital, where Rahim was treated and sent home. Aminul, however, has been admitted to the hospital.

Meanwhile, police have detained three people, Wahidul Islam Mintu, suspected of opening fire, and his associates Arif Hossain and Monir Ahammed, said SM Jahangir Hasan, additional deputy police commissioner (Gulshan division).

Police also recovered a pistol, 16 bullets, three empty bullet shells, and four magazines, the official added.

Mintu is a contractor by profession and a member of the Awami Svecchhasebak League, police sources say.

Contacted, Abdul Ahad, deputy police commissioner (Gulshan division), said Arif Hossain went to Alfa General Store, near the Gulshan Shopping Plaza, around 4:00pm, and asked the shopkeeper to

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Egypt unveils ancient royal tomb in Luxor

AFP, Cairo

Egyptian authorities have announced the discovery of an ancient tomb in Luxor dating back around 3,500 years that archaeologists believe holds the remains of an 18th dynasty royal.

The tomb was unearthed by Egyptian and British researchers on the west bank of the River Nile, where the famous Valley of the Queens and Valley of the Kings lie, said Mostafa Waziri, head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, on Saturday.

"The first elements discovered so far inside the tomb seem to indicate that it dates back to the 18th dynasty" of pharaohs Akhenaton and Tutankhamun, Waziri said in a statement.

The 18th dynasty, part of the period of Egyptian history known as the New Kingdom, ended in 1,292 BC and is considered among the most prosperous years of Ancient Egypt.

Piers Litherland of the University of Cambridge, head of the British research mission, said the tomb could be of a royal wife or princess of Thutmosid lineage.

Egyptian archaeologist Mohsen Kamel said the tomb's interior was "in poor condition".

Parts of it including inscriptions were "destroyed in ancient floods which filled the burial chambers with sand and limestone sediment", Kamel added, according to the antiquities board's statement.

Egypt has unveiled several major archaeological discoveries in recent years, most notably in the Saqqara necropolis south of the capital Cairo.

Critics say the flurry of excavations has prioritised finds shown to grab media attention over hard academic research.



Motorcycles are parked on the pavement in front of the National Institute of Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT), Bangladesh, in the capital's Tejgaon area, hindering movement of patients and pedestrians. Supposedly pharmaceutical representatives always ignore the notice asking not to park there. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

OBITUARY



We are deeply grieved to announce that Mrs Sayyada Ruhi Ghuznavi, Chairperson of AF Mujibur Rahman Foundation — a charity dedicated to education — passed away on 14th January 2023. Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un. She was 87. Mrs Ghuznavi was the eldest surviving daughter of late AF Mujibur Rahman ICS of Gerda, Faridpur and Msmt Zohra Khatoon of Phulshuti, Faridpur. She left behind one son and one daughter, one brother and a host of nephews and nieces to mourn her death. She was buried on 15th January 2023 at the family graveyard at Delduar, Tangail. We mourn her death and pray for the salvation of the departed soul. May Allah rest her soul in peace.

AF Mujibur Rahman Foundation