

## REQUIREMENTS



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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," said TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

He was speaking at a press conference held at TIB office in the capital.

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,'" Iftekharuzzaman added.

He 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 said.

"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," Iftekharuzzaman added.

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## VOTER LIST UPGRADATION

It will remain under EC's jurisdiction  
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.

The secretary said this 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.

It will remain under the EC until their offices, manpower and other preparations are completed," he added.

He also said the new law on NID registration will come into effect after the government fixes the date of its implementation through a gazette.

Asked if the voter enrolment activity will be handed over to the home ministry following enactment of the new act, he said there is a separate law for voter enrolment.

They [NID and voter enrolment] are two separate issues. The voter list upgradation will remain under the EC and the NID activities will be handed over to the home ministry eventually.

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 days at many places."

He also said the decision regarding the election schedule has not been finalised.

TACKLING DENGUE  
Govt okays purchase of 2 million 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



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

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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.

**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

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.

**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

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

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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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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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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 people's 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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## 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.