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JNU STUDENT UNION
JCD, left-leaning groups announce panels for polls

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal has announced its panel for the first ever Jagannath University Central Students' Union election, scheduled for December 22.

The 21-member panel -- formed with leaders from JnU Chhatra Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra Odhikar Parishad and student representatives from cultural organisations -- has been named "Oikyoboddho Nirbhik Jobian".

The announcement was made around 1:00pm yesterday by JCD central president Rakibul Islam Rakib.

The panel has nominated AKM Rakib, president of JnU Chhatra Odhikar Parishad, for the vice-president post, and Khadijatul Kubra, joint convener of JnU Chhatra

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Standing beside his closed shop, a man looks on as Dhaka South City Corporation carries out drainage improvement work on Dholaiakhal Road in Old Dhaka. Most of the stores along the roadside have remained shut due to the work. The maintenance has been ongoing for the past two months, leaving businesses and locals suffering daily.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Dhaka sees sparse traffic

Students hail Hasina verdict at DU, Shahbagh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The capital yesterday saw light traffic as it waited for the International Crimes Tribunal's verdict in a case involving deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Very few buses plied on the roads, while public movement also remained limited. Rickshaws dominated the city's thoroughfares, although inter-district buses operated normally.

The city appeared unusually quiet through the morning till afternoon.

The ICT sentenced Hasina to death for crimes against humanity linked to the July uprising last year.

The tribunal also sentenced former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to death. Former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, who testified as a state witness, was sentenced to five years of imprisonment.

Soon after the verdict was announced, leaders of the Dhaka University Central Students Union (Ducus) distributed sweets on the DU campus.

Around 200-300 students had been watching the verdict live on a large outdoor screen set up in the TSC area since morning. Many cheered and chanted slogans after hearing the verdict.

Ducus Social Welfare Secretary AB Zubayer said they welcomed the court's decision and hoped the sentence would be carried out once Hasina is extradited from India.



PHOTO: STAR

Students hail the verdict at TSC yesterday.

Ducus Literature and Cultural Affairs Secretary Musaddiq Ali Ibn Mohammad echoed him.

A similar atmosphere prevailed at Shahbagh, where several groups held separate programmes and distributed sweets after the verdict was announced at around 2:50pm.

Later in the evening, leaders and activists of the National Citizen Party distributed sweets and joined a public rally organised by its Dhaka Metropolitan Committee in Bangla Motor area.

NCP leaders, including its Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary, thanked the judiciary and called for the quick implementation of the verdict.

In front of the High Court's main entrance, families of July uprising victims, among others, gathered with banners and photographs and chanted slogans demanding justice.

Mancha 24, an organisation imbued with the spirit of the July uprising, also held a briefing in front of the HC demanding implementation of the verdict after Hasina's extradition as soon as possible.

Security remained visibly tightened in the city throughout the day, with additional checkpoints, barricades and patrol teams set up at major points. Police, Rab, BGB and other forces were deployed in significant numbers around the HC area.

EC must ensure a level playing field

Say parties on 3rd day of dialogue with commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday resumed its electoral dialogue, meeting 11 more registered political parties as part of its consultations for the polls scheduled for February next year.

Participating parties called on the EC to ensure a level playing field, strict enforcement of the electoral code of conduct and greater transparency.

Several leaders also highlighted the need to modernise election management, strengthen oversight, curb the influence of black money and guarantee equal opportunities for smaller parties.

The first session of the day ran from 10:30am to 12:00pm at the EC headquarters in



Agargaon, with representatives from Bangladesh Shangskritik Muktiyote, Bangladesh National Awami Party, Bikalpadhara Bangladesh, Bangladesh Kallyan Party and Bangladesh Muslim League.

The second session, held from 2:00pm to 4:00pm, included representatives from Zaker Party, Amar Bangladesh (AB) Party, Bangladesh Development Party, Bangladesh Islami Front, Khelafat Majlish and Jatiya Ganatantrik Party-Jagpa.

The EC began its electoral dialogue on November 13, meeting 12 parties on the opening day. With yesterday's sessions, the commission has so far held dialogues with 34 parties.

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663 cases against Hasina to run their course

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

After the International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to death for crimes against humanity during the July uprising, questions have arisen about how justice will be carried out and what will happen to the numerous other cases they face.

According to police headquarters sources, Hasina is accused in at least 663 cases nationwide, while Kamal faces 295.

Former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun -- who became a state witness and received a five-year prison sentence from ICT-1 -- is facing 259 cases.

After being removed from power in the wake of the mass uprising, Hasina and Kamal are currently fugitives in India.

ICT prosecutor Mizanul Islam said, "If there are cases against these three convicted individuals in other courts, each of those cases will proceed at its own pace."

Only the charges already tried by the tribunal will not proceed further, as verdicts on those

counts have been delivered.

According to the ICT judgement, Hasina, 78, was sentenced to death on two counts.

She was handed the death penalty for the charge involving the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpu on August 5 last year. In another charge, she was found guilty of ordering the shooting of six student protesters in Ashulia on the same day -- five of whom were later burned after death, while the sixth was allegedly burned alive.

She also received imprisonment until natural death for making inflammatory remarks and ordering the use of deadly weapons against protesters. She was also found guilty of ordering the killing of student protesters using helicopters, drones, and lethal weapons.

Hasina is additionally facing three more ICT cases -- two relating to enforced disappearances and one over alleged mass killings at Motijheel's Shapla Chattar in 2013.

Kamal faces two enforced disappearance cases. Prosecutors have also urged the tribunal to dispose of another July uprising related case filed against Mamun.

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The cases filed against Hasina at police stations will continue following due process. Trials will proceed in her absence. Cases are dismissed only if an accused dies.

SHAHDEEN MALIK
SC lawyer



Three more die of dengue, 1,007 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three dengue patients died, while 1,007 others were hospitalised, in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, among the deaths, two are reported from Dhaka South City Corporation and one from Mymensingh division.

With the new deaths and cases, dengue-related deaths this year rose to 339, while total cases reached 86,004.

Currently, 3,053 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.

'Bhashani's ideals key to restoring people's rights'

Speakers call for renewed focus on farmer-centred politics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Columnist and poet Farhad Mazhar yesterday said the July uprising has reminded the nation of a fundamental truth: all power belongs to the people, and neither the state nor parliament has any authority to take away their rights or livelihood.

He said any force that seizes citizens' "rizik" -- whether a government, corporation or professional body -- must be resisted, as ensuring people's wellbeing is the primary duty of administration.

He made the remarks at "Krishoker Mukti o Bangladesher Sarbobhobomotta: Bhashanir Sadhona" (Liberation of Farmers and Bangladesh's Sovereignty: Bhashani's Struggle), held at The Daily Star Centre.

The session, the fourth instalment of the series, was

organised by The Daily Star Iftiash Adda.

Mazhar said, "If we want to practise popular sovereignty and return power to the people, we must read Bhashani with serious attention."

He said that at this stage of history, Bhashani's political language is crucial because it enables political engagement with ordinary, religious-minded citizens and prevents religion from being artificially separated from politics.

Mazhar said Bhashani's politics cannot be understood without recognising this spiritual foundation. Bhashani lived an extremely simple life, free from greed or attachment to wealth, practising what he described as a "strict, practising Muslim life" in the tradition of saints and awliya.

At the same time, Bhashani

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From left, Farhad Mazhar, Moshahida Sultana and Firoz Ahmed at "Krishoker Mukti o Bangladesher Sarbobhobomotta: Bhashanir Sadhona", held at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR