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DUCSU polls today

Staff Correspondent

Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) and hall union polls will be held today (Wednesday) amidst tight security. This will be the seventh DUCSU polls held after Independence. The polling will start at 7.30 a.m. at the residential halls.

About 2500 candidates are contesting for 20 DUCSU and 188 hall union post. For DUCSU and hall union, the student organisations submitted about 30 panels to contest the elections. However, the main contest will be centred among five major panels. The major panels for the elections are the Aman-Khokan panel of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Alam-Kamrul panel of Chhatra League (H-A) Mushtaq-Swapon panel of nine student organisations, Babul-Nasir panel of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and the Balbul-Kamal panel of Jatiya Chhatra League.

According to the schedule of the Varsity authorities the total number of voters is 26 thousand.

The university authorities with the help of the Home Ministry, have undertaken extensive security measures to check untoward incidents. A huge contingent of Police and Ansars have been deployed in and around the campus. Police and Ansars have been deployed in front of the residential halls, at the entry points, at the administrative building, Arts and Science Faculties, in front of the Madhu's canteen and other important points of the University. All kind of vehicles have been banned to ply through the University areas. Rickshaw were even not allowed to go inside the campus. Police gave permission only to those which are owned by the university and which had prior permission from the authorities.

The casting of votes will begin at 7.30 a.m. and will continue till 1.30 p.m. The counting of votes of DUCSU be started at 5 p.m. while the hall votes will be counted at 10 p.m.

Counting of votes

About 550 teachers and officers of the University will be engaged in ballot counting on Wednesday DUCSU and 14 hall-union elections, officials said.

Election commission sources said the ballots would be counted in 225 at tables with two people in each and these would be compiled at another 20 tables.

An additional 50 people would assist the teachers and officers in the counting process, sources said.

The university authorities have made all necessary arrangements including presence of journalists as observers to monitor impartial vote counting, they added.

One journalist each from all national dailies and news agencies have been invited to observe the tally which will begin at 5.30 p.m. at the examination hall of the Arts Building.

However, the total number of candidates in the 7th DUCSU and hall union polls after the independence marked a record 1,529 for only 188 seats.

A total of 489 candidates from about 30 panels are contesting for 20

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seats of the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) election.

The number of office-bearers in each hall union, is 12 and a total of 1,040 candidates are running for total 168 seats in 14 hall unions.

Hall-wise break-up of the number of candidates are Mohsin Hall 77, Suryasen hall-97, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Hall-87, Ziaru Rahman Hall-72, Jasimuddin Hall-71, F. Rahman-87, Zahurul Huq Hall-69, Salimullah Hall-89, Shahidul 579, Fazlul Huq Hall-70 Jagannath Hall-99, Rokey Hall-68 Shamsunnahar-61, Kuwait Maitree Hall-34.

Meanwhile, the campus was almost calm on Tuesday as all kinds of campaign remained banned since last midnight according to election schedule although the number of students and activists present in the Madhu's Canteen area IBA Building and TSC Premises and Carzon Hall area was almost same as of last few days.

Police, further reinforced today, were guarding all vantages and checking identity cards at all entry points to prevent entrance of undesired elements, to the campus.

Official sources said about 3,000 policemen will remain on alert on the campus to ensure smooth polling today.

Meanwhile the Dhaka University authorities have arranged extra buses, in addition to its own fleet, to carry non-resident students, during today DUCSU polls.