



## UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNIONS Student bodies split over polls timing

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

With Dhaka and Jahangirnagar universities gearing up for student union elections, the student bodies are now sharply divided over when the polls should be held.

The Students Against Discrimination and Shibir are in favour of elections without much delay as they are confident of winning.

The Chhatra Dal, on the other hand, is keen on delaying the elections until the national polls because its leaders are yet to be “fully active” on campuses, said insiders.

Most of the left-wing student parties are also in favour of delaying the election. They want to reform the structure of students’ union, popularly known as chhatra sangsad, at DU and JU.

During the July mass uprising, most student bodies took part in the protests, the face of which was Students Against Discrimination. After the fall of Awami League government in early August, the student bodies had disagreements over different matters.

Ever since the DU authorities formed a special committee to conduct the Ducus (Dhaka University Central Students’ Union) polls on November 14, 2024, the student organisations became divided.

Many leaders of the Chhatra Dal, the pro-BNP student body, have already graduated from DU and JU. Since they are not students and remained inactive on campuses for many years, they fear losing, activists said.

Abu Baker Majumder, a key SAD leader who is likely to run for a top post, said, “Different kinds of organisations now coexist on campus. Now is the time to prioritise student rights. Ducus is the main forum to champion their rights on campus.”

SM Farhad, president of DU unit Shibir, said, “There is a level playing field for everyone. We demand reforms to the Ducus constitution and elections by February. We believe the reforms can be made soon.”

On the other hand, Chhatra Dal leaders believe students’ union polls should be held after the national elections.

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During the July mass uprising, most student bodies took part in the protests, the face of which was Students Against Discrimination. After the fall of Awami League government in early August, rifts began to appear among the student bodies over various issues.



Tarique Rahman welcomes his mother BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia after her arrival at the Heathrow International Airport in London yesterday.

PHOTO COURTESY: BNP

## Khaleda and Tarique reunite after 7yrs

The ex-PM was driven to the London Clinic  
by her son directly from Heathrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It had been precisely 2,732 days since BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last met her only surviving son.

Until yesterday.

As she emerged out of the Heathrow International Airport in London on a wheelchair, it was first her daughter-in-law Zubaida Rahman who embraced her.

Her son Tarique Rahman then slowly walked

towards her. He leaned forward and gave his ailing mother a gentle hug.

The emotions, both joy and relief, that filled the air were palpable.

Clad in a golden saree, covered in a grey shawl, Khaleda tenderly placed her hand on her son’s back, as they both smiled warmly, leaving onlookers moved by the silent, yet heartfelt exchange.

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## Govt preparing for both nat’l, local elections

Says chief adviser

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The interim government is simultaneously preparing for national and local body elections, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus told European Investment Bank [EIB] Vice-President Nicola Beer yesterday.

He said this when Beer called on him at state guest house Jamuna, according to the press wing of the Chief Adviser’s Office.

Earlier, Prof Yunus said the national elections would be held either at the end of this year or by the first half of next year.

He sought EIB’s help in tackling corruption, the green transition in energy,

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## Proof of graft, power abuse found against Hasina: DG of ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has found clear evidence that former prime minister Sheikh Hasina abused power to amass wealth, said its Director General Akhtar Hossain.

“Officers are collecting documents from various offices... So far, we have gathered substantial information. We hope to share good news with you soon,” he said.

The ACC has launched four investigations into the allegations of abuse of power and corruption against Hasina and her family members.

On December 17, the commission began two

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As vegetables are unloaded at the capital's Sadek Khan Krishi Market, the trucks carrying them occupy a portion of the Gabtoli-Sadarghat-Beribandh Road, disrupting vehicular movement and creating tailbacks in the area. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Interest rate on savings certificates to be raised

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The interim government is set to increase the interest rates against various savings certificates to upwards of 12 percent as it looks to provide some relief to the fixed income group squeezed by the elevated inflation.

At present, the interest rates provided against the four savings certificates under the Department of National Savings ranged from 11.04 percent to 11.76 percent.

The savings instruments are: the five-year Bangladesh savings certificate, the three monthly profit-bearing Sanchayapatra, the five-year family savings certificate and the five-year pensioners’ savings certificate.

The government will introduce the new system for the savings

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## TK 9,000CR UNPAID BILLS Power producers warn of supply disruption

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The Bangladesh Independent Power Producers Association (BIPPA) has urged the government to clear half of its overdue payments, amounting to Tk 9,000 crore, within the next 10 days or contend with disruptions to the electricity supply during Ramadan.

In a letter signed by BIPPA President David Hasanat, the association said the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) is obligated under power purchase agreements (PPA) to clear payments within 45 days.

However, payments have been delayed for more than five months and the backlog has persisted for more than three years.

“The situation is critical,” the letter said, adding that the nation’s energy supply chain faces imminent collapse if payments are not received within the timeframe.

This will, in turn, have a severe and widespread impact, jeopardising agricultural production, national food security, industrial output and essential services to households during the crucial periods of the irrigation season, Ramadan and summer, it said.

The unpaid dues prevent power producers from importing furnace oil needed for electricity generation, according to Hasanat.

“If we don’t get at least half of our payments, we will not be able to open letters of credit to import furnace oil in due time to generate adequate power during Ramadan,” he said.

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নির্বাচন ভবন, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা  
www.ecs.gov.bd

### ভোটার তালিকা হালনাগাদ কর্মসূচি ২০২৬

আগামী ২০ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ তারিখ হতে সারাদেশে ভোটার তালিকা হালনাগাদ কার্যক্রম শুরু হচ্ছে। যাদের জন্ম ০১ জানুয়ারি ২০০৮ বা তার পূর্বে এবং বিগত হালনাগাদে যারা বাদ পড়েছেন তাদের তথ্য নির্বাচন কমিশন কর্তৃক নিয়োগপ্রাপ্ত তথ্যসংগ্রহকারীগণ বাড়ি বাড়ি গিয়ে সংগ্রহ করবেন। এসময় ভোটার তালিকা হতে বাদ দেয়ার জন্য মৃত ভোটারদের তথ্যও সংগ্রহ করা হবে। তথ্য সংগ্রহের এ কার্যক্রম ০৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত চলবে।

### ভোটার হতে যেসব কাগজপত্র লাগবে:

- ❖ ১৭ ডিজিটের অনলাইন জন্মসনদের কপি
- ❖ জাতীয়তা/নাগরিকত্ব সনদের কপি
- ❖ নিকট আত্মীয়ের এনআইডির ফটোকপি (পিতা-মাতা, ভাই-বোন প্রভৃতি)
- ❖ এসএসসি/দাখিল/সমমান, অষ্টম শ্রেণি পাশের সনদের কপি (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)
- ❖ ইউটিলিটি বিলের কপি (বিদ্যুৎ, গ্যাস, পানি/চৌকিদারি রশিদের ফটোকপি)

**ভোটার হওয়ার সময় যেসব বিষয়ে মতবর্ক থাকতে হবে:**

- ❖ নিজের নাম, পিতা-মাতার নাম, জন্ম নিবন্ধন বা শিক্ষা সনদের সাথে হুবহু মিলিয়ে লিখতে হবে
- ❖ জন্ম তারিখ অবশ্যই জন্ম নিবন্ধন বা শিক্ষা সনদ অনুযায়ী হতে হবে
- ❖ স্থায়ী ঠিকানা লেখার ক্ষেত্রে অবশ্যই ভোটারের প্রকৃত স্থায়ী ঠিকানা লিখতে হবে
- ❖ কোন অবস্থাতেই দ্বৈত বা দুইবার ভোটার হওয়া যাবে না

**মনে রাখবেন: একাধিকবার ভোটার হওয়া আইনত দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ  
কেউ একাধিকবার ভোটার হলে  
আড়লের ছাপ পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে তা সহজেই শনাক্ত করা যায়**

**মঠিক তথ্যে ভোটার হবো, নির্বাচনে ভোট দেবো**

বাংলাদেশ নির্বাচন কমিশন