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Voter list to stay under EC

Says its secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The responsibility of enrolling and updating the voter list will remain under the jurisdiction of the Election Commission, said its secretary Jahangir Alam yesterday.

"There are separate laws for electoral enrollment. These are [enrolling and updating voter list] completely two different things. Updating the voter list will remain as the election commission's responsibility," said the secretary while talking to reporters at his office in Agargaon.

He also said the operation of the national identity registration is not going to get transferred from the EC to the home ministry for now.

"The operation will remain under the Election Commission until their offices, manpower and other preparations are completed," he added.

Jahangir Alam said the new law on National Identity Registration will come into effect after the government fixes the date of its implementation by gazette notification.

Regarding the NID server remaining shut down, he said, "It [NID server] is a valuable resource. It is being updated regularly. Servers remain closed for a day or two at many places."

Speaking on the preparations for the parliamentary elections, Jahangir said they are proceeding as per the EC roadmap.

"The decision regarding the election schedule has not been finalised. The commission will decide that in a meeting.



Holding an umbrella, a woman walks the streets as rain cools off the city. The umbrella's rainbow shades beam brightly against the gloomy weather. The photo was taken yesterday near TSC, Dhaka University.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

DATA PROTECTION ACT

It may lead to govt control over personal info: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The draft Data Protection Act-2023, if enacted, would serve to consolidate government authority over personal data rather than safeguarding it, said Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday.

The absence of a precise definition of personal data may lead to mistakes, misinterpretations, and potential misuse, rendering the law susceptible to deliberate abuse and manipulation," TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said at a press conference held in its office.

He demanded that the draft be revised in light of the definition of personal data proposed in the TIB working paper.

"Secondly, the title of the act should be changed to 'Protection of Personal Data Act 2023'," he added.

Iftekharuzzaman called for incorporating measures guaranteeing independent and impartial functioning of authorities, free from government influence. Failure to do so would risk permanent misuse of personal information, he added.

"If the abuser of personal information and the authority to protect personal information are the same, then there will be a conflict of interest. Specific provisions should be included in the law to prevent these conflicts of interest," he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

TACKLING DENGUE
Govt okays buying of 2m bags of IV fluids

STAR REPORT

The government yesterday gave the nod to purchase 2 million bags of IV fluids, or injectable saline solution, to address the market shortage of this essential medicine used to treat dengue patients.

The decision was taken at the 21st meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs led by Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal.

Briefing reporters after the meeting virtually, additional secretary Sayeed Mahbub Khan said 1.2 million bags of sodium chloride and 800,000 bags of glucose saline will be purchased from India.



Workers busy weaving satin fabric at a mill in Tarabo area of Narayanganj's Rupganj. Each worker gets Tk 3.5 for weaving a yard of the fabric, making about Tk 4,000 a week if power supply remains uninterrupted. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

BB CYBER HEIST

CID fails to submit probe report for 73rd time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again asked the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to submit the probe report in the Bangladesh Bank cyber heist case by November 9.

CID has now taken 74 dates to complete its probe into the case filed over the heist of \$101 million from Bangladesh Bank's account with Federal Reserve Bank of New York in February 2016.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury passed the order after Raihan Uddin Khan, additional superintendent of police and also the case's investigation officer, failed to submit the probe report by yesterday.

'ATTACK' ON LAWYERS
Court bins BNP case against cops

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summarily dismissed the case hours after it was filed against nine police officials over "the attack on pro-BNP lawyers during the road march on September 12".

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saifur Rahman passed the dismissal order finding no "cogent grounds" to take cognisance of the charges brought against the police officials.

Earlier in the day, advocate Md Mohsin Miah, also a former president of Dhaka Bar Association, filed the case against them.

In his complaint, he alleged that they brought out a peaceful procession, demanding voting rights and restoration of democracy and polls under a caretaker government, but police suddenly attacked them.

In the attack, at least 23 people, including 16 pro-BNP lawyers were injured, the complainant alleged.

ACC files three cases against 8 BADC staffers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti Corruption Commission yesterday filed three cases against eight officials of the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) for embezzling seeds worth Tk 2,68 crore.

Md Al Amin, the deputy director of the Jashore district integrated office, filed the cases.

According to the complaint, the staffers, while working in Jhenaidah's Mohespur and Chuadanga's Jibannagar upazilas, embezzled 129 tonnes of hybrid paddy seed, four tonnes of BRI 28 Paddy seeds, and 21.82 tonnes of BARI 30 wheat seed during the production year 2018-19.