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Students wary of 'fear tactics'

Opposition candidates, students allege BCL men are threatening them; pro-govt student body denies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the Ducsu election just a day away, many general students and rival candidates allege that they are being intimidated by some Chhatra League men.

For the last few days, general students are being "forced" to join BCL programmes at the hall guestrooms where top leaders of the pro-government student body threaten to oust the students from halls if they vote anyone outside the BCL, campus sources alleged.

The Daily Star has spoken to at least 10 such students.

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DUCSU POLLS: KYE POINTS

- **DUCSU positions: 25**
- **Total candidates: 229**
- **Hall Union positions for each hall: 13**
- **Total candidates for hall unions: 512**
- **Unopposed elected for hall union 37**
- **Vote centers: 18 Halls**
- **Total booths: 511**
- **Total voters: 42,923**



Banners and festoons of candidates hang everywhere on the Dhaka University campus, as the first Ducsu polls in 28 years are all set to be held tomorrow. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Flags of freedom flutter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A blood-soaked sun dotted almost every rooftop. The flag inlaid with the map of Bangladesh could not be missed.

It was even seen at Rajarbagh Police Lines, different police stations, the High Court and residences of the justice.

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Join forces to stop violence against women

PM urges, asks media to publish photos of rapists

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday put emphasis on creating awareness in the society to eliminate discriminations and violence against women.

"All have to remember one thing that enacting laws only won't help stop violence and disparities against women.... We have



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'Shootout witness' missing for 5 months

Family members claim he was picked up from home in October after he narrated the incident to media

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Chattogram

An eyewitness to an alleged shootout between drug peddlers and Rapid Action Battalion-7 in Chattogram's Muradpur area has been missing for almost five months.

The missing person -- Jahid Hasan, 18, son of late Md Yasin of Koddartek, Charlakkha union -- was the driver of Jubo League leader Asim Roy Babu, who was killed in the "shootout" on October 12.

Jahid was picked up two days after the incident by people in plainclothes from his



Jahid Hasan

aunt's home in Isanagar of Karnaphuli upazila. He has been missing since then, said family members.

They added that after the "shootout", Jahid had spoken to several media outlets -- Somoy Television, Cplus TV, and a local online television channel of Chattogram -- as a witness.

"We were coming from Riazuddin Bazar at around 11:30pm.... When we reached Muradpur railway crossing, our car was intercepted by the railway crossing barrier.

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Home boss defends deaths in crossfire

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday defended crossfire deaths saying the law enforcement agencies opened fire during the anti-narcotics drives only in self-defence.

He made the comment while addressing an anti-narcotics rally on BG Press ground in the capital's Tejgaon.

"Many civil society members criticise the law enforcement agencies and accuse them of killing

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UZ polls kick off, festivity lacking

78 upazilas go to election today in the first of five phases

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

In the first phase of upazila election, 78 of the local government bodies go to the polls today amid a lack of enthusiasm and festivity.

The series of battle of ballots -- boycotted by the BNP and several other parties -- kicks off only over two months after the December 30 parliamentary polls.

This year, election to 480 upazilas will take place in five phases. Over 1.42 crore people are expected to cast their votes at 5,847 centres in the first phase today.

Polls to 125 upazilas will be held in the second phase on March 18, while the third phase will be held on March 22 in 127 upazilas and fourth in 122 upazilas on March 31.

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SEVEN RINGS CEMENT

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Rain washes out Day Two

SPORTS REPORTER from Wellington

Rain played hide and seek throughout the day in Wellington before umpires eventually abandoned play for the second consecutive day of the second Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand yesterday.

The Tigers came to the

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