

# Voting in Ducsu election underway

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**Voting for the long-awaited Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) and hall union elections [began this morning](#) after a six-year pause.**

Students started casting their votes at 8:00am across polling centres set up in residential halls amid tight security. The balloting will continue until 4:00pm.



Photo: Prabir Das/Star

The election is being held at eight centres of the campus -- and for the first time, outside the dormitories -- with nearly 40,000 registered voters and 471 candidates vying for 28 central posts.

A student would have to cast votes for 41 positions -- 28 in Ducusu and 13 in hall unions. Apart from 471 candidates vying against Ducusu's 28 positions, 1,035 candidates are running for 234 posts of 18 hall unions.



Photo: Prabir Das/Star

There are around 810 polling booths in the eight centres.

As of yesterday, no major untoward incidents occurred on the campus, bringing renewed hope for campus democracy.





Photo: Sirajul Islam Rubel/Star

The authorities took all-out measures to hold the election in a festive environment.

Following the student-led July uprising last year, elections of student unions on campuses was one of the major demands. DU is the first among the three public universities to hold the polls after a year of the uprising.

The DU was the epicentre of the uprising from where students were declaring the early programmes. Most of the coordinators of Students Against Discrimination -- the platform which led the uprising -- belonged to the university.



Photo: Prabir Das/Star



Those coordinators are now contesting each other from different panels with a tough contest expected in the top posts of Ducusu.

A record 45 candidates, including five women, are running for the topmost vice-president (VP) post. Close races are expected among five of them -- Abdul Qader, Umama Fatema, Md Abidul Islam Khan, Md Abu Shadik Kayem, and Shameem Hossen.

All of them had different roles in the uprising and leading separate panels.

As many as 19 candidates are contending for the general secretary (GS) post, the second in the leadership hierarchy. Of them, a tough battle is expected among Abu Baker Mojumder, Sheikh Tanvir Baree Hamim, Meghmallar Bosu, and SM Farhad.



Photo: Palash Khan/Star

In the assistant general secretary post (AGS), nobody seems to be extremely popular among the students. Of the 25 contenders as AGS, Ashrefa Khatun, Jahed Ahmed, Tanbir Al Hadi Mayed, Tahmid Al Muddassir Chowdhury and Mohiuddin Khan were named on campus.

Around 40 percent of students are non-resident. Among the voters, 20,871 are male and 18,902 are female.

The highest contest would face the 13 member posts in Ducusu, which has a total of 217 candidates.

There are a total of 12 secretary posts, which face 11 to 19 contenders in each.



Photo: Prabir Das/Star

Ducusu ballots will have five pages, while hall union ballots will be one page. Voters will cast their votes on Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) sheets.

The highest number of voters would be in Udayan School Centre, with a total of 6,159 enrolled voters. Students from four halls -- Surya Sen, Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman, Kabi Jasimuddin, and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- would cast their votes here.

The number of voters in the Curzon Hall Centre will be 5,055, where the students of Dr Muhammad Shahidullah Hall, Amar Ekushey Hall, and Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall will cast their votes.





Photo: Palash Khan/Star

The enlisted number of voters in the Physical Education Centre is 4,843, with students of Jagannath Hall, Shahid Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall and Salimullah Muslim Hall.

In the Senate Building, students from Sir AF Rahman Hall, Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall, Bijoy Ekattor Hall will cast their votes. The number of voters here is 4,816.





Photo: Prabir Das/Star

For female students, 5,641 of Rokeya Hall will cast their votes in TSC Centre; 4,084 students of Shamsunnahar Hall will cast their votes in University Laboratory School and College Centre; 4,434 students of Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall will cast their vote in Geology Department, near Curzon Hall.

The Dhaka University Club has been allocated for voting for two female halls -- Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall and Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, with a total of 4,743 students.