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Govt appointing members of an Islamic party as DCs, SPs: Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday alleged that the interim government is appointing members of a specific Islamic political party to important positions, including deputy commissioners (DCs) and superintendents of police (SPs).

In a press briefing at the party's central office in Nayapaltan, he also claimed that officers with ties to the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal during their student life have been sidelined or kept as OSDs, despite being recruited based on merit.

He said many of these officials often visit him, in tears, after being assigned to less important roles despite their earlier achievements.

Rizvi also accused Mokhles Ur Rahman, who was recently transferred from the public administration ministry to the Planning Commission, of depriving pro-BNP officials of proper positions by bringing false allegations against them and blaming them unjustly.

"Another political party's people are being appointed as DCs and SPs. I can name them one by one -- those who claim to be Islamists, their supporters, and like-minded individuals from that specific party have been placed in these roles," Rizvi claimed.

Won't accept Ducusu polls until our complaints resolved: JCD

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday said they would not accept the Ducusu election as legitimate until their submitted complaints were addressed.

Their 11 complaints include administrative bias towards a particular panel, the supplying and printing of ballots in its favour, failure to disclose the number of used and returned ballots, barring polling agents from entering centres, the use of non-transparent ballot boxes, and ballot papers without serial numbers.

The Ducusu election was held on September 9.

At a press conference at Madhur Canteen, the JCD said although they reported various irregularities after the announcement of the schedule, teachers had failed to resolve them.

Abdul Islam Khan, the JCD's VP candidate, said, "Until the administration clarifies its position regarding a fair election, there is no scope from our side to legitimise the election."

JCD said complaints regarding ballot paper issues were properly filed by multiple candidates and polling agents, but the administration neither investigated nor took action, instead offering excuses for the delays.



A child looks to be in discomfort as a nurse inserts a cannula into his hand to administer fluids and medication necessary for dengue treatment. Young ones remain vulnerable to the mosquito-borne disease, as evidenced by the near-full occupancy of the dengue ward for children at Mugda Medical College Hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Following a long 35-year wait, the Rucusu election is set to take place on October 16. In the run-up to the polls, the RU campus is abuzz with anticipation as candidates put forward their pledges. The Daily Star spoke with two such aspirants -- VP candidate Fuad Ratul and GS candidate Paroma Parmita -- to gain insight into their thoughts and aspirations.

Ratul promises reforms, end to discrimination

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Fuad Ratul, a vice president candidate in the upcoming Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucusu) elections, has pledged to implement a social contract involving all student organisations to curb the culture of dominance on campus.

Ratul, a leader of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, is contesting the polls from the "Ganatantrik Shikharthi Parishad" panel, backed by a coalition of left-leaning student organisations.

Speaking to The Daily Star, he said he has always been

vocal for student rights and uncompromising against injustice since joining RU.

"During the previous regime, I was one of the few who openly opposed Chhatra League's dominance on RU campus. I played a coordinating role in the July uprising and have always been a voice of the students. That is why I am running in this election," said Ratul, a student of

the Philosophy department. Ratul said if elected, he would represent all students to have their demands met. "I believe students will vote for me based on their trust in my

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Paroma to work for equal, non-communal campus

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Paroma Parmita, a candidate for the post of general secretary in the upcoming Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucusu) elections, has pledged to work for building an equal, just, and non-communal campus.

A leader of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Paroma is contesting the polls from the "Aporajeyo-71, Aprotirodhyo 24" panel.

Speaking to The Daily Star, she said, "I want to ensure a social, political, and cultural environment in our university

where people of all religions and communities can coexist in harmony."

"I consider student politics to be a matter of political responsibility and came into it consciously. My participation in the Rucusu elections is part of that responsibility," said Paroma, a student of Fine Arts.

"Since 2018, in every duty I was entrusted with -- be it in the hall, department, or campus -- I have always tried to give my best. Now, if elected as a student representative, I want to play a role in solving the various problems faced

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Army chief off to Malaysia for Indo-Pacific Conference

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Bangladesh Army General Waker-Uz-Zaman left Dhaka for Malaysia yesterday to attend the four-day 14th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference.

The conference, jointly organised by the United States Indo-Pacific Command and the Malaysian Armed Forces, will be held in Kuala Lumpur, according to a media release from ISPR.

Army chiefs from across the Indo-Pacific region are expected to participate in the event to strengthen friendship and cooperation, exchange views on tackling shared challenges, and discuss coordinated responses to regional crises.

General Waker-Uz-Zaman is scheduled to return to Bangladesh on September 27.



35 DU researchers among world's top 2% scientists

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University has announced that 35 of its faculty members and researchers have been named among the "World's Top 2% Scientists 2025" by Stanford University and Netherlands-based publishing house Elsevier.

DU administration made the announcement through a press statement yesterday.

Last year, 10 researchers from Dhaka University featured in the list.

The global ranking is based on published papers, citations, H-index, consistency, and the impact of co-authors.

Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan, vice chancellor of the university, congratulated the faculty and researchers on their inclusion in the world's top scientists' list.

No security threat during Durga Puja Says home adviser

UNB, Dhaka

There is no security threat over the Durga Puja celebrations, said Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday.

"Adequate security measures have been taken at 33,000 puja mandaps across the country and members of Ansar, police, Rab, BGB, and Army personnel will be deployed to ensure security," he said while talking to reporters after visiting the Ramakrishna Mission Puja Mandap in Narayanganj.

"CCTV cameras have been installed at all mandaps and this year's celebration will be vibrant and joyful. There is no lack of security," the adviser said.

73% of DNCC road crash victims pedestrians

Says 2023 report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pedestrians, motorcyclists, and cyclists make up 95 percent of reported road traffic fatalities in Dhaka North City Corporation areas, according to a report.

Of the fatalities, 73 percent were pedestrians, 20 percent motorcyclists, 5 percent vehicle occupants, and 2 percent cyclists.

The report, titled "Status Summary 2024: Road Safety Risk Factors", was released under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety.

The findings were unveiled at an event organised by DNCC, the Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit, CIPRB, and Vital Strategies at DNCC's Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

Since May 2021, JH-IIRU has been conducting studies in Dhaka north under the initiative. Presenting the findings, Dr Shirin Wadhanian of JH-IIRU said speed observations between October 2021 and November

2024 showed that 23 percent of vehicles across all categories were found to be exceeding limits based on the BRTA Speed Limit Guideline 2024.

The BRTA guideline, issued in May, set maximum speeds of 80 km/h on expressways and highways and 40 km/h on city roads.

FATALITIES BREAKDOWN

✓ 73% pedestrians

✓ 20% motorcyclists

✓ 2% cyclists

✓ 5% other vehicle occupants

Motorcycles topped the list of vehicles that exceeded speed limits, with 51 percent, while 29 percent of vehicles were over the limit on local and collector roads. Speeding was slightly higher on weekends, compared

to weekdays. Other risk factors identified were excessive speed, low helmet use, and lack of seatbelts and child restraints.

Despite these challenges, road fatalities in DNCC dropped from 424 in 2015 to 283 in 2023, though they rose to 456 in 2021.

The report suggested police enforce new limits with a focus on motorcycles, pickups, light trucks, and commercial vehicles.

Brig Gen Md Moin Uddin, DNCC's chief engineer, said, "Speed is a major factor in fatalities. If vehicle speed is kept under control, fatalities will go down. From PRTF, speed limit guidance came out in 2022, and we must implement it."

"Our footpaths and footbridges must be usable. Many footpaths are occupied by shops. I take this failure on myself, but I seek everyone's cooperation to clear them. If pedestrians have safe passage, fatalities will drop significantly."



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

A man jumps over concrete pipes onto a small patch of bricks and mud, narrowly avoiding a puddle. The risky move could easily cause a serious accident. Ongoing road maintenance and heavy rain have left the main road in Mirpur's Kazipara area in such a dilapidated state that pedestrians are forced to take such dangerous steps to get across. The photo was taken yesterday.