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Students of the Government Girls' School in Bogra town queue up for casting ballots in the election to the students cabinet yesterday. Inset, a student of the school casting her vote.

Schools elect students cabinets

BSS, Dhaka

The first phase of the students cabinet elections were held at 18,133 secondary schools and madrasas across the country yesterday.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid visited Motijheel Girls High School in the city during polling.

"The polls will help develop democratic values of our children. It will also help them develop leadership qualities from their childhood which would make them successful professionals," the minister said.

Students councils at primary schools are functioning well and they are contributing to boost academic atmosphere and maintain discipline at educational institutions, he added.

The government introduced students cabinet elections last year to replicate the successes of students council, he mentioned. "We have got very good results from the students cabinets."

Education ministry sources said each student cabinet is composed of eight members. All its members will be elected through direct vote.

All students from class VI to X have been included in the voter list. Each eligible voter will cast a total of eight votes. The number of total voters is 97,44,495, including 52,74,275 females.