



DUCSU POLLS AFTER SIX YEARS... With enthusiasm and excitement, students of Dhaka University thronged the university campus yesterday as the long-awaited Ducusu election was held after six years. Voting began at 8:00am across eight centres on the campus, with nearly 40,000 registered voters and 471 candidates contesting 28 central posts. Students waited in queues, cast their ballots, and roamed the campus with friends to witness the election festivity. The balloting took place in 810 booths amid tight security and continued until 4:00pm. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Candidates make final push ahead of Jucusu polls



JU CORRESPONDENT

The 12-day campaign for the Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union (Jucusu) and hall elections, which began on August 29, ended yesterday.

The long-awaited election will take place tomorrow from 9:00am to 5:00pm, marking the first Jucusu election in 33 years since 1992.

A total of 620 candidates are contesting 340 posts across the central and hall unions, including 448 men and 172 women.

For the 25 central union posts, 179 candidates are in the race — 132 men and 45 women.

An analysis shows nearly 60 percent of hall posts are either uncontested or vacant. Out of 315 positions across 11 male and 10 female dormitories, 131 are uncontested and 68 remain vacant.

There are 11,919 registered voters, including 6,102 men and 5,817 women.

With women making up almost half of the electorate, most panels pledged

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Will rise above party lines to work for all

Jucusu VP candidate Sheikh Sadi tells *Star*

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Sheikh Sadi Hasan, vice president candidate from the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal-backed panel in the Jucusu election, has pledged to ensure that the culture of guestrooms and gonorooms never returns to the campus if he wins.

The Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union election is scheduled to be held tomorrow.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Sadi, president of the Chhatra Dal unit of Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall, said he was nominated as his organisation found him capable.

"Chhatra Dal has always carried out student-friendly activities across institutions. Students have benefited from our initiatives, which is why I believe they will vote for me," he said.

"Over the past 15 years of fascist rule, guestrooms and gonorooms [common rooms] plagued educational institutions. My top priority will be to make sure this toxic culture never returns. I will prove this

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6



Want to adopt a structural master plan for JU

Jucusu GS candidate Sharan Ehsan tells *Star*

ABU TALHA

Mohammad Sharan Ehsan, general secretary candidate for the left-leaning "Sampriti Oikya" panel in the Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union election, will work to include the election schedule and dates in the academic calendar to ensure continuity if elected.

The Jucusu election, scheduled for tomorrow, is being held for the first time in 33 years, since 1992.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Sharan, a student of the Department of Drama and Dramatics, said he decided to contest after receiving trust and encouragement from fellow students and well-wishers.

"In their opinion, just as there was a lack of trust in Chhatra League or Awami League before August 5, many political parties and organisations also failed to retain students' trust afterwards. But cultural activists like us have always been seen as a place of trust," he said.

Confident about his chances, Sharan

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



Will work to build a student-friendly campus

Jucusu VP candidate Arifullah talks to *Star*

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Arifullah, the vice president (VP) candidate of the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed Samannito Shikkharthi Jote panel in the Jucusu polls, has pledged to resolve session jams and build a student-friendly campus, if elected.

The Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union election is scheduled for September 11.

He also expressed a strong stance on holding Jucusu elections regularly.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Arifullah, a student of the Pharmacy Department, said, "Our first pledge is that Jucusu elections must be held every year. We will try our best to ensure that Jucusu is implemented annually."

Speaking about problems faced by students, he said, "Many departments are suffering from severe session jams. For example, in Pharmacy, it takes seven years to complete a five-year honours degree. Around 10-11 departments face the same issue."

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



77 percent pregnant, postpartum women face depression, anxiety

Finds icddr,b study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pregnant and postpartum women in the country face serious mental health challenges, according to a recent study by icddr,b's Advancing Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (AdSEARCH) programme.

The study found that 77 percent of women visiting health facilities during pregnancy or after childbirth were diagnosed with depression or anxiety, with 66 per cent experiencing both conditions simultaneously.

Conducted between 2022 and 2025 across seven district and sub-district hospitals, the research observed 7,500 women.

Common symptoms included mood swings, fatigue, sleep disturbances, agitation, lack of concentration, and suicidal thoughts. Anxiety symptoms such as nervousness, restlessness, and fearfulness were also widespread.

The findings of the study, titled "Enhancing Access to Mental Health Service Through Telemedicine Health Service at Wellbeing Centre in Bangladesh",

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expand Wellbeing Centres
- Increase govt investment in mental healthcare
- Ensure implementation of Mental Health Act and Policy
- Prioritise follow-up care for women receiving counselling
- Address mental health as a national development priority

were presented at an event at icddr,b headquarters in Mohakhali yesterday.

At the programme, experts said mental health issues during pregnancy and postpartum not only affect mothers' well-being but also raise the risk of serious physical complications and even suicide.

Bangladesh faces a severe shortage of mental health professionals, with only 260 psychiatrists and 565 psychologists

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



A protest rally at the capital's Shyamoli Park yesterday demanded protection of the Sundarbans from pollution caused by coal-fired power plants in various coastal districts. Organised jointly by Dhoritry Rokkhaiy Amra, Bangladesh Krishok Federation, Riverine People, and 17 other groups, the event called for urgent action to safeguard the Unesco World Heritage site.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN