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CHATTOGRAM-DHAKA PIPELINE

# Inaugurated 20 days ago but no fuel delivered

MD NAZRUL ISLAM, Ctg

Diesel supply through the Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel Pipeline is yet to start, almost 20 days after its launch, as the authorities proceeded with inauguration despite having issues during trial runs.

Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, adviser to power, energy, and mineral resources ministry, opened the 250km pipeline on August 16.

Officials now say its commercial operation has stalled due to discrepancies found during trial runs, specifically mismatches between the amount of diesel supplied and received.

Acknowledging the issues, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) Chairman Md Amin Ul Ahsan yesterday told The Daily Star that they instructed the project implementation authority to investigate the matter.

“Commercial diesel supply through the pipeline cannot begin until the problem is resolved. We have asked the authorities to solve the problem urgently so that such issues do not recur in the future,” said Amin.

However, the BPC chairman told this newspaper on August 5 that after several successful trial runs of diesel supply, they set August 16 as the commissioning date.

Responding to the question why the pipeline was inaugurated despite having issues, AKM Azadur Rahman,

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The Gulshan-1 intersection sees chaotic traffic and jaywalking despite an automatic signal system for vehicles and pedestrians. Drivers illegally turn towards Kamal Ataturk Avenue, forcing police to put up a rope barrier, while pedestrians cross even on green signals. The result: gridlock. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

# India orders states to set up detention camps

### Biometric info now required for Indian visa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

All Indian states and union territories were asked to set up designated detention camps for undocumented immigrants apprehended in India and restrict their movement pending deportation.

An order was issued by the Indian home ministry under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, effective from September 1.

It said a foreigner applying for any Indian visa will be required to provide biometric information to the issuing authority before the visa is granted.

The home ministry order also said foreigners may be refused entry into or stay in India if they are convicted on charges of being a member of a banned outfit, anti-national activities, espionage, rape and murder, acts of terrorism, human trafficking, child trafficking, child

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## DUCSU ELECTIONS

# SC ends uncertainty, polls to be held as scheduled

### Student suspended over rape threat to candidate

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for holding the Dhaka University Central Students' Union election on September 9 as per schedule.

The apex court upheld its chamber judge's previous order that stayed a High Court directive halting the Ducusu election till October 30.

A seven-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed, passed the order after hearing a petition filed by the DU authorities challenging the HC order.

Md Shishir Manir, legal counsel for the DU authorities, told The Daily Star that following the SC order, there is no legal bar for holding the Ducusu election on the scheduled date.

Fahmida Alam, candidate for Liberation War and Democratic Movement Affairs secretary from the "Aporajeyo '71-Adommo '24" panel, filed an appeal challenging the candidacy of SM Farhad, president of DU Islami Chhatra Shibir and the general secretary candidate of the Oikyabaddho Shikkharthi Jote panel.

She alleged that Farhad was involved with the now-banned Bangladesh Chhatra League.

After the SC passed the order, the Shibir-backed panel and Boishommo Birodhi Shikkharthi Sangsad panel held separate press briefings at Madhur

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# Will base academic reforms on the ideals of '71 and '24

### VP candidate Nayem Hasan tells Star

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

If elected vice-president in the upcoming Dhaka University Central Students' Union election, Nayem Hasan has pledged to focus on academic reform grounded in the spirit of 1971 and 2024.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Nayem, the VP candidate from the "Aporajeyo '71-Adommo '24" panel, said, "Since the uprising, there have been attempts to create a controversy over the Liberation War, or 1971. Efforts are being made to pit 1971 and 2024 against each other.

"I would say both are equally important for us. One was the struggle for national liberation, the other was the fight against fascism. We were all comrades in the 2024 movement. There's no scope to single out anyone as a so-called 'July warrior.' What we need now is educational reform based on the ideals of 1971 and 2024. This is the work I want to do if I win the Ducusu election."

The panel, composed of three left-leaning student organisations – Chhatra Union (faction), Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, and JSD Chhatra League BCL – was



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# Forming 'opposition union' will make Ducusu work better

### GS candidate Mahin Sarkar tells Star

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

If elected, Mahin Sarkar, general secretary candidate of the independent panel "DU First" in the upcoming Ducusu elections, has pledged to form a shadow opposition union with defeated candidates, which may serve as a pressure group to make the student body more effective.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Mahin, a former coordinator of Students Against Discrimination, blamed the absence of such pressure bodies for Ducusu's ineffectiveness.

He said, "I think past Ducusus were ineffective as they could not fulfil students' expectations. Candidates are making the same promises they made in 2019, proving that no real work has been done. This happened because there was no opposition union. If elected, I will establish one with the defeated candidates, ensuring an all-party structure to reform student politics."

Mahin said students had witnessed his contribution during the July uprising.

"I want to restructure student politics by somewhat minimising it. Since my first year, I have observed



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# Manifestos expose issues unresolved at DU for years

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The manifestos of the panels contesting the Dhaka University Central Students' Union elections lay bare how the university is still mired in long-unresolved problems even after more than a century of its founding.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

From improving food quality and accommodation to expanding healthcare services, six major panels pledge to address issues that have plagued student life for decades. Similar promises were made during the 2019 Ducusu elections -- held after a 28-year hiatus -- but those largely went unfulfilled.

The six panels with similar pledges are: Jatiyata-badi Chhatra Dal; Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed "Oikyabaddho Shikkharthi Jote"; left-leaning alliance-backed "Pratirodh Parshad"; Bangladesh Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad's "Boishommo Birodhi Shikkharthi Sangsad"; Bangladesh Chhatra Odhikar Parishad-backed "Ducusu for Change"; and independent panel "Swatantra Shikkharthi Oikya".

Analysing each of their manifestos, The Daily Star found ensuring Ducusu and hall elections every year to be the most common pledge. Some of the other pledges are beyond Ducusu's jurisdiction, though each panel has presented different methods of implementation.

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# World's largest sand battery switches on

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The world's largest sand battery has been inaugurated in Finland, capable of storing vast amounts of energy generated from renewable sources like solar and wind.

The 13-metre-tall structure, which is situated in the southern municipality of Pornainen, is able to store up to 100 MWh of energy – enough to power roughly 10,000 homes for a day.

The thermal storage system, developed by Finnish firm Polar Night Energy, works by heating up low-grade sand with excess electricity produced through renewable energy.

The sand can then store this heat at temperatures of around 500C for weeks at a time until the grid requires electricity again.

When required, the sand battery releases hot air, which is used to warm up water for the local heating network.

The hot water is used to heat homes, offices, a school and a swimming pool in the Kankaanpää region, replacing the area's old woodchip power plant and reducing carbon emissions by around 70 percent.



Setting tyres on fire, members of Gono Odhikar Parishad demonstrated at Paltan intersection yesterday afternoon, protesting the attack on party President Nurul Haque Nur. The protest caused severe traffic congestion in the area.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# AL leader found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police have recovered the body of a local Awami League leader from beside an embankment in Ashashuni upazila of Satkhira.

The deceased, identified as Bijon Kumar Dey, 62, of Paithali village in Buddhata union, was president of the ward-8 Awami League unit and also involved in shrimp fry trading.

According to his younger brother, Nirmal Dey, Bijon left home around 5:00pm on Tuesday for Paithali Bazar. When he did not return by 10:00pm, his son, Pranab Dey, tried to reach him by phone but found it switched off.

Yesterday around 9:00am, locals spotted a body near the embankment in neighbouring Chumuria village and informed the family. Pranab rushed to the spot and identified the body as his father's before alerting police.

Sub-inspector Abdur Rahim of Ashashuni Police Station said the body was recovered and sent to Satkhira Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy after an inquest report was prepared.

Officer-in-Charge Shamsul Arefin said, "Primary evidence suggests it was a murder. There were injury marks on both of his legs." He added that a case is expected to be filed soon by the victim's son.