

RU abuzz as electioneering begins ahead of Rucsu election

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The Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucsu), hall unions, and senate student representative elections have entered the campaign phase, with formal canvassing beginning yesterday.

From 10:00am, candidates started campaigning on campus in line with electoral rules, turning the university grounds into a festive space filled with students' voices.

The Rucsu election is scheduled to take place on September 25, with 28,905 registered voters -- 17,600 across 11 male halls and 11,305 across the six female halls.

On Sunday, the Election Commission published the final list of candidates.

As per the code of conduct, candidates may campaign from the announcement of the final list until 24 hours before voting day, between 10:00am and 10:00pm daily.

During a visit to the RU campus, candidates were seen distributing leaflets at Tuktuki Chattar, the Transport Market, and around academic buildings.

The handbills they distributed carried ballot numbers and pledges, with candidates appealing for support in the election. Students eagerly accepted the leaflets and shared their expectations with the aspirants.

Independent candidate Mahir Faisal, contesting for the post of Secretary of Environment and Social Welfare, was seen campaigning at Tuktuki Chattar alongside his wife. "I'm contesting independently, without any political backing. If students find me worthy, I believe they'll vote for me. I'm hopeful about my chances," he told The Daily Star.

Independent candidate Nisha Akhter, vying for the post of Women's Affairs Secretary, was spotted distributing leaflets. "Please keep me in your prayers. I am running for the Women's Affairs Secretary position," she said while approaching students.

Meanwhile, allegations of violating the code of conduct have also surfaced.

Such an allegation was raised against Nafiul Jibon, general secretary candidate from the Chhatra Dal panel. He was accused of campaigning inside a classroom.

Denying the allegation, Nafiul Jibon said, "I entered the classroom only to talk to first-year students of my department. At first, I wanted to meet them outside. But due to the inclement weather, I met them inside instead. However, there was no discussion regarding any campaign."

According to the commission, a total of 903 candidates are contesting this year -- 248 for the central union, 58 for the senate, and 597 across 17 residential halls.

For the top three posts in the central students' union, 18 candidates are running for vice president (VP), 13 for general secretary (GS), and 16 for assistant general secretary (AGS).

In the hall elections, 61 candidates are vying for VP, 58 for GS, and 57 for AGS. In the six women's halls, 16 candidates each are contesting for VP and GS, while 15 are in the race for AGS.