

Govt collects net users' data from ISPs

Staff Correspondent

THE government has asked the internet service providers to provide it with the information of broadband internet users, said officials of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

The instruction was sent to the ISPs on Wednesday asking them to provide names, addresses, phone numbers and subscribed packages of their respective users.

'We have asked for the internet users' details, both corporate and individual users, as per an order from the posts and telecommunications ministry,' a senior

BTRC official told New Age on Thursday.

'Huge amount of data have started to come after that and we don't know how to deal with those. We don't have any instruction to analyse or use those data in any other way,' he said.

A number of ISP operators confirmed the government order regarding users' data.

'We are sending the data to the regulator. We don't have the updated data in some cases, so we are updating those also,' a senior official of an ISP company told New Age.

Asked about the issue, post and telecommunications state-minister Tarana

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Halim confirmed that her ministry had asked for the internet users' details.

'We are collecting internet users' data on individual level to ensure internet security in the country. This is part of our effort to secure the web space like we are working to install internet safety solution,' she told New Age.

Tarana earlier said that government was monitoring the users who were using the blocked social networking web site.

The government on November 18 blocked the popular social networking web sites and apps including Facebook, Viber and WhatsApp on security grounds.