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Development Partners Support the Government to Prepare Voter List with Photographs

Dhaka: Major development partners have come forward to assist the Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC) to prepare the voter list with photographs in order to facilitate preparations for credible elections.

Nine development partners, namely the European Commission, DFID, the Netherlands, UNDP, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark and Korea, intend to pool contributions worth approximately 50 million US dollars (approximately 345 crore taka) through a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project called '*Preparation of Electoral Roll with Photographs*' (PERP), to support the completion of the photo voter list. The project will be implemented by the Bangladesh Election Commission. UNDP signed an agreement today with the BEC and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) to initiate the project.

The Preparation of Electoral Roll with Photographs (PERP) project will help to establish the technical infrastructure and other requirements necessary to complete the photo voter list. This includes funding the ICT equipment, such as laptops, webcams and fingerprint scanners, required for completing the nationwide digital voter registration. The project will also establish and strengthen the system necessary to update the photo voter list following the next parliamentary elections.

The Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC), under the overall supervision of the Chief Election Commissioner, is responsible for preparing the voter list with photographs along with other relevant activities.

"A credible and widely acceptable voter list is the foundation for a free and fair election and the support of nine major development partners indicates strong international commitment to assist the government in its effort to secure a peaceful and successful election", said UNDP Country Director, Mr. Manoj Basnyat.



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The photo voter list will be completed by using a software solution that can electronically record voter information from a registration form, along with digital photographs, fingerprint scans and signatures/thumb prints. To provide an incentive to register, voters will be issued a provisional identity card.

The methodology was developed by the Bangladesh Election Commission with support from a team of both national and international consultants who worked in close consultation with the BEC.

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