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## Won't accept Ducsu polls until our complaints resolved: JCD

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal yesterday said they would not accept the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) election as legitimate until their submitted allegations were addressed.

JCD said they submitted 11 complaints about polls' irregularities, but the authorities have been delaying action.

Their allegations include administrative bias towards a particular panel, supplying and printing ballots in its favour, not disclosing the number of used and returned ballots, barring polling agents from entering centres, use of non-transparent ballot boxes, and ballot papers without serial numbers. The Ducsu election was held on September 9.

At a press conference at Madhur Canteen, held two weeks after the polls, JCD said they reported various irregularities after the announcement of the schedule, but teachers failed to resolve them and "failed to uphold the honour of trust".

In a statement, Abidul Islam Khan, JCD's VP candidate, said, "The inconsistencies, irregularities, and rigging of the 2025 Ducsu election will continue to be reviewed."

"Until the administration clarifies its position regarding a fair election, there is no scope from our side to legitimise the election," he said.

The panel alleged that ballots were supplied in favour of a specific panel, signatures were given before voter presence, and discrepancies existed between voter turnout and votes cast. Candidates also demanded the voter list and CCTV footage, but the administration took no effective measures.

JCD further said complaints regarding ballot paper issues were properly filed by multiple candidates and polling agents, but the administration did not investigate, but rather delayed with excuses.

They added that it was not disclosed which press printed the ballots, and unprotected ballots were later found in Nilkhet's Gausul Azam Market.

They also alleged that the accuracy of the vote-counting machines and software was not verified in front of voters and candidates, while the list of polling agents was published at midnight, before the polls. Many proposed agents were excluded, and some could not enter centres for not receiving ID cards on time.

As per JCD's allegations, the process of appointing polling officers was unclear, and many of them filed false complaints against candidates.

They also alleged biased roles of BNCC, Rover Scouts, and Girls' Guide members in charge of security, alongside the unrestricted entry of outsiders. Polling agents were also kept inactive during the counting of votes.



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.

## STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Following a long 35-year wait, the Rucsu 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 Fauad Ratul and GS candidate Paroma Parmita -- to gain insight into their thoughts and aspirations.

### Ratul promises reforms, end to discrimination

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

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



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 (Rucsu) elections, has pledged to work for building an equal, just, and non-communal campus.



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 Rucsu 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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## 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 RiskFactors", 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 Wadhania 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."



Farmers in Boalmari village of Char Asariada union in Rajshahi are harvesting half-ripe paddy. Much of the land in this area has been lost to the river, along with various trees and crops. Fearing further losses, farmers have begun harvesting whatever they can immediately.

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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 Naz 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 (retd) 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.