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3,000 candidates, 30 panels

Tight security for DUCSU polls

DHAKA, June 1 (UNB): Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Moniruzzaman Miah said today tight security measures would be taken for peaceful holding of this week's DUCSU and hall union election.

Prof Miah, talking to UNB, expressed the hope that law and order situation would be favourable this time as it had already shown a sign of improvement during the last few weeks.

"We have not yet finalised the details of security measures. I, however, discussed the matter with the Prime Minister

and the Home Minister," the Vice-Chancellor said.

He said the details would be finalised in a meeting between the university administration and the law enforcing agencies within a couple of days.

Election to the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) and 14 hall unions is scheduled for June 6, in which about 3,000 candidates are taking part from more than 30 panels.

Although the campus is yet free from any serious electioneering violence announcement of the election schedule on May 7,

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DUCSU polls

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fears of confrontation exist among rival student groups.

Prof Miah said he would further discuss the security issue with the Provosts, Proctorial staff and the Election Commission including the Chief Returning Officer.

"We are doing everything to ensure security and safety on the campus during the election," he added.

The university administration would be completely neutral in conducting the polls, he said, urging the students to extend their support for maintaining the authority's impartiality.

Counting the ballots would be a hard task as the number of candidates in only DUCSU polls is about 500, Miah said and apprehended the authorities would not be able to announce the results before midday of June 7.

The DUCSU election Commission sources said ball-point pen would be used this year for counting ballots as objection had been raised by some student bodies against the use of wood pencil last year.

Meanwhile the students and their leaders are engaged in frenzied electioneering to draw attention of the voters to them.

Hundreds of banners, festoons, wallwritings and posters have covered almost all bare parts of the campus, turning the buildings and boundary walls into veritable billboards.