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can impose
PR without
people's
mandate****Says Amir Khosru**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP
Standing
Committee
member
Amir
Khosru
Mahmud

Chowdhury yesterday said the European Parliament delegation understood that introducing proportional representation (PR) in Bangladesh's elections would only be possible if parliament passed it.

"The people's mandate is needed. A few people sitting around a table, some uneducated political parties, cannot make this decision on behalf of the people in advance," he told reporters at the European Union Embassy in Dhaka's Gulshan.

Khosru made the
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**A delegation of Members of the European Parliament led by Mounir Satouri meets Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday.**

PHOTO: PID

**No security
threat centring
Durga Puja****Says home adviser**

STAR REPORT

Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday assured that there is no security threat centring the upcoming Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of Bangladesh's Hindu community.

"The law-and-order situation will remain stable during the festivity. No problem will arise," he told reporters after inspecting security arrangements at the Ramna Kali Temple in Dhaka. "Do not pay attention to rumours."

Jahangir said the government has increased its allocation for this year's Durga Puja to Tk 5 crore, up from Tk 4 crore last year. For 15 years prior, the allocation had remained fixed at Tk 2 crore, he said.

Expressing hope that this year's Puja would
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JNU'S SECOND CAMPUS**Six years on, project still
stuck in first phase****Authorities blame bureaucratic hurdles, fund delays**

RAKIB MADBER

Despite repeated student protests, government intervention, and even army involvement, the long-awaited second campus of Jagannath University (JnU) in Keraniganj has seen little progress, six years after land acquisition began.

The project, once billed as a solution to the chronic space crisis at JnU, remains stuck in its first phase.

Meanwhile, the main campus is supposed to take shape in the second phase of the project, which remains a distant prospect, leaving thousands of students frustrated.

Over the long delay and due to mounting frustration, JnU students launched a protest in January this year, prompting the education ministry to hand over part of the work to the Bangladesh Army, with a revised deadline of

December 2026.

However, eight months have passed since then, but the progress remains minimal.

A recent visit to the site revealed only four visible components -- land development, a boundary wall, an engineering building, and



a pond ghat.

Of these, work on the engineering building has been halted over corruption allegations. The boundary wall and sand filling are progressing slowly, while only the pond ghat appears close to

completion.

Students allege that despite army oversight, the same contractor who failed over the past six years still holds the first-phase work order.

"Those who could not finish in six years -- how will they deliver in just a year?" asked Adiba Naomi, a student of Mass Communication and Journalism. "Corruption and bureaucratic delays seem to be the main obstacles," she said.

Officials involved in the project pointed to delays in land acquisition and master plan approval as the primary barriers.

They also pointed to administrative red tape, suspension of funds, tender complications, and corruption allegations that stalled the project repeatedly. Even after the army was formally assigned, several

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**Kamal Ahmed
joins Star as
consulting
editor**

STAR REPORT

Kamal Ahmed, a journalist with over three decades of experience in international and national media, has joined The Daily Star as consulting editor effective from September 16.

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said, "His appointment marks a significant step towards strengthening the paper's mission of independent, credible and professional journalism."

Kamal's career includes
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**22% of sex trade
victims minors
in Bangladesh****Speakers tell event**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 22 percent of victims of commercial sexual exploitation (abuse of a person, or a minor, through sexual activities in exchange for money, goods, or other benefits) in Bangladesh are children, said speakers at an event yesterday.

They shared the information at the launch of "Project Shurakkha", an initiative of International Justice Mission (IJM) to protect minors from sex trafficking.

At the inaugural event at a hotel in the capital, IJM presented alarming figures, estimating that 20-50 percent of Bangladesh's sex trade involves children.

About 40,000 to 100,000 minors are being involved in such trade in brothels, streets, hotels, spas, massage parlours, and private homes, IJM estimates.

Citing a 2023 report by Trafficking in Persons, IJM said an estimated 30,000 girls were victims of
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Fear silences child trafficking victims. They cannot reveal their situation or location. That is why we must identify them properly and take action in the right places.

DAUD MIAH
Director general,
NGO Affairs Bureau

RUCSU POLLS**JCD-backed
panel places six-
point demand**

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal-backed panel "Oikyaboddho Notun Projonmo" has submitted a six-point demand to the chief election commissioner ahead of the Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucsu) polls.

The memorandum was handed over at around 1:00pm yesterday.

The demands include using transparent ballot boxes, preparing a voter list with photographs to prevent fake or proxy voting, manual vote counting, barring outsiders from entering within 100 metres of polling centres, setting up stronger security to avert chaos, and ensuring a level playing field by curbing black money while monitoring equal enforcement of the electoral code of conduct for all candidates.

During the submission, vice president (VP) candidate Sheikh Nur Uddin Abir said, "I notice a negligent attitude from the administration. I urge you to be more active. We don't want to boycott;

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**Deadline extended
by a day for Cucsu
form submission**

CU CORRESPONDENT

Despite the deadline for collecting nomination forms for the Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucsu) election ending on Tuesday, the authorities extended it by a day, which ended yesterday.

At the same time, the submission deadline was also pushed back by a day and will now end today.

Prof Dr Ariful Haque Siddique, member secretary of the Cucsu Election Commission, confirmed the extension yesterday, saying it was made in response to students' requests.

"Students have spontaneously collected the nomination papers today [yesterday], and they will now be able to submit them tomorrow [today] between 9:30am and 5:00pm," he said.

Earlier, the CU unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal submitted an application seeking a two-day extension for collecting and submitting the forms yesterday, which was the previous deadline for submitting nomination papers.

On the extended final day, 40 students collected nomination forms for Cucsu, while 34 did so for the hall unions.

With this, a total of 1,162 forms have been collected so far -- 528 for Cucsu and 634 for the hall unions. Of them, 371 nomination papers have already been submitted.

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**A flock of pigeons flies over rice-laden boats anchored along the riverbank, creating a lively scene of rural trade and nature. The photo was taken at Balikhla Ferry Ghat in Karimganj upazila of Kishoreganj yesterday.**

PHOTO: TAFSILUL AZIZ

**Five die of
dengue,
622 get
hospitalised**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five dengue patients died while 622 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, three of the deaths occurred in areas under Rajshahi division, and two in Dhaka South City Corporation.

With the new fatalities and cases, the total number of dengue-related deaths has risen to 161, while the total number of cases has reached 39,814 this year.

Of the total cases, 37,688 patients have been released so far. Currently, 1,965 dengue patients are receiving treatment in different hospitals across the country, including 1,236 patients from outside Dhaka.

