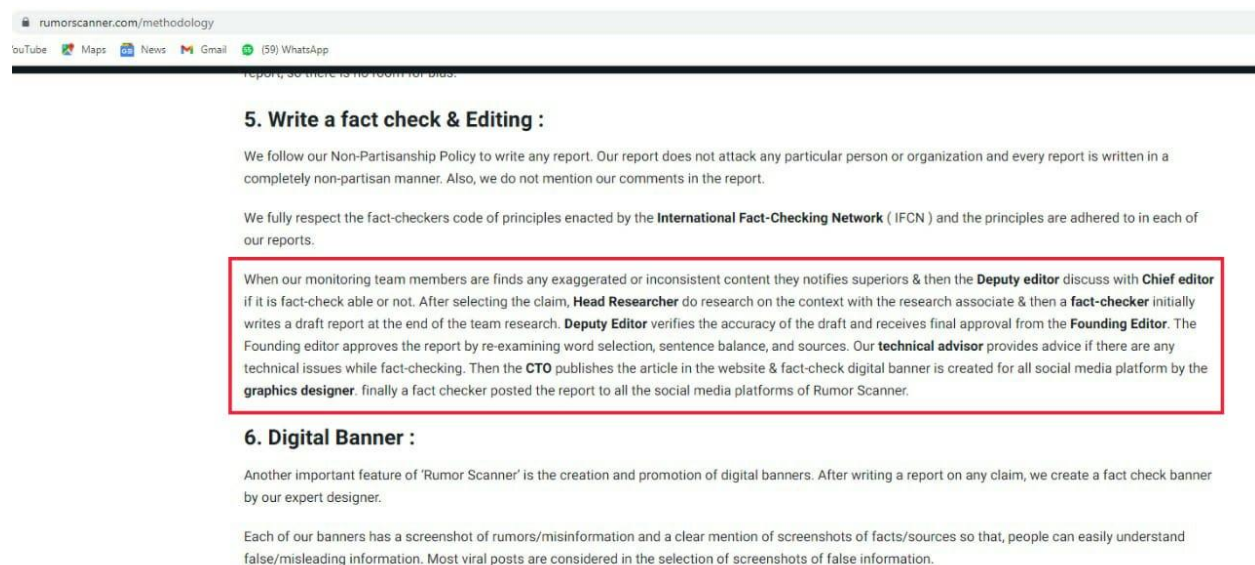# Criteria 5.1

Request Changes:

- In the methodology policy, Rumor Scanner should provide more clarity the roles and responsibilitiies of staff members involved at each step of the methdology, for news factchecks, video factchecks, and trending rumors.

Updated:

report, so there is no room for bias.

5. Write a fact check & Editing :

We follow our Non-Partisanship Policy to write any report. Our report does not attack any particular person or organization and every report is written in a completely non-partisan manner. Also, we do not mention our comments in the report.

We fully respect the fact-checkers code of principles enacted by the **International Fact-Checking Network** (IFCN) and the principles are adhered to in each of our reports.

When our monitoring team members are finds any exaggerated or inconsistent content they notifies superiors & then the **Deputy editor** discuss with **Chief editor** if it is fact-check able or not. After selecting the claim, **Head Researcher** do research on the context with the research associate & then a **fact-checker** initially writes a draft report at the end of the team research. **Deputy Editor** verifies the accuracy of the draft and receives final approval from the **Founding Editor**. The Founding editor approves the report by re-examining word selection, sentence balance, and sources. Our **technical advisor** provides advice if there are any technical issues while fact-checking. Then the **CTO** publishes the article in the website & fact-check digital banner is created for all social media platform by the **graphics designer**. finally a fact checker posted the report to all the social media platforms of Rumor Scanner.

6. Digital Banner :

Another important feature of 'Rumor Scanner' is the creation and promotion of digital banners. After writing a report on any claim, we create a fact check banner by our expert designer.

Each of our banners has a screenshot of rumors/misinformation and a clear mention of screenshots of facts/sources so that, people can easily understand false/misleading information. Most viral posts are considered in the selection of screenshots of false information.

- Rumor Scanner should provide more detailed explanation of how the team conducts the fact-checking process and how it ensures that the process is non-partisan? E.g. During the research stage: When verifying the authenticity of a statement, how exactly they conduct interviews in an unbiased manner?

Updated:

Fact-Checking Process and Report Writing: Step by Step

Rumor Scanner followed a transparent and explanatory procedure in conducting each fact-check report.

We go through the following steps to prepare our fact-checking report to file and publish:

- What have we found and where? What is the claim we need to fact-check? We check screenshots and archived links to locate the claim.
- Subject to the necessary research on the information, we make true / false decisions about that information and we add our assessment to this step of the report. Then step by step we present evidence in support of our claim.

If the research requires verification of a statement, the lead researcher of the Rumor Scanner team will contact the source and conduct an interview. The entire interview process is done impartially and his name is mentioned in the report in the order of his permission at the end of the interview.

Note that since the lead researcher conducts these interviews through a transparent process and if the interview is a video, the entire video is published in the report, so there is no room for bias.

- Why could this claim be challenged? We gather evidence against the claim from primary and secondary sources, conflicting information and/or reports. We also assess reliability of the source's.
- The Rumor Scanner team collects all the evidence in a completely unbiased manner to verify politically sensitive issues. For example, If there is a need to verify any information about a political person or political party, we first rely on the news of the claim in the national reliable or international media. If the subject is based on image or video then we take the help of google image search tool, tin eye reverse image search tools, etc. We also take interview from people who are able to provide information on the subject if possible for further verification.

Rumor Scanner team verify only those politically sensitive issues that relate to the country and national interests and affect people on a large scale.

Besides Rumor Scanner does not publish such sensitive reports solely on the basis of interviews with any political person or party, and publishes the report with complete confirmation of the claim through multiple sources, including national reliable media.
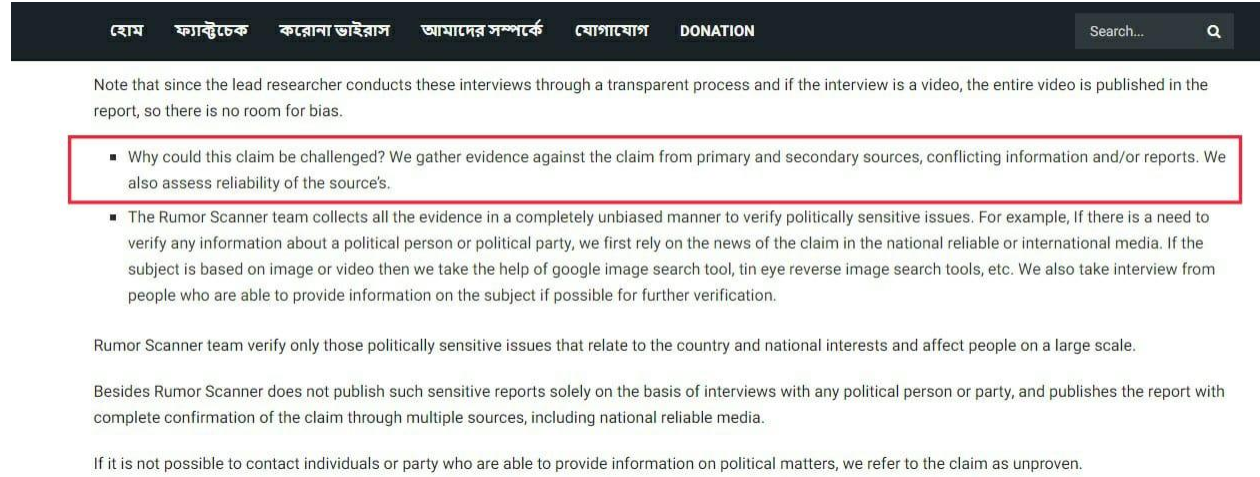
If it is not possible to contact individuals or party who are able to provide information on political matters, we refer to the claim as unproven.

Since the sources of our fact check content are completely transparent and our published report does not mention any of our own comments, our work does not conflict with any section of the Digital Security Act of Bangladesh.

- The rumor scanner team usually focuses on various international media outlets operating in Bangladesh to verify any information because most of the

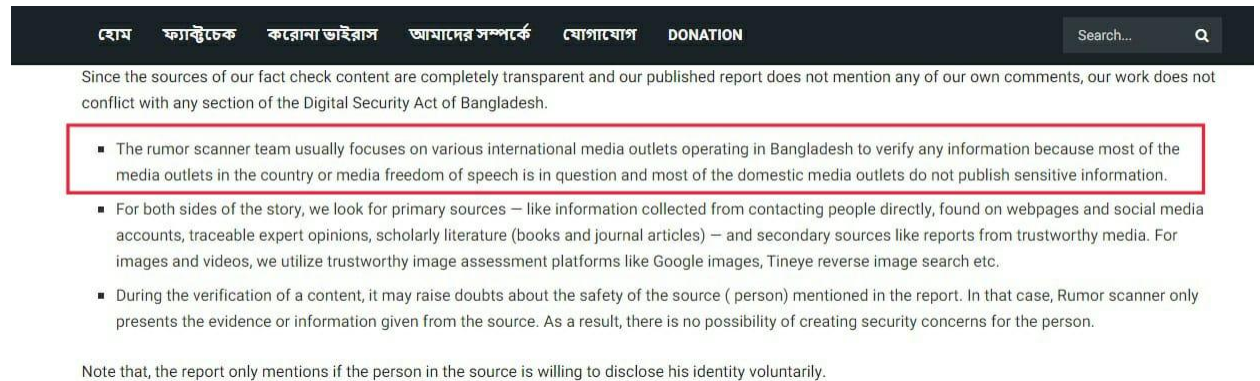- Rumor Scanner should provide explanation how do they assess reliability of the main sources.

Updated:

Note that since the lead researcher conducts these interviews through a transparent process and if the interview is a video, the entire video is published in the report, so there is no room for bias.

- Why could this claim be challenged? We gather evidence against the claim from primary and secondary sources, conflicting information and/or reports. We also assess reliability of the source's.

- The Rumor Scanner team collects all the evidence in a completely unbiased manner to verify politically sensitive issues. For example, If there is a need to verify any information about a political person or political party, we first rely on the news of the claim in the national reliable or international media. If the subject is based on image or video then we take the help of google image search tool, tin eye reverse image search tools, etc. We also take interview from people who are able to provide information on the subject if possible for further verification.

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If it is not possible to contact individuals or party who are able to provide information on political matters, we refer to the claim as unproven.

- Rumor Scanner primarily relies on national and international media outlets as sources for checking the claims of its fact-checking, however, the independence freedom of national media outlets can be called into question in a country such as Bangladesh.They should provide a statement about disclosing the interests of the newspaper sources it cites in its fact-checks

Updated:

Since the sources of our fact check content are completely transparent and our published report does not mention any of our own comments, our work does not conflict with any section of the Digital Security Act of Bangladesh.

- The rumor scanner team usually focuses on various international media outlets operating in Bangladesh to verify any information because most of the media outlets in the country or media freedom of speech is in question and most of the domestic media outlets do not publish sensitive information.

- For both sides of the story, we look for primary sources — like information collected from contacting people directly, found on webpages and social media accounts, traceable expert opinions, scholarly literature (books and journal articles) — and secondary sources like reports from trustworthy media. For images and videos, we utilize trustworthy image assessment platforms like Google images, Tineye reverse image search etc.

- During the verification of a content, it may raise doubts about the safety of the source (person) mentioned in the report. In that case, Rumor scanner only presents the evidence or information given from the source. As a result, there is no possibility of creating security concerns for the person.

Note that, the report only mentions if the person in the source is willing to disclose his identity voluntarily.

- In cases where identifying the source would compromise the source's personal security, how does Rumor Scanner handle this? Provide a statement in the methodology.

Updated:

- How does Rumor Scanner approach fact-checks that are politically sensitive, what strategy do they employ to maintain integrity and provide unbiased information on it? Rumor Scanner should explicitly clarify this in the methodology section, particularly in the context of the Digital Security Act.

Updated:

- What happens when there is a disagreement on the rating of a fact-check? How does Rumor Scanner handle this? Provide a statement in the methodology.

Updated:

Note that, the report only mentions if the person in the source is willing to disclose his identity voluntarily.

- We are absolutely transparent about our reporting of fact-checks. We provide our complete list of sources in every report. We add notes on where we found evidence at every step as hyperlinked citations, so that our fact checking procedure and what tools we used is clear to readers. We also list the sources in a footnote. If the evidence is not easily accessible or stable, we save a screenshot & archive for our own records and include them in our reports.

- Generally our fact-checking method automatically indicates a certain rating. However, In every fact-check report we determine a voting system among the team members. If more than half members choose any rating, then that rating is acceptable for the subject.

- We usually use ratings at the end of each report. The rating is also mentioned in our digital banner.

- Ratings: Rumor Scanner should provide clear definitions for each rating label.

Updated:

7. Rating :

At the end of the execution of any report, we indicate a level by providing a rating.

Six types of ratings we use :

1. True

✔ TRUE

The claim of information has been found to be true and the fact is true. Besides, all the media outlets that have published on this topic are acceptable. Even in the research of rumor scanner no inaccuracy have been found.

2. Partial True

PARTIAL TRUE

The claim is mostly true, but a small portion is false or baseless.

3. False

✖ FALSE

The claim of information has not found any authenticity. Rather acceptable sources are claiming the opposite. Besides in the research of rumor scanner inconsistencies have been found in the information.
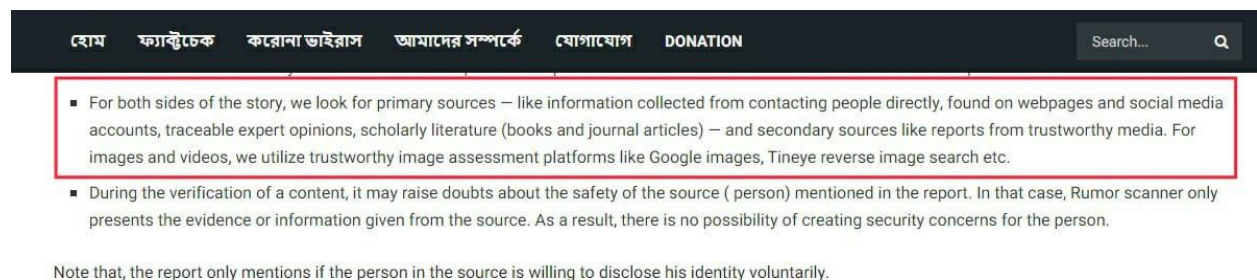
Question:

- Why does Rumor Scanner not verify against other primary or secondary sources such as academic journals, databases from reputable institution, international organisations, independent media, etc?

Answer:

- For both sides of the story, Rumor Scanner look for primary sources - like information collected from contacting people directly, found on webpages and social media accounts, traceable expert opinions, scholarly literature (books and journal articles) and secondary sources like reports from trustworthy & reliable media.

If it is not possible to contact with international organization or media who are able to provide information on selected matter, we refer to the claim as unproven. For images and videos, we utilize trustworthy image assessment platforms like Google images search, Tineye reverse image search etc.

That's why rumor scanner team usually focuses on various international media outlets operating in Bangladesh to verify any information because most of the media outlets in the country or media freedom of speech is in question and most of the domestic media outlets do not publish sensitive information.

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