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

## 244 held from AL flash processions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested 244 leaders and activists of Awami League and its affiliate organisations from flash processions across Dhaka yesterday.

Law enforcers also recovered 14 crude bombs and seven banners during the drives carried out by different AL units, DMP said in a press statement.

DMP Additional Commissioner (Crime and Operations) SN Nazrul Islam said, "We are working to gather intelligence on the financiers, shelter providers, and recruiters for those participating in Awami League flash processions."

He also said AL activists from Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Gazipur, and Gopalganj had come to Dhaka to join these processions.

Nazrul said previously, DMP arrested more than 500 leaders and activists of AL and its affiliated bodies in different drives.

## App for postal voting to be launched in Nov

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Postal Vote BD app, designed to allow Bangladeshi expatriates to vote, will be launched in the third week of November, said Election Commissioner Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah yesterday.

Speaking at a discussion at the EC headquarters in Dhaka, Sanaullah said only 2.7 percent of eligible voters usually register for postal voting, and fewer than 30 percent of them actually cast their votes.

"Still, Bangladeshi expatriates appear more interested than average," he said.

The postal ballots will include candidate symbols. Once the symbols are finalised, voters can check the list through the app or website and vote accordingly. Completed ballots must be returned by mail.

Expatriate voters will not be charged, though the government will bear a cost of about Tk 700 per vote, he said.

He explained that registration will take place in two phases – voter registration for those already on the list with a National ID, and additional out-of-country voting registration through the app.

Each region will have 7-10 days for registration, with 3-7 extra days if needed.

Sanaullah also pointed out two major challenges with postal ballots -- ensuring confidentiality and the risk of ballots being invalidated if a court changes the candidate list after they are sent.

## DUCSU POLLS DU authorities refuse to provide voters' attendance list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities have refused to release the signed voter attendance lists from the recently held DUCSU and hall union elections, calling them "highly sensitive and confidential".

In a statement, the university said thousands of students signed the lists while collecting ballots.

These are not public documents, and disclosing them would compromise security and privacy.

The refusal came after defeated DUCSU candidates repeatedly demanded access to the lists in order to verify alleged irregularities. They also sought CCTV footage of polling centres and clarification on the ballot printing process, accusing the administration of disregarding their complaints.

DUCSU said the applications were mostly "vague" and lacked specific grounds. While full CCTV footage will not be released, candidates may apply to view relevant segments in the presence of experts.



Human hauliers occupy three lanes of a road near Phulbaria bus terminal in Dhaka's Gulistan, leaving little space for traffic and causing severe jams. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

### AGS candidates pledge reforms, student welfare

Star talks to four such Rucusu aspirants



Esha



Likhon



Nasim



Mahayeer

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE,  
SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK and  
NUR AHSEN MRIDUL

Sixteen candidates are contesting the post of Assistant General Secretary (AGS) in the upcoming Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucusu) election.

With the election deferred to October 16, campaigning has intensified, with candidates going door-to-door to directly engage students.

The Daily Star spoke to

four AGS candidates about their pledges, aspirations, and implementation plans.

#### ESHA VOWS TO BE 'VOICE OF STUDENTS'

Zahin Biswas Esha, from the Oikyaboddho Notun Projomno panel backed by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, said her priority is addressing students' concerns.

A student of Performing Arts, Esha highlighted challenges faced by female students since the July uprising and stressed the urgent need for female leadership.

"I have worked on students' legitimate demands before and will continue to do so," she said.

If elected, Esha promises to promote social and cultural coexistence on campus while improving the quality of education and research.

Her plans include preparing a roadmap for part-time job opportunities, tackling accommodation shortages, modernising the health centre, opening a 24-hour pharmacy, ensuring safe water and food, and

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NCP presses for Shapla symbol despite EC refusal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Citizen Party yesterday called on the Election Commission to amend the electoral rules and include Shapla (water lily), white Shapla, or red Shapla in the list of election symbols, with one of them to be allocated to the party.

In a letter sent to the EC Secretariat, signed by NCP Convener Nahid Islam, the party said, "We hope the Election Commission will bring necessary amendments to the 2008 Election Conduct Rules and allocate one of the symbols in favour of the NCP..."

The NCP also urged the EC to abandon what it termed the commission's "previous arbitrary and rigid attitude" in decision-making, and to take steps in a manner that would ensure a fair election.

On Tuesday, EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said the NCP would not be allocated the Shapla symbol, as it is not included in the EC's reserved list.

## Another firefighter dies from Tongi fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The death toll from Monday's chemical warehouse fire in Gazipur's Tongi rose to two yesterday after another firefighter, burnt in the explosion, lost his battle for life.

Nurul Huda, 40, a firefighter at Tongi Fire Station and a resident of Gafargaon in Mymensingh, succumbed to his injuries at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka, said Mohammad Mamun, deputy director of Gazipur Fire Service and Civil Defence.

His death comes just a day after Shamim Ahmed died from similar injuries. Both were among four firefighters burnt while battling the blaze.

The fire broke out on September 22 at a tin-shed warehouse in Sahara Market.

As firefighters tried to extinguish the flames, a powerful explosion ripped through the building. Officials later confirmed the warehouse contained sodium-based chemicals that react dangerously with water.

## CUCSU POLLS

### 20 withdraw, 4 nominations cancelled

CU CORRESPONDENT

Twenty candidates have withdrawn their nomination papers in the Chittagong University Central Students' Union (CUCSU) elections, while the Election Commission cancelled the nominations of four others due to discrepancies.

Prof AKM Ariful Haque, member secretary of the university election commission, confirmed the development.

The CUCSU and hall council elections are now scheduled for October 15.

All examinations on October 15 and 16 will remain suspended, but regular classes will continue except on the polling day, when the university will remain closed for voting.

The final list of contenders will be published today. In total, 931 nomination papers were submitted for the CUCSU and hall union elections.

## Five more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five dengue patients died while 668 others were hospitalised in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), three deaths were reported from the Dhaka South City Corporation area and two from the Dhaka North City Corporation area.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths rose to 187, while total cases rose to 43,841.

Among the total cases, a total of 41,638 dengue patients have been released so far.

Currently, 2,016 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across Bangladesh, 1,259 of whom are from outside Dhaka.

## CPB gets new committee Chandan president, Kafi Ratan general secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kazi Sazzad Zahir Chandan has been elected president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) for a four-year term.

Abdullah Al Kafi Ratan has been elected the new general secretary, succeeding Ruhin Hossain Prince.

The newly elected members of the central committee chose the two leaders yesterday.

Earlier, the first meeting of the 43-member central committee of the CPB was held at the party office in Mukti Bhaban, Purana Paltan. The meeting also elected eight presidium members out of nine. Apart from the president and general secretary, the newly elected presidium members are Mujahidul Islam Selim, Rafiquzzaman Layek, SA Rashid, Ragib Ahsan Munna, Joly Talukdar, and Md Aminul Farid.

Both Chandan and Kafi Ratan were presidium members of the previous committee.

Chandan previously served as assistant general secretary of the CPB as well as central president



Chandan Kafi Ratan



Expired chips, cakes, juices, chanachur, and jellies are regularly burnt with other waste at night along Rajshahi city's bypass road, adding to severe air pollution. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

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