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DUCSU AGS CANDIDATES

Rights, safety, reforms their top agendas

Star talks with eight aspirants

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE, SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK and TANGILA TASnim

A total of 25 candidates are contesting for the post of assistant general secretary (AGS) in this year's Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) election, scheduled for September 9.

The AGS candidates, vying for one of the most crucial posts in Ducusu, have pledged to safeguard students' rights, ensure campus security, eliminate inequality, and build a democratic, student-friendly university.

The Daily Star spoke to eight of them, whose perspectives and pledges reflect the aspirations and challenges of the student community.

ADITE PROMISES INCLUSIVE CAMPUS

Adite Islam, a Philosophy student contesting from the "Aparajeyo 71 Odromo 24" panel, placed women's security at the top of her agenda.

"Ensuring women's safety will be my foremost duty. If the administration fails, I will take both legal and administrative



ADITE ISLAM



ARMANUL HAQUE



ASHREFA KATUN



TANVIR AL HADI MAYED



TAHMID AL MUDDASSIR



MOHIUDDIN KHAN



JABIR AHMED JUBEL



MOHIUDDIN RONI

measures to guarantee security," she said.

Her manifesto includes building new dormitories for female students, increasing research budgets, and ensuring a more democratic and active Ducusu.

She also pledged to preserve the university's autonomy and work to amend the undemocratic provisions of the 1973 ordinance and Ducusu charter.

"Some organisations are attempting to normalise war criminals and those accused of crimes against humanity, thereby distorting history. I will move to revive the Paribesh Parishad to declare them outcasts," she said.

ARMANUL VOWS TO FIGHT FOR RIGHTS

Armanul Haque, an International Relations student, is running from the Independent Student Unity panel. He had earlier contested for a member post in the 2019 Ducusu election.

"This election is the continuation of my previous struggles and movements," he said.

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RUCSU POLLS
JCD, Shibir announce panels

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University unit of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir yesterday announced their panels of candidates for the upcoming Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucusu) elections, scheduled for September 25.

JCD central organising secretary Aman Ullah Aman declared its full panel around 12:30pm on the university's Shaheed Minar premises.

The top three nominations include Sheikh Nur Uddin Abir (2017-18 session) for vice-president (VP), Naiful Jibon (2017-18 session) for general secretary (GS), and Jahin Biswas Esha (2020-21 session) for assistant general secretary (AGS).

The other secretary posts will be contested, among others, by Nargis Khatun (sports), Mahfuzur Rahman Shawon (assistant sports), Abdullah Al Kafi

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Candidates reflect on DU's legacy, call for democratic reforms

Univ Teachers' Network hosts dialogue

STAR REPORT

Speakers at an event organised by the University Teachers' Network yesterday highlighted the university's historic role in democratic struggles and the liberation movement.

The programme "Democratic Struggles and Liberation Movement" featured Ducusu election candidates sharing their visions. It was held before Dhaka University's Arts building.

Among the speakers were former Ducusu VP Mahmudur Rahman Manina, GS Dr Moshraq Hossain, and Ducusu candidates Abidul Islam Khan, Meghmallar Bosu, Sheikh Tasnim Afroz Imai, Armanul Haque, and Jannati Bulbul.

The candidates discussed the university's pivotal role in the 1971 Liberation War, the democratic movements of the 1990s, and the 2024 July uprising, linking these struggles to their plans if elected.

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Maintain neutrality, avoid political bias in polls duties

Home adviser urges police officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday advised police officers to maintain neutrality and refrain from aligning with political parties during the upcoming elections.

The adviser also emphasised the need for police officers to shake off past election experiences and focus on their role in ensuring a peaceful and secure election.

"Do not act like political workers or provide undue advantage to any group," he said.

Jahangir further called for police to face any challenges with a calm demeanour, using legal means to address all issues.

The adviser's remarks came during the inauguration of the election training programme to increase capacity and expertise at the Rajarbagh

Police Auditorium, aimed at enhancing the capabilities of nearly 1,50,000 police personnel ahead of the election.

Highlighting the significance of the training, Jahangir expressed his confidence that the

underscored the importance of professionalism in the police force.

"The real challenge lies in transforming the mindset of officers to align with impartiality and professionalism," he said.

Nasimul Ghani, senior secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, emphasised that the ultimate goal of the training is to ensure a peaceful, safe election while restoring the lost honour of the police force.

He urged trainers to instil this clear purpose in every officer, ensuring that the message of neutrality and professionalism reaches even the lowest ranks.

IGP Baharul Alam, who presided over the programme, said the police's role in the upcoming elections will be closely monitored both

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programme would help officers perform their duties with professionalism, discipline, and neutrality.

Khuda Baksh Chowdhury, special assistant to the chief adviser for home affairs,

Rise above all divisions: CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed has called for all to rise above divisions of religion, gender, and race to build a peaceful and inclusive Bangladesh.

He made the comment to the media following the shocking incident in Rajbari's Goalanda, where the body of Nurul Haque, widely known as Nural Pagla, was exhumed and set on fire on September 5.

"Your religion, your gender, your race, your language, or the colour of your skin -- none of these should matter. We must rise above all divisions," he said when journalists asked about the Rajbari event.

Earlier, he attended a reception for a Vatican delegation at Dhaka's Archbishop's House on Saturday. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) organised the event to welcome Cardinal George Jacob Koovakad, prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue.

The delegation arrived in Dhaka on a weeklong visit on Saturday morning to promote interfaith dialogue and social harmony.

Asked about differences on some of the pertinent social and political issues in Bangladesh as the country transitions to democracy after a



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ICT ORDINANCE

There's room for confusion

Says EC Anwarul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Anwarul Islam Sarker yesterday expressed confusion over the draft amendment to the International Crimes Tribunal Ordinance 2025, recently approved by the Advisory Council.

The proposed amendment includes a provision that would bar any individual formally charged by the International Crimes Tribunal from holding public office or being elected in local or national elections.

"I came to know about the matter from the media. The question you're asking does contain some confusing elements," Anwarul Islam Sarker told reporters yesterday at his EC office.

He made the comments when asked about the changes proposed in the ICT Ordinance by the government, as well as the amendments to the Representation of the People Order (RPO), 1972, proposed by the EC regarding the disqualification of individuals from contesting in general elections. "The reason for sending it there is to check whether it conflicts with the Constitution or any existing laws. They will review all these aspects before making a final decision," he added.

The EC has proposed stricter amendments to the Representation of the People Order (RPO), 1972, including a provision barring fugitives from contesting national polls. On September 2, they sent the amendment proposals to the law ministry for vetting.

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Unscrupulous traders continue business by illegally setting up makeshift furniture shops occupying the entire footpath in Segunbagicha, Dhaka. They have even placed chairs on the adjacent road, leaving little space for pedestrians to move safely. The photo was taken yesterday.

'Ensure my safety'

Abu Sayed killing case prosecution witness urges ICT-2

STAR ONLINE REPORT

A key prosecution witness (PW) in the crimes against humanity case over the killing of Begum Rokeya University student Abu Sayed today appealed to the International Crimes Tribunal-2 to ensure his safety and security.

The witness, Dr Razibul Islam, assistant professor and head of the forensic medicine department at Rangpur Medical College, conducted the postmortem on Sayed, who was shot dead during the July 2024 uprising in Rangpur.

The doctor narrated that under pressure from police, the Rangpur Medical College authorities, and a pro-Awami League Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (Swachip) leader, he was forced to alter the original autopsy report five times.

Earlier, he made an

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