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DUTA polls today

Varsity Correspondent

The election of the Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) will be held today (Wednesday) with four panels from four teacher groups in the race.

Voting will be continuing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. without break at the University Club building premises.

Sixty candidates from teacher groups — ruling BNP and Five-party backed "White", Awami League and CPB supported "Blue", Jamaat dominated "White" and different left-leaning organisations backed "Pink" — are contesting the fifteen seats of DUTA.

Jamaat supported teachers have nominated a panel of candidates for the first time since the Liberation War.

Prof. Dr. Md. Shahadat Ali of Zoology and Dr. Arefin Siddiq of Journalism are contesting for the posts of President and General Secretary from Blue panel, Prof. Monirul Haq of Geology and Md. Nurul Amin Bepary of Political Science from "White" (BNP), Dr. Syed Hamiduzzaman of Botany and Dr. Aminur Rahman of Political Science from "Pink" and Prof. Ziaur Shams M.M. Haq and Md. Aminur Rahman Majumder from Jamaat Backed "White" panel.

More than one thousand teachers will exercise their franchise.

The candidates of four panel distributed leaflets and handbills among voters highlighting their goals and commitments. The Awami League-CPB backed 'Blue' panel in the leaflets urged the teachers community to rally under their umbrella, to preserve the University Ordinance as well as the interest of teachers. The candidates of this panel made commitments to establish Bangladesh on the spirit of Liberation War and ideals of the martyred intellectuals.

The BNP and Five-party backed 'White' group in their election manifesto made a call to establish a peaceful academic atmosphere and to preserve the interest of University teachers. The 'Pink' group who claims them as "neutral group" in their leaflets urged the teachers to join the movement to resist conspiracy against the University Ordinance and to realise the demands of teachers.

The anti-liberation Jamaat supported 'White' group placed their election manifesto in which they urged the teachers to gather under their banner being inspired with Bangladeshi nationalism and religious values.