

REQUIREMENTS

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NOMINEE'S PHOTO

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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



Brown univ honours PM for community clinic project

BSS, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was accorded a special honour by Brown University on Tuesday as the United Nations recognised her community clinic model to reach healthcare services to Bangladeshis' doorsteps.

Mukesh K Jain, senior vice president for health affairs and dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences of The Warren Alpert Medical School of the university, handed over a citation to the prime minister at The Lotte New York Hotel.

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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.

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ON-CAMPUS COURSES

National University, UGC at loggerheads

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The University Grants Commission and the National University authorities are at loggerheads over the latter's decision to introduce undergraduate (honours) programmes at its main campus in Gazipur.

The UGC on Tuesday directed NU officials to halt the admission procedures in four departments at the university's central campus for the 2022-2023 academic year. The UGC has also sought clarification from NU authorities regarding their rationale for admitting students to these on-campus courses.

According to UGC authorities, the primary function of NU's main campus is to supervise the operations of its affiliated colleges, offer research at post-graduation level up to MPhil and PhD, and perform similar functions.

Meanwhile, NU registrar Molla Mahfuz Al-Hossain yesterday responded to the UGC in a letter stating that their decision to admit students was made in accordance with the National University Act 1992.

UGC acting chairman Prof Muhammed Alamgir and secretary Ferdous Zaman confirmed to this newspaper last evening that they had indeed received the letter from NU.

"We will analyse the legal issues," said Alamgir.

He said the university administration had not sought UGC's approval for the (honours) programmes, and the commission was skeptical of NU's manpower and capacity to conduct on-campus courses. He added

NU had not sought UGC's approval for the (honours) programmes. Both public and private universities are required to obtain the commission's approval before offering any courses.

PROF MUHAMMED ALAMGIR
UGC acting chairman

The law clearly states we can run academic activities at university and colleges. We already offer MPhil and PhD courses with approval. We don't need new approvals from UGC.

PROF MASHIUR RAHMAN
VC of National University

that both public and private universities are required to obtain the commission's approval before offering any courses.

UGC OBJECTION

The NU administration posted a circular on its website on July 20 regarding student admissions for undergraduate programmes

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Vandalism of idols condemned

STAR REPORT

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday expressed deep concern over the recent incidents of attacks on temples and vandalism of idols in Faridpur and Bogura.

The ASK also demanded impartial investigation into the incidents and punishment of the perpetrators, said a statement of the rights body.

Citing media reports, the statement said some unidentified miscreants vandalised several idols between September 17 and 19 in different areas of Faridpur, including Tambulkhana Bazar.

Besides, a group of criminals have recently vandalised a temple at Bogura's Sherpur upazila, it said.

The annual five-day long Durga Puja, the largest religious festival of the Hindu community people, will be celebrated across the country next month.

At least 15 temples have come under attack from

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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 Mohepur 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.

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 Naranyanganj'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

We can assist Sierra Leone in ICT, agriculture

Says Momen

UNB, New York

Bangladesh is keen to assist Sierra Leone in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector, alongside the field of agriculture, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told his Sierra Leonean counterpart on Tuesday in New York.

Momen was briefing reporters on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's engagements, as they are now in New York to attend the 78th United Nations General Assembly.

Talking about a bilateral meeting, he said the Sierra Leone Foreign Minister David J Francis praised Bangladesh

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