



MEDIA RELEASE

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Government and UNDP start new development project to ensure sustainability of the Photo Voter List

Dhaka: As a follow up to the widely praised photo voter list, one of the key requirements that led to the success of the past elections, the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) today signed an agreement for the implementation of a new development project entitled “*Construction of Server Stations for the Electoral Database*” (CSSED). This project, jointly funded by the Government of Bangladesh, UK’s DFID and The Netherlands, aims to further strengthen the electoral system and ensure the sustainability of the voter list with photographs.

The project will establish 502 permanent centers at Upazilas, City Corporation Thanas and at the Divisional level to maintain and update the existing voter list with photographs on a regular basis. In addition, the center will serve as points of interaction between the Bangladesh Election Commission, voters and local representatives from stakeholder organizations.

The total value of the project amounts to 30.8 million US Dollars (approximately 213 crore taka) with 16.9 million US Dollars (approximately 117 crore taka) contribution from the Government of Bangladesh, 8 million US Dollars (approximately 55 crore taka) from the UK’s DFID and 5.9 million US Dollars (approximately 41 crore taka) from the Netherlands government.

“I am confident that this project will make a significant contribution to sustaining the achievements of the Bangladesh Election Commission including the maintenance of the internationally acclaimed photographic voter list. The support of DFID and the Netherlands indicates strong international commitment and cooperation to assist the government in its effort in strengthening democratic governance” said UNDP Country Director, Mr. Stefan Priesner.

The signing of the project comes after the success UNDP and BEC have had in implementation of the voter list project that registered more than 81 million voters in just eleven months. UNDP and nine development partners (European Commission, DFID, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark and Korea) supported the creation of the highly accurate and credible photographic voter list that was successfully utilized in the recent national and local elections. The present project is in response to the need to ensure the BEC has the capacity to maintain and update the list.

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