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The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

DHAKA THURSDAY AUGUST 28, 2025

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXXV NO. 215 | BHADRA 13, 1432 BS | www.thedailystar.net | RABIUL AWAL 3, 1443 HIJRI | 16 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS : TK 15.00

STUDENTS' UNIONS

Legal bars, admin delays stall polls in many universities

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

- Out of 56 public universities, only 7 have legal provisions for student unions
- JnU amends rules to allow student union polls
- BRU, IU, BU, and Maulana Bhashani univ students demand act changes to include provision
- No poll initiative yet at BAU, BUET despite existing provisions

While student union elections are scheduled next month at Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, and Rajshahi University, many other public universities remain uncertain about whether polls will ever be held, either due to legal bars or administrative delays.

Some universities are in talks with students and stakeholders, but the students fear that the authorities are stalling instead of acting.

Of 56 public universities across the country, only seven have the legal provision for a central students' union.

Among those without legal provisions, Jagannath University has recently taken a step forward as its syndicate on Tuesday approved the long-awaited constitution for the central students' union.

JnU Vice-Chancellor Prof Rezaul Karim said final procedures would be

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

DUCSU POLLS

Authorities pull down campaign posters, banners

Candidates now reaching voters with leaflets

DU CORRESPONDENT

Candidates for the Dhaka University Central Students' Union polls started reaching out to students with leaflets yesterday, while the university authorities removed banners, festoons, and campaign boards put up across campus in violation of the electoral code of conduct.

From Tuesday, posters and banners were seen at prominent locations, including the Teacher-Student Centre, dormitory areas, VC Chattar, Mall Chattar, the Faculty of Fine Arts, Curzon Hall, and in front of the central library.

These materials were installed by several Ducsu panels such as Swatantra Shikkharthi Oikya, led by Umama Fatema, former

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

A DU staffer removes PVC campaign posters of Ducsu candidates from the university's TSC area yesterday, after the university authorities ordered the removal of all such posters for violating section 7(a) of the electoral code of conduct.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Qader vows to end seat crisis, improve food at DU dorms

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Abdul Qader, VP candidate

Abdul Qader, vice president (VP) candidate from the "Boishommo Birodhi Shikkharthi Sangsad" panel in the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) election, has pledged to resolve the issues relating to food and accommodation and end the "gono room" culture if elected.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Qader, who is contesting from the panel floated by Bangladesh Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad -- a new student body formed by former coordinators of the July uprising -- spoke about his aspirations.

"I was admitted to the university in 2019. Usually, students from across the country come to this university with high hopes, but end up

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Hamim for Ducsu charter changes to ensure rights

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Tanvir B Hamim, GS candidate

Shaikh Tanvir Baree Hamim, the general secretary candidate from the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)-nominated panel in the Dhaka University Central Students' Union election, has pledged to bring major changes to the Ducsu constitution.

He also pledged to utilise Ducsu effectively to resolve students' housing, food, and healthcare problems and to ensure their safety.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Hamim said, "If elected, one major task I want to accomplish is to amend the Ducsu constitution. We believe the Ducsu should comprise only of elected students."

"At present, the vice-chancellor assumes the presidency of this body without election. We want

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Police charge truncheons on BSc engineering students in front of Hotel InterContinental around 1:30pm yesterday as the students started marching towards the chief adviser's residence to press home their job-related demands.

Police charge truncheons on students marching to Jamuna

58 hurt; DMP commissioner apologises; students want home adviser to say sorry; govt forms committee to deal with their demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students have declared a "complete shutdown" at all engineering universities across the country for today over their job-related demands and to protest the police action against students in front of Hotel InterContinental yesterday.

Their declaration came last night after police yesterday charged truncheons and fired teargas shells to disperse protesting students marching towards the chief adviser's residence to press home their demands.

The violence in the afternoon left at least 50 students injured, according to protesters, while the home ministry said eight policemen were also hurt.

The protesters regrouped at Shahbagh and continued their sit-in until evening, demanding an apology from the home adviser.

After the clash, BSc engineering students also blocked roads in other parts of the country, including in Rajshahi and Chattogram.

Later at night, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sheikh Mohammad Sajjat Ali went to Shahbagh and apologised to the students. He said a committee would be formed today to investigate the incident involving police.

Meanwhile, the government formed an eight-member committee led by Energy Adviser Muhammad

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

NEW INITIATIVE FOR GOVT HOSPITALS

Digital monitoring system for medical equipment by Dec

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The health ministry has moved to introduce a digital monitoring system to ensure that medical devices in public hospitals remain functional, with patients complaining of long delays in diagnosis and treatment due to equipment breakdowns.

In the first phase, 300 medical devices in 114 government hospitals across the country will be brought under the "Medical Equipment Maintenance Information and Monitoring System" by December this year, said officials.

Seven types of equipment have been selected for continuous monitoring, based on their critical role in diagnosing and treating serious illnesses, including cancer. The devices include MRI, CT Scan, X-ray and radiotherapy machines, they added.

SUFFERINGS OF PATIENTS

Sixty-one-year-old Sakina Begum travelled to Dhaka from Patuakhali in mid-July, seeking better medical care. Doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) advised her on July 28 to undergo radiotherapy without delay.

But she had to wait nearly three weeks to receive the service as two of the three radiotherapy machines at the country's largest hospital have been non-functional for years.

"Had all three machines been operational, my mother could have received treatment on time," said Sakina's son Hadis Khan on Monday.

"We even contacted Barishal [Sher-e-Bangla] Medical College

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1