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## BJIM condemns attacks on journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi Journalists in International Media (BJIM) yesterday raised concern over a series of violent attacks and threats targeting journalists in different districts, allegedly involving local miscreants, charity owners, and even members of law enforcement agencies.

In a statement, BJIM described the incidents as a grave violation of press freedom and an alarming regression for media rights in Bangladesh.

The organisation cited several recent cases. "On October 5, journalists Hossain Ziyad and Md Parvez were physically assaulted in Chattogram while on duty. Local miscreants reportedly beat them until they bled, vandalised their camera, and snatched their personal belongings," said the BJIM statement.



The statement mentioned the incident of October 12, where two other Chattogram-based journalists, Jobayed Ibn Shahadat and Asaduzzaman Limon, were allegedly beaten by a senior police official while conducting interviews for a report.

Jhenidah journalist Auritro Kundu allegedly received death threats from the owner of a local charity after publishing investigative reports on irregularities within the organisation, it added.

BJIM noted that no visible administrative steps in any of the cases had been taken so far. It urged the interim government to take decisive action to ensure justice and prevent further violations.

"Failing to do so will send a deeply troubling message to the international community regarding Bangladesh's commitment to protecting journalists and safeguarding freedom of expression," the statement said.



After this battery-run auto-rickshaw hit the car, the rickshaw driver failed to pay compensation on the spot. The car driver then took an unusual step -- towing the rickshaw to the back of his car and driving off to find its owner for compensation. The photo was taken on Rajuk Avenue in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## MEDIA REFORM

## Govt should explain why suggestions yet not implemented

Says commission head  
**Kamal Ahmed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Media Reform Commission head Kamal Ahmed yesterday said the government should explain why it has not implemented the commission's recommendations even five months after submission.

"People are asking, what happened to media reform? We submitted our report and recommendations -- it's the government's responsibility to act on them. When people ask me, I tell them to ask the government," he said.

He made the remarks while speaking at the Mass Media Award 2025 ceremony, jointly organised by Plan International and Jaago Foundation Trust at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in Dhaka, where 15 media professionals were recognised for journalism that upholds dignity, equality, and gender sensitivity.

On March 22, the Media Reform Commission submitted its report to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

"The commission's role was to determine a roadmap for the media's future and recommend solutions to existing problems. We have done that. Now it is time for implementation," said Kamal Ahmed.

Media workers, editors, and journalist organisations

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

## STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

### Campaigning ends for Cucusu election

SM MAHFUZ AHMED

Campaigning for the Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucusu) election officially ended last night, with candidates going door to door to meet students in the final hours.

Since morning, candidates had been engaging voters across campus, sharing their plans and making promises. Some relied on posters and banners, while others used songs, plays, or mime performances.

Students, excited for the first CUCSU election in 35 years, created a lively campus atmosphere during the two-week campaign, which began on September 25, reaching its peak on the last day.

**ALLEGATIONS OF CODE VIOLATIONS**  
Several panels raised complaints about electoral code violations on the final day.

The Chhatra Shibir-backed "Sompriti" SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



### Won't impose my views on others if elected

Says Cucusu VP candidate  
**Ibrahim Hossain Rony**

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Ibrahim Hossain Rony, vice president (VP) candidate from the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed "Sompriti Shikharthi Jote" panel in the upcoming Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucusu) elections, pledged accountability if elected.

Rony, a student of History department (2017-18 session), also said he will not impose his views on others.

In an interview with The Daily Star, he said, "If a political environment can be ensured so that students will not be attacked and everyone will have the opportunity to express their opinions, I believe students will embrace it. If I am elected, I will not



SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

### No compromise on students' interests

Pledges Cucusu GS candidate  
**Shafayat Hossain**

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Md Shafayat Hossain, general secretary candidate from the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)-backed panel in the Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucusu) election, said he will never compromise on students' interests.

In an interview with The Daily Star, he said, "From the very beginning of my university life, I have been involved with different organisations and gained strong organisational skills and experiences. I believe I can represent the students and secure their rights, which is why I'm running in this election."

He said he had faced various obstacles due to his involvement with JCD.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Ratify the ILO Convention 190 to end gender-based harassment

Demand 14 rights bodies

DU CORRESPONDENT

A platform of 14 gender rights bodies has called on the government to immediately end the ongoing debates and ratify the ILO Convention 190, which addresses violence and harassment in the world of work.

They said the convention's ratification would mark a crucial step towards ensuring a safer and more dignified workplace for all, particularly women and marginalised workers.

ILO Convention 190, adopted in 2019, recognises the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence.

The coalition, named Gender Platform Bangladesh, at a press conference at Jaitiya Press Club said forming acts in accordance of that ILO convention would play an effective role in

**They said despite the High Court rule to amend Bangladesh Labour Rules 2015 mandating the formation of anti-sexual harassment committees at workplaces, the provision has not been effectively implemented.**

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

## 'Issue Dhaka Central University ordinance immediately'

Demand students of 7 colleges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of seven government colleges, which were earlier affiliated with Dhaka University, staged a sit-in outside Shikkha Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday, demanding immediate issuance of the ordinance for the proposed Dhaka Central University.

The demonstration began around 11:00am as part of their previously announced programme.

Tanvir Islam, a third-year economics student at Government Bangla College, told The Daily Star that the students will continue their demonstration until the final ordinance is issued.

"If the government doesn't issue the Dhaka Central University Ordinance-2025 by today [yesterday], we will announce tougher programmes," one of the student leaders said.

The demonstration caused heavy traffic congestion in and around Abdul Gani Road, Topkhana Road, and Segunbagicha, causing suffering for commuters during the busy morning hours.

The education ministry accepted feedback on the draft ordinance via email until October 9.

In a press release on Sunday, the ministry said it had received over 6,000 opinions on the draft, and the work of compiling and analysing them is underway.

Many protesting students alleged that teachers

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



A long tailback clogs a road in the Tejgaon area of the capital, leaving commuters stuck for hours. Multiple ongoing protests across the city caused the heavy traffic congestion. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## MJF celebrates Int'l Day of the Girl Child with school students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) marked the International Day of the Girl Child 2025 with a three-day celebration held from October 11 to 13 at the ALOK Auditorium in Mirpur, under the global theme "The Girl I Am, The Change I Lead: Girls on the Frontlines of Crisis".

Organised in collaboration with MJF's projects -- NAGORIC, Swadhinata, and SAFE -- the programme featured art and extempore speech competitions, along with cultural performances by children from the Maer Achol Shelter.

Students from five local schools also participated, showcasing their creativity and aspirations.

Educational materials were distributed to 185 children from the Maer Achol Shelter, while 75 participants received T-shirts as tokens of appreciation.

Winners of the competitions were recognised for their outstanding performances.

Reflecting MJF's commitment to equality, the event had no chief guest -- every child was honoured as a guest of honour.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8