

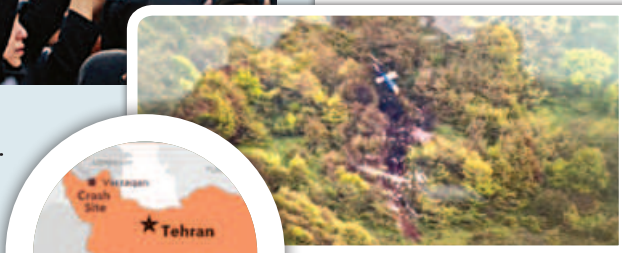
# Iran mourns Raisi's death, vows continuity

Interim president, foreign minister appointed; Israel denies role in helicopter crash



Helicopter fell in Dizmar wildlife corridor near border with Azerbaijan

No claims of foul play so far; inclement weather blamed



Iran needs to elect the next president in 50 days

Raisi was expected to succeed 85-year-old Khamenei

Another conservative is likely to replace him

Raisi was on US sanctions blacklist over human rights violations

AGENCIES

Iranians yesterday mourned the death of president Ebrahim Raisi when his helicopter crashed into a fog-shrouded mountain, setting off a period of political uncertainty in the Islamic republic.

Raisi, 63, his foreign minister and seven others died when the aircraft went down on Sunday in a remote area of northwestern Iran, where the wreckage was only found yesterday morning.

The ultraconservative Raisi had been in office since 2021, a turbulent time during which Iran was rocked by mass protests, economic crisis deepened by US sanctions, and armed exchanges with arch-enemy Israel.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who wields ultimate power in Iran, declared five days of mourning and said vice president Mohammad Mokhber, 68, would assume interim presidential duties until elections are held within 50 days.

"The Iranian nation has lost a sincere and valuable servant," said

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## Govt allows battery-run rickshaws on Dhaka roads

PM issues directive to prepare guideline for such vehicles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is now allowing battery-run rickshaws on Dhaka streets after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to regulate the vehicles under a specific guideline.

The rickshaw-pullers will have to be trained and the streets and speed limits will have to be specified for these vehicles, she said, instructing the authorities not to make any decision without considering the rickshaw-pullers' livelihoods.

The premier issued the instructions at the weekly cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretary Mahbub Hossain told reporters after the meeting.

He said the prime minister was not aware of the ban on such three-wheelers.

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**ICC arrest warrants sought for Netanyahu, Hamas leaders over alleged war crimes in Gaza**

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## Personal data up for sale online!

Govt employees selling information from nat'l database to 789 groups on social media

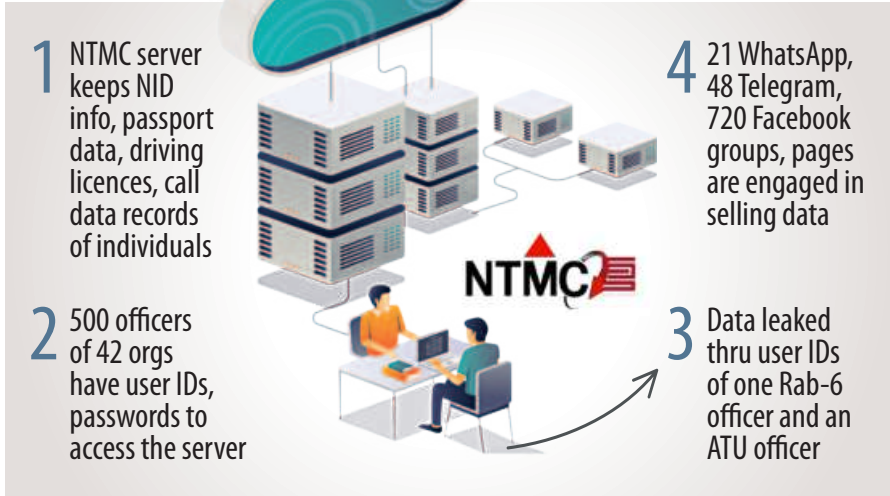
SHARIFUL ISLAM and MUNTAKIM SAAD

Some government employees are selling citizens' NID card and phone call details through hundreds of Facebook, Telegram, and WhatsApp groups, the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre has found.

Terrorism Unit (ATU), and Tarek Aman Banna, assistant superintendent of police at Rab-6.

The two officers' login ID and password were used to gain access to the sensitive data that was given to members of messaging groups in exchange for money, said the letter.

Earlier this month and last month, police arrested two data



In a letter to the home ministry, the NTMC said private information was being sold through 21 WhatsApp, 48 Telegram, and 720 Facebook groups and pages that have 32 lakh members and followers.

The letter sent on April 28 did not mention how many people's data have been sold.

The NTMC first detected unusually high numbers of logins to its National Intelligent Platform (NIP) by the IDs that belong to Farhana Yesmin, superintendent of police at the Anti-

entry operators of the IDEA 2 project on charges of selling private data.

The NTMC is legally authorised to monitor all electronic communications, in coordination with the telecommunications ministry, BTRC, law enforcement, and intelligence agencies.

Nearly 500 officials of 42 organisations can login to the NTMC's NIP and access people's private data and call detail records (CDR) for verification before rendering services and for investigations.

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