

# Ducsu's gains marred by some leaders' excesses

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Mahathir Mohammed



In its first four months at the helm of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu), the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed panel took a number of initiatives for the welfare of Dhaka University students, but some of its leaders faced criticism for their excesses on the campus.

With its own budget, the Ducsu organised seminars and workshops on career development, research and skill development. It arranged legal support for 119 students over cyber harassment and disputes since September last year, according to Ducsu's four-monthly report published last month.



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Ducsu leaders persuaded the university authorities to allocate Tk 5.5 crore for the renovation of old dormitories considered vulnerable to earthquakes and another Tk 50 lakh for the facelift of the DU central mosque.

They also played a key role in fulfilling the longstanding demand for evening bus service for nonresident students and pushed for introducing an online subscription system at the central library to boost its resources.

These positive steps were marred by the actions of some Ducsu leaders, who drew flak for their involvement in teacher harassment and undue campus policing.

**„ Assault on anyone -- be it a teacher or a destitute person -- is a crime, which is not expected from Ducsu leaders... They cannot assault or harass anyone over ideological differences.**

MUSTAQ HOSSAIN, FORMER DUCSU GENERAL SECRETARY

Over the past few months, several Ducsu leaders were engaged in proctorial drives to evict makeshift shops and destitute people from the campus.

One of them even punished outsiders for entering the DU central playground.

On December 11 last year, a group of students, led by Ducsu Social Welfare Secretary AB Zubair, harassed three teachers who belonged to the pro-Awami League “Neel Dal”.

The incident occurred at the Faculty of Social Sciences after the three -- Prof AKM Jamal Uddin, Prof Azmal Hossain Bhuiyan, and Prof Zeenat Huda -- submitted a memorandum to the VC, demanding that the teachers who were barred from taking classes be allowed to resume duties.

Video footage circulated on social media shows a group of students chasing Prof Jamal and blocking the path of his car.

Zubair later claimed that they only intended to hand over an “accomplice of fascism” to police.

Another Ducsu leader, Sarba Mitra Chakma, hogged the headlines for all the wrong reasons.

A video clip circulated on social media on January 25 showed him forcing a group of boys to do squats while holding their ears at the DU central playground. The boys had entered the field to play.

Faced with criticism, Mitra announced his resignation. He, however, withdrew the decision a couple of days later, saying students didn’t want him to resign.

In October last year, both Zubair and Mitra stirred up controversy over their involvement in eviction drives on the campus.

Mustaq Hossain, former Ducusu general secretary, said, “Assault on anyone -- be it a teacher or a destitute person -- is a crime, which is not expected from Ducusu leaders... They cannot assault or harass anyone over ideological differences.”

Asked whether Ducusu’s involvement in eviction drives falls under its jurisdiction, Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan, Ducusu president and DU vice chancellor, said, “Security of students is our utmost priority. We’ll take help from anyone -- from students to teachers -- to ensure that.”

In reply to a query, he said, “No student has the authority to harass a teacher under any circumstances. If there is any allegation, it must be addressed through proper legal procedure.”

Contacted, Ducusu General Secretary SM Farhad said, “We need to resist those who had ties with the fascists and supported attacks on students and killings in the past.

“We must respond and take steps to detain them and bring them to justice,” he said, claiming that no incident of attack on any teacher took place on the campus.

“We do not support taking the law into one’s own hands. If anyone violates this, the responsibility lies solely with the individual,” he added.

## CLAIMS IN DUCSU REPORT

In its report, Ducusu claimed an array of achievements, some of which, according to DU officials, were misattributed to the students’ union.

Ducusu said its accomplishments include the construction of Bangladesh-China Moitree Hall and the allocation of Tk 2,800 crore by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) for the improvement of DU infrastructure.

However, the Ecneec approval came on July 30, 2025, and the contract for the hall was signed on January 5 that year, months before the September 9 Ducusu election.

Ducusu also claimed the renovation of DU’s Mortuza Medical Centre as one of its achievements. However, the work was launched on August 20 last year.

When asked, Farhad said these projects were cited as accomplishments of Ducusu because it expedited the process, acting as “a pressure group”.

“For example, the approval by Ecneec would have been delayed if we did not push the authorities... We have also taken new initiatives and brought private sponsors to implement student-welfare initiatives,” he added.

Explaining the process, he said, “The company offering sponsorship provides us with materials. If we need to purchase anything, we submit bills to the company for disbursement. In case it wants to send us money, the amount must be deposited in the Ducusu’s bank account. Ducusu can use the fund upon

submission of bills.”

He further said they prefer to implement sponsor-funded initiatives without handling cash directly.

Asked about Ducsu funds, its Treasurer Prof HM Mosharraf Hossain said the DU authorities allocated Tk 25 lakh for Ducsu in October last year.

“Money from Ducsu’s bank account can be spent only on its organisational activities and initiatives such as seminars, conferences and workshops,” said Mosharraf, adding that Ducsu is not allowed to spend on any development work.