

## JU gears up for first Jucsu polls in 33yrs

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Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal's JU unit convener Jahir Uddin Mohammad Babor said his organisation would announce a full panel for both Jucsu and hall elections on August 21.

He said their candidates were collecting forms and that they had been working towards Jucsu for the past three months.

He added that candidates from cultural and sports backgrounds may also be included.

Sources said Sheikh Sadi, Tanjila Hossain Boishakhii, Rubel Hossain, and Mehadi Emon might contest top positions from the Chhatra Dal panel.

Outgoing JU Chhatra Union president Amartya Ray said his faction would form an alliance with Jahangirnagar Sanskrit Jote, a socio-political coalition of nine organisations that includes cultural bodies, artists, writers, and activists from the university.

He added that discussions were also ongoing with Biplobi Chhatra Moitree and Samajantrik Chhatra Front (Marxist).

From their panel, Prapti Taposi, Sharan Ehsan, Irfanul Islam Iftu, and Faiza Mehzabin Priantee are expected to contest top posts.

Amartya noted that although they might not field a full panel for hall elections, they would extend support to like-minded candidates.

Another faction of Chhatra Union, led by Jahidul Islam Emon, plans to ally with theatre activist and former Students Against Discrimination coordinator Mahfuz Islam Megh as well as general students involved in

the July movement

Emon said, "I may contest for general secretary while Megh may contest for vice president."

Megh said even if they cannot form a full panel, they will contest vital posts.

Bangladesh Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad Convener Arifuzzaman Uzzuwal said they would field a full panel.

He said he might contest for vice president while Tuhid Mohammad Siam might run for general secretary.

He also mentioned that among women candidates, Maliha Namla, Fatematuz Zohra, and Farhana Binte Jigar Farina may contest key positions.

Islami Chhatra Shibir has already finalised its student and hall-level panels, said office secretary Mazharul Islam.

He said they were also in talks with like-minded student groups who were active in the July uprising.

From their panel, Mazharul Islam, Shafayet Mir, Ferdous Al Hasan, and Ayesha Siddiqa Meghla might contest top posts.

Abdur Rashid Zitu, convener of Gono Obhuthan Rokkha Andolon and former central coordinator of the Students Against Discrimination, is likely to contest for the vice president post independently. "I will definitely vie for the VP post. Whether I will join a panel is still undecided," he said.

Despite the momentum, almost all student bodies expressed concern that Awami League-leaning teachers and those accused of aiding the attacks on protesting students

during the July uprising still hold key administrative roles. They fear this could affect the fairness of the election. Some candidates have also raised questions about the Election Commission's capacity.

Earlier, the university administration pledged to ensure justice by August 31 against teachers, officials, and staff accused of involvement in the attacks on protesting students during the July uprising.

Student bodies also expressed concern that non-students who have already graduated but continue to occupy dormitory seats illegally could exert pressure on the election process.

According to JU Proctor AKM Rashidul Alam, around 1,500 graduates are still staying in the halls illegally. "The university authorities are working to evict illegal occupants from dormitories and will take more stringent action soon."

### VOTER LIST DISCREPANCY

Of the 11,919 voters, 6,102 are male and 5,817 are female. A review of the hall-based voter lists showed irregularities, including names of expelled Chhatra League activists, deceased students, dropouts, and students who left for abroad without completing their studies.

Election Commission Member Secretary Prof Rashidul Alam said they had received four complaints and would decide on them in a meeting. "The commission is committed to holding a fair and credible election."

The last Jucsu election was held in 1992.

day. We and her school were her life."

The Chief Adviser said, "It is painful to listen to you. At the same time, I feel proud that there are citizens in our country who have jumped into the fire to save the lives of others. They have proven this example of humanity.

"We have to bear their memory. Whatever needs to be done, we will do so."

Its vice-president candidate is Sheikh Tasnim Afroze Emi, who was elected VP of Shamsun Nahar Hall Sangsad in 2019 polls, while Meghmallar Bosu, president of Chhatra Union's DU unit, will vie for the general secretary post.

Other candidates include Jabir (finance) as assistant general secretary, Muzammel Haque (political science) as liberation war and democratic movement affairs secretary, Nuzia Hasin Rasha (linguistics) as common room, reading room and cafeteria secretary, and Akash Ali (philosophy) as human rights and legal affairs secretary. Liton Tripura (economics) was nominated as career development secretary.

Speaking at the announcement, Meghmallar said, "The forces that committed genocide in 1971 and those responsible for the 2024 atrocities, we will build a united democratic movement against them, and the Ducusu election will serve as a stepping stone on the path of that democratic struggle."

According to the announced schedule, the election will be held on September 9. The last date for withdrawing nomination is August 25, with the final list of candidates to be announced on August 26. This year's election will see contests for 28 positions at Ducusu, which were 25 in 2019. Each hall union will elect representatives for 13 positions. DU currently has 18 residential halls. The final voter list has already been published, showing 39,775 eligible voters – 20,873 male and 18,902 female students.

## Govt to make guideline for next govt

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repaid by the people. Therefore, if there are irregularities or corruption in these areas, the government must take action, and that is exactly what we are considering."

A secretary, requesting anonymity, said they were also instructed to prepare the revised budget for the current fiscal year and the Annual Development Programme (ADP) implementation progress report by December.

Officials said the goal is to avoid the year-end spending rush that typically occurs when evaluations are delayed until March or April.

At the meeting, the advisers placed the highest emphasis on the slow pace of ADP implementation and directed secretaries to identify reasons for the delays and suggest remedies.

Adviser Salehuddin asked ministries to ensure visible progress on key interim government measures by December. "Work must move forward in such a way that the significant achievements of the interim government remain visible as a footprint," he said, according to

meeting sources.

Another major concern raised was the shortage of skilled manpower in project formulation and execution. Previously, officers from the economic cadre worked as project experts, but that cadre has since been merged into the administration cadre.

Many project directors currently lack specialised training in project management, officials noted. The meeting therefore decided to explore creating a separate pool of trained officers for project preparation and implementation.

During the meeting, a Cabinet Division joint secretary gave a presentation on the failed "Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)" project.

A senior secretary, on condition of anonymity, later told The Daily Star that there "might not be a worse project than this one", adding that lessons must be learned before approving future projects.

Secretaries were also told to rigorously examine objections over environmental impacts. "If no well-prepared proposals are submitted,

## 2024 one of the deadliest years since '71

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August 4–7, at least 890 people were killed, including 309 on August 5, the day Hasina fled.

Many of the victims, buried as unidentified, were not included in the report.

Of the killings documented, 520 or 75 percent died due to police atrocities, according to the HRSS report. It found that more than 84 percent of protest-related fatalities were caused by police and other security forces.

The violence left at least 30,000 people injured, including thousands who lost limbs or eyesight. Over 600 people lost vision in one or both eyes.

The victims included students, labourers, journalists, professionals, law enforcers, children, women, and political activists.

Among the dead, 143 were children and adolescents, and 14 were girls or women.

Of 855 identified victims, 17 percent were under 18, 54 percent young adults, 24 percent middle-aged, and 4 percent elderly.

Strikingly, 71 percent of those whose ages were known were under 30.

Journalists faced severe risks in 2024, with at least 309 attacks affecting 727 media workers. Nine were killed, 370 injured, 109 assaulted, 95 threatened, 19 arrested, and 134 sued.

During the July–August protests, at least 270 journalists were assaulted, arrested, or threatened on duty, including six who were killed.

HRSS Executive Director Ijjalul Islam said police and security forces were the main perpetrators of rights violations, yet no effective measures were taken by the interim government.

Such action should not be postponed until the next elected government, he said.

Ijjalul added, "Over the past 15 years, members of the forces involved in human rights violations have often received promotions or been reassigned. In particular, those responsible for the killings during the July–August protests should have faced legal proceedings, but this was not carried out promptly.

"There remains a significant gap in implementing the Police Reform Commission's recommendations."

Between July 17 and August 4, more than 950 cases were filed, implicating over 600,000 people and leading to 12,000 arrests, according to the HRSS report.

In the chaos that followed Hasina's resignation, more than 500 police stations, outposts and government offices were attacked, vandalised or torched. Nearly 2,000 houses, vehicles and businesses were looted or destroyed, the report said.

Minority communities also came under attack: 65 incidents left two people dead, 61 injured, and damaged 15 temples, 228 homes, and 240 shops.

HRSS documented at least 3,407 incidents of political violence in

## Army ready to assist

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at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday, noting that the government has announced a time-frame for the polls.

At least four sources with knowledge of the meeting confirmed the contents of his speech to this newspaper. Senior officials attended in person, while others from all cantonments and UN missions joined virtually.

General Waker spoke for about 38 minutes and then responded to questions for nearly an hour.

He said soldiers have been deployed in the field for extended periods, unlike in the past. "We must maintain good relations with everyone and remove any distance that may exist," a source quoted him as saying.

On propaganda about and criticism of the army on social media, he urged restraint. "Different individuals are spreading such things [rumours] for their own vested interests. It is best to respond with professionalism rather than taking immediate action. However, all such offences are being duly documented, and at an appropriate time, legal action will be taken against those responsible," he said, according to another source.

The army chief also asked officers not to be disheartened by disparaging remarks. "There is no need to be upset. Those making such remarks are young, of the age of our children. Once they grow up, they will realise their mistake and feel ashamed."

Waker stressed professionalism, warning that no one should engage in acts of revenge. Without naming anyone, he said an officer is under investigation for alleged links with a political party. "If the allegations are proven, action will be taken. No member of the army can engage in political activities."

Another officer is being probed over allegations of violence against women. "There will be zero tolerance for moral degradation," Gen Waker said. "But nobody will be punished based

<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN &amp; CHILDREN</b>
1,499 women and girls attacked
558 rape cases, 130 gang rapes filed
40 killed after rape
4,378 children suffered abuse
664 Children were killed
<b>ELECTION-RELATED VIOLENCE</b>
781 incidents of violence reported
Violence resulted in 43 deaths (39 AL supporters)
Over 820 homes, businesses damaged
<b>MOB VIOLENCE</b>
201 incidents reported
Mobs caused 179 deaths
<b>ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS</b>
727 media workers targeted
Nine journalists were killed
370 jounros hurt, 95 threatened
134 facing cases
<b>ATTACKS ON MINORITIES</b>
112 incidents reported
Violence resulted in the deaths of 2
28 temples, 284 homes, 240 shops damaged

2024, resulting in 1,180 deaths and 37,051 injuries, including in the July–August protests. More than 15,500 leaders and activists, mostly from BNP Jamaat and Awami League, were arrested. Authorities filed 1,383 cases implicating at least 66,000 individuals and another 660,000 unnamed suspects.

Opposition rallies were frequently disrupted: more than 700 events left 30,000 injured and 10,000 arrested.

The 12th National Parliamentary Election and the 6th Upazila Parishad Election were marred by violence, low turnout, and boycotts. A total of 781 incidents of electoral violence left 43 dead, including 39 Awami League supporters, and 2,538 injured. More than 820 homes and businesses were damaged.

Seventeen people were killed and over 2,500 injured during the parliamentary polls alone. The upazila polls saw 203 violent incidents, 17

deaths, and more than 1,000 injuries.

Violence against women and children remained alarming. In 2024, 1,499 women and girls were attacked, including in 558 rape incidents. As many as 284 of these incidents involved minors. Of these, 130 were gang rapes.

Forty victims, including 22 children, were killed afterwards while 11 survivors died by suicide.

Another 322 women and children faced sexual harassment.

Domestic violence claimed 319 lives, while dowry-related violence killed 48 women and acid attacks left 13 injured.

Domestic violence claimed 319 lives, injured 74 women, and led 127 to die by suicide, while dowry-related violence left 48 women dead, 32 physically assaulted, and six to die by suicide. Thirteen were victims of acid attacks.

At least 4,378 children suffered abuse, resulting in 664 deaths. The July–August protests alone left 143 children dead and more than 3,000 injured.

Ijjalul noted that limited media coverage during the uprising meant many incidents went unreported. "Many incidents did occur, but the published data did not fully capture them," he said.

He added that only 2–3 percent of rape and abuse cases are prosecuted, often taking decades to resolve, with perpetrators shielded by influence and social barriers.

The HRSS report also recorded 32 Cyber Security Act cases against 79 individuals. These cases saw 21 arrests.

Its other findings include a total of 112 incidents of attacks on minorities that left two killed and 83 injured, while 28 temples and 284 homes were damaged.

In 201 incidents of mob violence, 179 were killed and 88 injured.

Labour exploitation caused 439 deaths, including 240 by law enforcement gunfire, according to the HRSS report.

Workplace accidents left 168 dead while nine deaths and four injuries occurred from domestic worker abuse.

At the borders, 32 were killed and 50 injured in incidents involving India's BSF and Myanmar's forces.

HRSS reported 25 extrajudicial killings linked to law enforcement agencies and 102 deaths in prisons.

In its report, the rights group urged the government to hold perpetrators of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances accountable, ensure free and fair elections through an independent Election Commission, reform the judiciary, and protect journalists and rights defenders.

It further called for stronger safeguards for women, children, and minorities; improved prison and labour conditions; repeal of restrictive laws; and greater transparency and accountability in law enforcement and border management, alongside truth, reconciliation, and long-term social cohesion.

### Some parties

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cannot be strong. In a democratic system, elections are the main way to empower people and ensure every citizen's political rights."

Tarique said his party's future politics will be centred around improving people's living standards. "Creating jobs both at home and abroad and ensuring safe employment will be BNP's top priority."

He said if BNP gets the responsibility to run the country with direct support from people's votes, it will be able to quickly implement its plans for the welfare of the country and the people.

"BNP believes that people are the source of all political power. Let us stand with the people, and tell them, 'Vote for the sheaf of paddy, and together we'll build the nation'."

Giving advice to the leaders of the party's volunteer wing, Tarique said, "You are already running campaigns at upazila-level hospitals voluntarily. Please consider launching a union-level cleanliness drive to protect the environment through voluntary efforts."

Tarique also urged everyone to avoid doing anything that might create a negative impression among the people.

He reminded them that people are the strength of BNP and told them to stay close to people by earning their love and showing love in return.

### Case filed

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Development (BMD) filed a case against 1,500 unidentified individuals for looting stones from Sada Pathor. Police have so far arrested five.

Meanwhile, Sylhet divisional commissioner reversed the decision to transfer Fenchuganj upazila nirbahi officer to Companiganj upazila. In a fresh circular yesterday, Habiganj's Chunarughat UNO, Md Robin Miah, was posted as Companiganj UNO.

On Monday, Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet Mohammad Sher Mahbub Murad was transferred and made an officer on special duty (OSD), and Companiganj UNO Azizunnahar was transferred to Fenchuganj Upazila.

The joint task force yesterday recovered an estimated 20,000 cubic feet of looted stones in the Sreepur area of Jaintiapur upazila.