Criteria 5.1

Request Changes:

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

Updated:

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 find any exaggerated or inconsistent content, they notify their seniors. Then the Deputy Editor discusses with the Chief Editor if it is fact-checkable or not. After selecting the claim, the Head Researcher does research on the context with the research associate. Then a fact-checker initially writes a draft report at the end of the team research. The 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 platforms 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 sources.

- 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:

- 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:
- 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.
- 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:

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

Updated:
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.