



## Shibir leading in top two Ducsu posts

### Counting going on till 2:45am report; turnout 78% in polls marked by festivities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed vice-president candidate Abu Shadik Kayem was leading the Ducsu polls in six out of 18 halls of Dhaka University.

The results announced by the presiding officers of respective halls showed that Shadik won a total of 5,676 votes while his nearest candidate Abidul Islam Khan, from the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal-backed panel, got 1,509 as of filing this report at 2:45am today.

The total number of votes from Dr Muhammad Shahidullah, Amar Ekushey Hall, Fazlul Huq Hall, Kabi Sufia Kamal, Muktiyoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall and Shamsunnahar hall is 15,324. Around 78 percent of



Shadik Kayem (VP)



SM Farhad (GS)

39,775 votes were cast.

Meanwhile, Shibir-backed general secretary candidate SM Farhad was leading in three halls, polling 2,019 votes. JCD-backed Tanvir Barea Hamim was second in line with 810 votes.

Both Shadik and Farhad contested the polls under "Oikyaboddho Shikkharthi Jote" panel. Shadik was immediate past president of Shibir's DU unit while Farhad currently holds the post.

Meanwhile, thousands of Dhaka University students and candidates waited anxiously for the announcement of the Ducsu election results until 2:30am today, over 10 hours since votes were cast in the much-anticipated polls.

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Smoke rises from the parliament complex as protesters set fire to it during a curfew in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Gen Z-led protests topple Nepal govt

### PM resigns; horrific scenes as protesters defy curfew, torch parliament, ministries, homes, offices of politicians and parties

AGENCIES

Nepali youth protesters yesterday set parliament ablaze as Nepali Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli obeyed furious crowds to quit, a day after at least 19 people were killed in one of the crackdowns in country's history.

Protesters flooded the streets of Kathmandu, some jubilant and celebrating, others setting fire to government buildings and brandishing automatic rifles.

The rapid descent into chaos shocked many, and Nepal's military warned against "activities that could lead the country into unrest and instability" in the Himalayan nation of 30 million people.

Protests began on Monday with demands that the government lift a ban on social media and tackle corruption, with police trying to crush the rallies -- including using live ammunition, according to Amnesty International.

Yesterday, despite the government rolling back its order and the apps returning online, protests reignited, spreading from the capital to multiple cities nationwide.

"The Nepal government has fallen, the youth have won the protest," said key protest figure Sudan Gurung, in a post on newly-restored Instagram. "The future is ours."

The unrest is the worst in decades in the poor Himalayan country, which is wedged between India and China and has struggled with political and economic instability since protests led to the abolition of



- Protesters demand end to graft, nepotism
- Prominent politicians assaulted; airport shut
- UN, India urge calm; Nepal army call for restraint
- Social media ban lifted after 19 killed in clashes
- Dhaka urges citizens in Nepal to stay safe
- India tightens security along Nepal border

its monarchy in 2008. Since then, the country has seen 13 governments.

Young Nepalis have for years been frustrated at the lack of jobs, and millions have gone to work in the Middle East, South Korea and Malaysia, mainly on construction sites, and send money home.

A key trigger for the protests, say activists and experts, has been a growing perception that the families

of the ruling elite live lives of relative luxury in an otherwise poor nation, exposing deep inequalities.

On Nepali social media, the term "nepo kids" -- a play on nepotism -- was viral in the weeks leading up to Monday's protests. The term is commonly used to refer to the children of top government officials and ministers.

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Smiling students show their cards as they wait in a queue to cast their vote at Dhaka University's TSC centre during Ducsu polls yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Some allegations in otherwise smooth voting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Voters stood in long queues in blazing September heat yesterday, eager to cast what was, for most, the first ballot of their lives.

From Curzon Hall to Udayan Higher Secondary School, polling centres teemed with students, the campus buzzing with festivity despite scattered allegations of irregularities and rival panels trading charges throughout the day.

The long-awaited polls began at 8:00am and continued till 4:00pm across eight centres. The Daily Star correspondents stationed on the ground observed that voting remained largely peaceful and orderly.

At Udayan, covering 6,169 voters from four halls, ballot boxes had been shown empty to polling agents and journalists before voting began. Within the first hour, around 900 ballots were cast.

Students took an average of 7-8 minutes to fill 41 Ducsu and 13 hall

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## A new breed of politics may take shape

### Says former Ducsu GS Mushtuq Husain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mushtuq Husain, who was elected Ducsu general secretary in 1989, expects the rise of a new generation of politics in Bangladesh in the wake of this year's central student union polls in Dhaka University.



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## PSC working to cut BCS recruitment time to 1 year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Public Service Commission is working to reduce the duration of recruitment process from three and a half years to one year, under the slogan "One BCS, One Year," in an effort to establish a merit-based and discrimination-free institution.

Its member Prof Chowdhury Saima Ferdous said they want administrative independence and full autonomy of the organisation to achieve this target.

The PSC eyes to achieve the one-year target by adopting measures including a customised circular system, an in-house printing press, an assessment centre, a revised syllabus, enhanced question confidentiality, capacity

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People rush towards a TCB truck offering a limited supply of essential commodities at subsidised prices. In the scramble, an elderly man stumbles and falls. With market prices soaring, many from lower-income groups find themselves in a desperate bind. The photo was taken on the capital's Abdul Gani Road yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Women's unpaid labour worth Tk 570,000cr

### Says BBS report with data from 2021

NILIMA JAHAN

Women in Bangladesh carried out an estimated Tk 570,000 crore worth of unpaid household and care work in 2021, according to the country's first Household Production Satellite Account (HPSA).

Unpaid work overall was valued at Tk 670,000 crore, which is equivalent to 18.9 percent of the country's GDP -- with women performing 85 percent (16.14 percent of GDP) of this labour, according to the report, which was released yesterday.

The monetary value of unpaid household work alone stood at Tk 400,000 crore, with women contributing Tk 340,000 crore.

Meanwhile, unpaid care work was valued at Tk 270,000 crore, with women responsible for Tk 230,000 crore alone.

Men's contribution remained significantly lower, totalling around Tk 100,000 crore.

Prepared by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and UN Women Bangladesh, with support from the global Women Count programme and technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank, the HPSA draws on data from the Time Use Survey 2021 and the Labour Force Survey 2022.

The initiative followed the interim government's pledge in 2025-26 fiscal year's budget to integrate unpaid labour into official GDP calculations.

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- Unpaid work in 2021 valued at Tk 670,000cr
- Women's share 85% of total, 16.14% of GDP
- Women spend 7.3 times more time than men on unpaid work