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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পুবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

No party  
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  
SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## 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

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Deadline extended  
by a day for Cucusu  
form submission

CU CORRESPONDENT

Despite the deadline for collecting nomination forms for the Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucusu) 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 Cucusu 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 Cucusu, while 34 did so for the hall unions.

With this, a total of 1,162 forms have been collected so far -- 528 for Cucusu 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 Karinganj upazila of Kishoreganj yesterday.

## RUCSU POLLS

JCD-backed  
panel places six-  
point demand

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal-backed panel "Oikyaboddo Notun Projommo" has submitted a six point demand to the chief election commissioner ahead of the Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucusu) 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; SEE PAGE 9 COL 7

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.



PHOTO: TAFSILUL AZIZ