



ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES Tk 940cr lost due to poor upkeep

TOO COSTLY

Bangladesh bought around 1.5 lakh EVMs since 2018

Each EVM costs Tk 2.35 lakh, almost 11 times the price of EVMs in India

COLOSSAL LOSS

1.10 lakh EVMs require repair

40,000 are now beyond repair

Loss of public money Tk 940 crore

STORAGE SYSTEM

1,02,000 kept at BMTF

46,000 at field level

2,000 stored at customisation centre

28 districts have no separate storage

No detailed guidelines for storage

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Electronic voting machines, first introduced in 2011 in Bangladesh, and touted as a great tool for voters to exercise their franchise, were adopted on a large scale for voting in six constituencies in 2018. Before the national election in December that year, the Election Commission bought 1.5 lakh EVMs at Tk 2.35 lakh each, over 11 times the price of

“In many cases, monitors and timers got broken, cables lost, and fingerprint-matching components and ballot unit buttons got damaged.”
Syed Raquibul Hasan
EVM Project Director

the machines used in India. While the Indian machines last 15 years, 40,000 of the EVMs procured by the Bangladesh Election Commission did not even last five years due to poor storage and maintenance system. In the process, Tk 940 crore of public money was lost.

The money squandered over the EVMs is almost Tk 200 crore more than the

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11,000 sued over RMG workers' unrest in Gazipur

Justice for deceased, revision of wage demanded at workers' rally

STAR REPORT

Police sued 11,000 unnamed garment workers over vandalism and clashes with law enforcers in Gazipur's Konabari area.

A Gazipur court yesterday sent 11 arrestees to jail, who were held by Rab and police on Thursday, in one of the cases.

Abu Sayed, sub-inspector of Gazipur Metropolitan's Konabari Police Station, filed the case against 12 workers, including the arrestees, and 3,000-4,000 others unnamed on Thursday night.

Talking to The Daily Star, Sayed said the workers ransacked Tusuka factory in Konabari, demanding a wage hike. A car of a deputy commissioner of Gazipur Metropolitan Police was also vandalised in front of the factory.

The arrestees are workers of different factories. Efforts are on to arrest the others, he added.

On Wednesday, SI Sanir Hasan Khan of Konabari Police Station filed another case accusing 6,000-7,000 unnamed people.

Workers said they started demonstrating on the premises of Tusuka Garments around 3:00pm on Thursday, adding that the management then called in police who beat up several workers.

The protesters threw brick chunks at police and the factory, said witnesses.

Police used teargas, sound grenades, and firearms to disperse the workers.

A labour leader of Konabari area, seeking anonymity, told this

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Rassie van der Dussen raises his bat on way to guiding South Africa to a five-wicket win over Afghanistan in Ahmedabad yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Rassie guides Proteas past Afghanistan

AGENCIES

South Africa saw off a spirited fightback from Afghanistan to win by five wickets in their final World Cup group game and consolidate second place in the standings.

South Africa have 14 points from their nine games, two points ahead of Australia who play Bangladesh on Saturday. Both South Africa and Australia have already qualified for the semifinals.

Afghanistan wrapped up their best ever World Cup campaign with four wins and also sealed a place in the Champions Trophy.

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Tigers look to end on a high

MAZHAR UDDIN from Pune

The dream of reaching the ICC World Cup semifinals has long been extinguished for Bangladesh but they still have a lot to play for.

The victory over Sri Lanka in the much-

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