

Campaigning begins for Cucusu polls

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908 candidates to contest on Oct 15



Photo: Collected

After 35 years, formal campaigning for the Chittagong University (CU) Central Students' Union (Cucusu) and hall union elections has officially begun today.

Candidates hit the ground this afternoon after the final candidates' list and draft ballot numbers were published.

The Election Commission for the polls said ballot numbers in the final list were assigned in order according to the Bengali alphabet. To reach voters, candidates are employing various strategies, including visiting campus huts, shuttle trains, and popular student hangouts to interact directly with students and present their manifestos.

The Cucus Election Commission earlier announced that voting will take place on October 15. All exams scheduled for October 15 and 16 will be suspended, although classes will continue as usual. The commission also said that all necessary preparations have been made to maintain discipline

during the campaign. To ensure a fair and secure election, the university administration held a coordination meeting with law enforcement today.

Sajjad Hossain, vice-president candidate of the JCD-backed panel, said, "We are receiving a good response in our campaign. Students are now more aware and know the role of past student leaders. We hope they will vote consciously. If the election is fair, we believe Chhatra Dal will win across the panel."

Meanwhile, Ibrahim Hossain Roni, VP candidate from the Shibir-backed panel, said, "We are trying to speak directly with students and identify their main issues. Visiting huts, shuttle trains, and hangouts allows us to hear their concerns, and if we can solve these problems as promised, students will support us."

With the Durga Puja holidays starting tomorrow, some candidates expect campaign activity to slow down. However, others emphasised maximising online campaigning during this period to ensure manifestos reach all students.

According to the university website, a total of 908 candidates will contest the polls. Of them, 415 are vying for 26 Cucusu positions, while 493 are contesting 14 hall union posts. The draft voter list includes 27,521 students.