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DUCSU AGS CANDIDATES

Rights, safety, reforms their top agendas

Star talks with eight Ducsus 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 (Ducsus) election, scheduled for September 9.

The AGS candidates, vying for one of the most crucial posts in Ducsus, 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 Odoromo 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 KHATUN



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 Ducsus.

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

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

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RUCSU POLLS

JCD declares full panel

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal yesterday announced its full panel of candidates for the upcoming Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucsus) elections, scheduled for September 25.

The lineup was formally declared by JCD central organising secretary Aman Ullah Aman 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), Nafiul 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 by Nargis Khatun (sports), Mahfuzur Rahman Shawon (assistant sports), Abdullah Al Kafi (cultural), Shahriar Alam Othi (assistant cultural), Swapna Akter

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6.44kg of ketamine seized while being trafficked via courier

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) has seized 6.44kg of ketamine that was being trafficked to Italy via a courier service. The drugs were dissolved into the fabric of multiple towels, as part of a covert technique to smuggle narcotics.

DNC also claimed to have arrested two suspects – Masudur Rahman Zilani, 28, and Arifur Rahman, 43 – in connection with the trafficking operation.

Ketamine, originally used as an anaesthetic during surgeries, has increasingly been misused as a recreational drug, especially as a "party drug", said DNC Director General Hasan Maruf.

Acting on a tip-off, a DNC team went to the courier service in Tongi, Gazipur on Friday and inspected a suspicious khaki-coloured carton. Inside, they found seven white towels within which 6.44kg of ketamine had been dissolved, revealed during a chemical test.

Maruf disclosed the updates at a press conference at the DNC headquarters in Segunbagicha yesterday.

The DNC then used the sender's address, CCTV footage, and additional intelligence to track down the sender, leading to Masudur's arrest from Chandpur. Further investigations revealed Masudur had been working with Arifur, a known member of an international drug trafficking ring.

A raid was conducted by the DNC team in Faridpur where they arrested Arifur.

"During interrogation, Arifur confessed to his role in the operation and his association with the international drug smuggling network," said Maruf.

The arrested individuals, Masudur and Arifur, have been charged under the Narcotics Control Act of 2018, and further investigations are ongoing, added the DNC official.

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

Khuda Baksh Chowdhury,

special assistant to the chief adviser for home affairs, 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

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ICT ORDINANCE

EC Anwarul questions draft changes

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

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We must 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 mass uprising, the chief justice said there needs to be more dialogue and joint efforts to continue.

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Unscrupulous traders continue business by illegally setting up a makeshift furniture shop 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.

ILLEGAL SHISHA BAR

Salim, eight others sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court on Saturday sent Salim Prodhan, a controversial businessman and eight others to jail in a case on charges of running an illegal shisha bar and lounge in Dhaka's Baridhara area.

The eight others are Rakibul Islam Rafi, Sadikul Islam Suman, Toufiqueul Islam, Rifat Hasan, Robiul Hasan, Minhajur Rahman Tajbir, Mehedi Hasan and Saimum Islam.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Minhazur Rahman passed the order after Md Habibur Rahman, a sub-inspector of Gulshan Police Station and also the investigation officer of the case, produced them before it, seeking their confinement until the investigation is completed.

While the defence submitted an application, seeking bail for them which date was fixed today for hearing.