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New polarisation likely in national politics

Staff Correspondent

The Government and the political parties are keenly watching the development on the campus centering the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) election to be held on Wednesday. The DUCSU polls is taken as dress rehearsal for national election and polarisation in national politics.

The Central Students Action Committee (CSAC) led by pro-Awami League Student League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, front organisation of BNP, are the two major rivals in the ensuing DUCSU Polls. The CSAC which was given the present shape on June 20 last year, represent divergent political groups and came under the same banner to fight what they say 'autocracy and fundamentalism'. Some of the smaller partners of CSAC have serious reservation about Awami League and BAKSAL and this prompted them to split the CSAC during the preparation of the panel but on broad national issues like fighting Jamaat and Shibir, smaller partners who support both the groups of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) finally returned to the CSAC fold. The Chhatra Dal has given the single panel to fight the group of 15 student organisation. Pro-Jamaat Chhatra Shibir has also given single panel in the DUCSU election.

The student organisations in Central Students Action Committee represent the Eight-Party alliance and Five-Party alliance. Their unity in the DUCSU polls gives broad hint

that the Eight-Party and Five Party which were the partners in former 15-party alliance might be united again. They fell apart differing on participation in 1986 general elections. Five parties and BNP-led Seven Party Alliance came closer in national politics opposing Awami League in the national politics. The CSAC also was divided on the election in 1986.

On the Dhaka University campus the Pro-BNP Chhatra Dal and student organisations supporting the five-party alliance fell apart following the clash between Chhatra Dal and the Chhatra League (Mustaque-pro-JSD (Inu) and difference over the expulsion of nine student leaders of Chhatra Dal.

While the Five-Party Alliance has been still maintaining equi-distance from Awami League and BNP in the national politics, what prompted them to allow their student factions to unite with the eight-party alliance? Is it a signal that five-Party will go back to the fold of Awami League led alliance? It is not yet very clear. There is difference of opinion about the political alignment with Awami League by some partners particularly BSD (Khaleque and Mahbub) and Workers Party. But there is no last word in love and politics.

The five-party may go back to the fold of Eight-party Alliance to fight their common enemy-Jamaat and Chhatra Shibir.

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Polarisation

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The Chhatra Dal which has given a single panel has raised the slogan that the forces against the independence and sovereignty of the country and supporters of the Swadhin Bangabumi had been united against the nationalist forces.

And this is for the first time the leaders of the Political parties appeared in the projection meeting on the campus. This gives the clear impression that the political parties are giving emphasis on the DUCSU polls.

It is known to political circle that the DUCSU election is very important in our national politics. It may help shape the national politics to a great extent. There is allegation on the campus that an influential quarter was playing an important role in the DUCSU polls and was supporting a group who might take part in national elections. If the blueprint fails, it is loudly discussed the DUCSU polls may be disrupted.