Ducsu VP candidate Abidul enters polling centre 'violating electoral rules'

Claims he took prior permission

Abidul Islam Khan entered the section of the polling centre at the Physical Education Centre where Jagannath Hall students were casting their votes this morning. Photo: Prothom Alo

Abidul Islam Khan, a vice president (VP) candidate backed by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), entered a polling centre at Dhaka University's Physical Education Centre this morning "in breach of electoral rules" for the ongoing Ducsu and hall union elections.

The incident occurred around 8:30am when Abidul Islam, a voter of Udayan school centre, entered the section designated for Jagannath Hall students.

Returning officer Kazi Mostak Gausul Haque, who was in charge of the polling centre, said Abidul was asked to leave immediately.

"The presiding officer instructed him to leave, and he complied at once. I did not witness the incident directly, but I heard it was a mistake and it was rectified promptly," he told reporters.

"According to the rules, a candidate cannot enter a centre where they are not a voter," he added.

Speaking to journalists at TSC, Abidul claimed he had entered with permission.

"As the VP candidate, it is my responsibility to ensure voting is being conducted in all centres. I should have access, yet we have not been allowed entry to Ruqayyah Hall, TSC, and Udayan School centres," he said.

"I don't understand why we are being denied entry; they claim it's prohibited. We haven't been given any ID cards either. We simply want to celebrate the election and avoid any complaints," he added.