

DUCSU POLLS Centres to be inside dorms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ignoring the demand from most student bodies, Dhaka University (DU) authorities yesterday affirmed that polling stations for the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) election will be set up at the dormitories, and the election will be held as per the constitution, which was last amended by DU syndicate on January 29.

The university will announce election schedule within this week, although they earlier said it will be held on March 11.

DU Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr Muhammad Samad, disclosed these to The Daily Star, after attending a meeting chaired by Vice-Chancellor Akhtaruzzaman.

The DU VC and some concerned teachers including chief returning officer M Mahfuzur Rahman discussed about the preparations for the coming Ducusu election at the meeting. Earlier at a syndicate

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



A squirrel rests on a branch of a blooming Shimul tree. This deciduous tree has shed its leaves during winter and bold red flowers have started to appear at the advent of spring. The photo was taken at Ramna Park recently.

PHOTO:
AMRAN HOSSAIN

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

DNCC BY-POLLS

Millionaires in mayoral race

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The upcoming Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) mayoral by-poll will be a race among millionaires.

As per affidavits of the candidates, Awami League's Md Atiqul Islam, Nationalist Democratic Movement's (NDM) Bobby Hajaj and independent candidate Mohammad Abdur Rahim are all businessmen by profession, and millionaires.

On January 22, the Election Commission declared that by-polls to DNCC mayoral post will be held on February 28. Election to councillor posts in 36 new wards -- 18 under the DNCC and 18 under the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) -- will also be held on the day.

Voters of the north city corporation will elect the successor to late Mayor Annisul Huq.

AL candidate Atiqul holds BComm degree, and is owner of 16 companies, according to his affidavit. The 58-year-old businessman's annual income from agriculture, house rent, business, fisheries and others is about Tk 1.7 crore. He earns Tk 51.4 lakh per annum from his business.

His wife Shaila Shagufta Islam, a doctor, earns about Tk 25 lakh annually. She also has 0.35kg gold.

Atiqul's movable assets include Tk 87,063 cash, US\$1,576.13 in foreign currencies in bank, and over Tk 1.1 crore deposited in banks and financial institutions.

He also has over Tk 3.75 crore in bonds and shares of listed and non-listed companies.

Of his immovable assets, he has 1.074-acre agricultural land worth around Tk 4.14 crore and 35.17-decimal non-agricultural land worth Tk 26 lakh. His houses and apartments are worth Tk 2.57 crore. He has a fish farm on 1.16-acre land, which is worth Tk 1.2 lakh.

Jatiya Party won't indulge in destructive politics

Says party co-chair GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party co-chairman and deputy leader of the opposition GM Quader yesterday said his party will not indulge in destructive politics, although they may take to the streets to fulfil people's desires.

"We won't do destructive politics while playing role of the opposition party. But, we'll fulfil the people's desire through a positive role in parliament and a systematic movement on the streets," he said.

He made the remarks while talking to reporters at the party chief's Banani office after taking interviews of its aspirants for reserved seats for women in the 11th parliament.

Quader said JP Chairman HM Ershad,

who returned home from Singapore on Monday after treatment, will join the parliament's maiden session very soon.

The parliament's 50 seats reserved for women are being distributed among parties based on their representation in the House.

As Jatiya Party secured 22 seats in the December 30 election, it can nominate four candidates to be elected in reserved women seats.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Party Secretary General Moshirur Rahman Ranga said their party will start selling its nomination forms among aspirants for the first-phase upazila parishad elections tomorrow.

He said their party will finalise candidates based on their acceptability, popularity and contributions to the party.

ROAD ACCIDENTS

Quader faces the music at parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition lawmaker Mujibul Haque Chunnun yesterday in parliament criticised Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, for the recent frequent incidents of road accidents in different parts of the country.

Speaking on a point of order at yesterday's House session, the Jatiya Party MP demanded that the minister come up with a statement in the parliament under section 300 of rules of procedure of parliament, on the government's steps to ensure safety on roads.

The former state minister claimed there are around 18 lakh illegal vehicles in the country, which are operated by a section of law enforcement agencies.

He said there are 38 lakh registered vehicles in the country. But the number of drivers having licences is 18 lakh, meaning that "fake" drivers are running those illegal vehicles.

He also said law enforcement agencies, who are responsible to oversee respective laws and rules to ensure road

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Suhrawardy bustling with booklovers

SAYED MOHMUD ULLAH

The Suhrawardy Udyan part of the month-long Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela is bustling with booklovers while the Bangla Academy ground is yet to wear a festive look due to low turnout.

The authorities have allotted stalls of 104 government and autonomous bodies on the academy premises and 395 commercial publishers at Suhrawardy Udyan, an extended part of the fair since 2013.

Besides books of some prominent writers, the publishers on the academy premises said they are going to publish a large number of books on research, essays and history.

Jahidul Islam, a stall attendant of Bangla Academy, said they have already published several books including "Saat Doshoker Hartal O Bangladesh Rajniti" (Strikes in seven decades and politics of Bangladesh) by journalist Ajoy Dasgupta and a biography on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by Mohsen Al Arishi.

"We are hoping to see a bigger crowd as the fair continues," he added.

MD Elias, manager of the Nazrul Institute stall, urged the academy authorities to take initiatives in this regard.

"We depend on government subsidy and sell books on rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at lower price than the commercial publication houses," he added. "The academy should arrange special events to promote the stalls here."

In the evening, Mehedi Ullah, a teacher of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University's folklore department, was seen buying some books from the stall.

"I bought Nazrul's Sanchita (anthology of selected poems) for my friend," he said. "This is a must-read poetry collection for

students."

Meanwhile, bookworms continued to throng the Suhrawardy Udyan venue on the fifth day of the fair yesterday.

But many were frustrated as the fair authorities were yet to assign number plates for majority of the stalls.

"I'm searching for 'Sahitya Prakash' for an hour but it is hard to find a particular stall without a number..." said Forhad Hossain, a student of Dhaka University.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

EU to provide 205m euros for quality education

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

European Union will provide 205 million euros to Bangladesh for quality education and training for the next four years.

The EU yesterday launched the Human Capital Development Programme for Bangladesh 2017, aiming to promote the implementation of long-term sustainable education policies towards a lifelong learning approach, bringing together primary, technical, and vocational education.

A signing ceremony of a bilateral financing agreement between the European Union and Government of Bangladesh on HCDP-21 was held yesterday at Economic Relations Division (ERD) in Dhaka.

Ambassador Rensje Teerink, head of delegation of European Union to Bangladesh and Monowar Ahmed, secretary of ERD, signed the agreement.

The 205 million euros are to be divided into three parts -- 150 million for primary education, 50 million for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and 5 million for complementary technical assistance, said a EU press statement.

"The Government of Bangladesh acknowledges the longstanding support of the EU in a sector as crucial as education. We are looking forward to strengthening our solid partnership and making an important contribution to reaching sustainable development goals by 2030," said ERD Secretary Monowar Ahmed at the signing ceremony.

The EU programme is putting special emphasis on a few key targets: quality education through better trained teachers and revised curricula, increased learning materials, increased enrollment of out-of-school children into the formal education system, and equal access.

Repatriation is a slow and difficult process

Red Cross chief says on Rohingya crisis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Head of Delegation in Bangladesh, Ikhtiyar Aslanov has said that despite some countries' efforts in building infrastructure in Northern Rakhine state, there has been little progress for voluntary and sustainable repatriation of Rohingyas from Bangladesh.

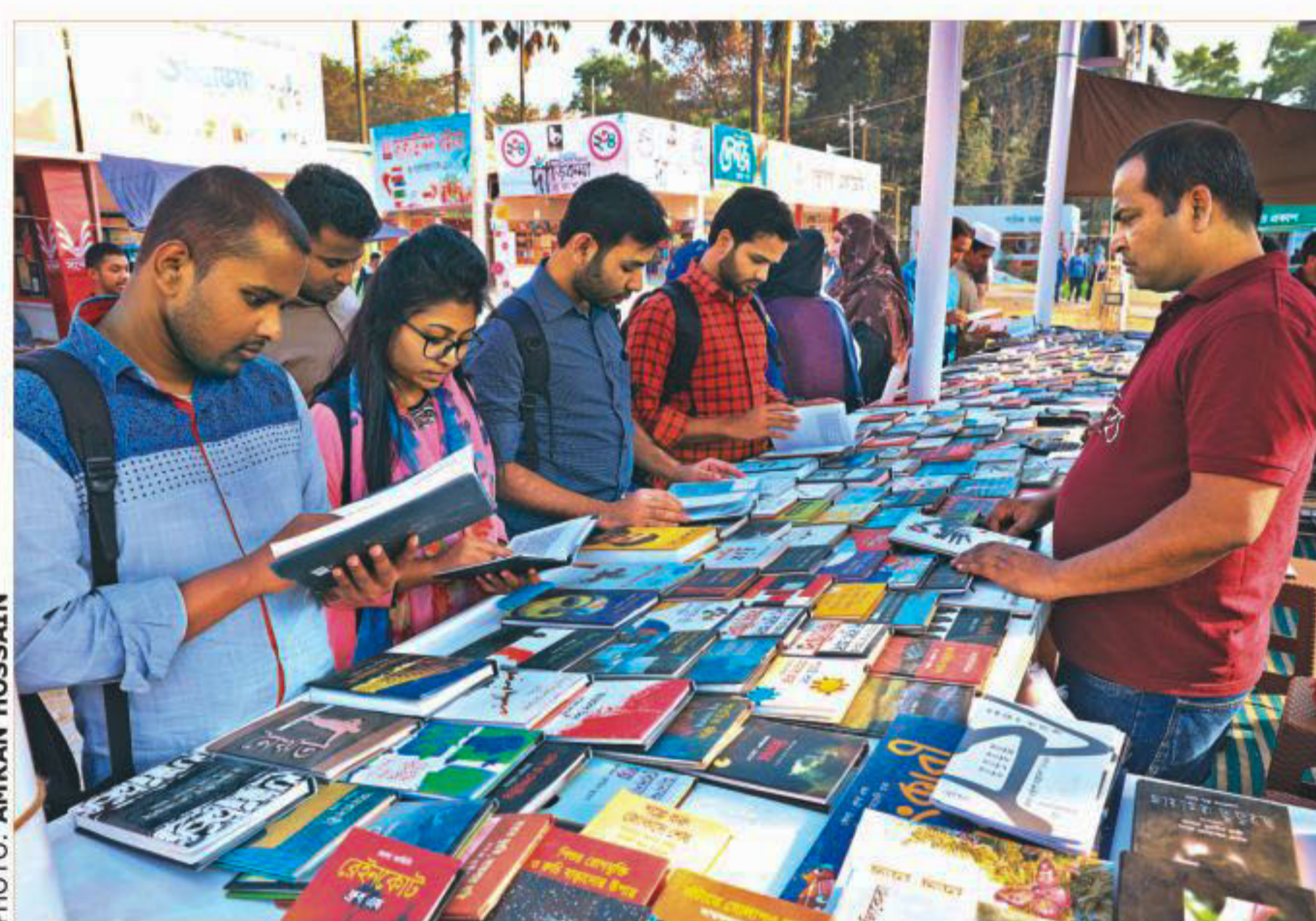
Briefing reporters at ICRC Banani office yesterday, he said the organisation will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees, but he does not know when repatriation may start.

"Just building houses in Rakhine is not the solution," he said, adding "Just imagine that you have a beautiful house but your neighbour is dangerous, so you are not safe and can't live in peace."

Ikhtiyar said there are serious doubts about creating a conducive environment in Myanmar, since there is no initiative to encourage peaceful co-existence among different ethnic communities.

"Displacement happened rapidly but repatriation is a slow and difficult process. Crisis happens easily but solution is complex," Ikhtiyar Aslanov said in response to a question about creating a timetable to begin repatriation.

About ICRC's 2019 programme schedule in Bangladesh, Ikhtiyar Aslanov said his organisation will continue to assist displaced people from Myanmar, and host communities in Cox's Bazar and CHT.



Bookworms browse through books at a stall at Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

২০১৯ অমর একুশে গ্রন্থমেলায়
স্টার বুকস এর নিবেদন



স্টল নং ২৫৪-৫৫
(সোহরাওয়ার্দী উদ্যান)

Home Delivery Service
www.rokomari.com
16297



Unleashing Confidence, Unleashing X-factor.

Limitless possibilities reside within you. To unleash confidence on these possibilities, PRAN UHT Milk is arranging Camp X; where we'll camp for 3 days, engage in some exciting activities and pass quality time with some inspiring people. Some entirely new experiences will join you back home; with your X-factors.

Students from class 6 to 8, get ready for the recruitment process of this exciting Camp X. We are coming to your school.

Camp X is waiting for you ...

For more [f /PranUhtMilk](https://www.facebook.com/PranUhtMilk)

Press Partner: FM Partner: Online Media: JagoNews24.com Event by: