

# After 35 years, RU set to hold student union election tomorrow

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All arrangements in place for peaceful polls, says Rucsu chief election commissioner



Photo: Star

After more than three decades and three rescheduled dates, Rajshahi University is abuzz with anticipation as students are set to cast their votes in the long-awaited Central Students' Union election tomorrow.

The election, returning after 35 years, has revived excitement, hope, and a renewed sense of democratic engagement among students.

At a press conference held at the Senate Building today, Rucsu Chief Election Commissioner Professor F Nazrul Islam announced that all preparations have been completed to ensure a fair and peaceful voting environment.

He said they are determined to hold a participatory, transparent, and peaceful election that reflects the spirit of student democracy.

"This election marks the revival of our proud tradition," Prof Nazrul told reporters.

"It will provide students with an opportunity to practice leadership, nurture democratic values, and strengthen their sense of responsibility," he added.

He also said, "The commission's goal is not only to conduct an election but to set an example of fairness and integrity. We hope every student will participate responsibly and make this a celebration of campus democracy."

The commission has printed exactly 28,901 ballot papers -- one for each registered voter -- to avoid any irregularities, Prof Nazrul said. He also urged candidates, supporters, and journalists to maintain discipline and help ensure a peaceful and credible election.

According to the Rucus Election Commission, a total of 28,901 students are eligible to vote in the polls, which will be held across 17 centres in nine academic buildings. Among them, 39.1 percent are female voters, while 60.9 percent are male. The election will see 860 candidates competing for 283 posts, including positions in the Rucus central body, the student representatives in the university senate, and the hall unions.

Of the total posts, 23 belong to the central Rucus body, where 305 candidates are contesting.

Other 58 candidates are vying for five seats in the university senate, while 555 candidates are competing for 255 positions in the 17 residential hall unions.

Around 2,000 police personnel, 12 platoons of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), and six platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will be deployed in and around the campus.

All polling centres will be under CCTV surveillance, and transparent ballot boxes will be used to maintain transparency.

Voting will be conducted by a team of 212 teachers, including 17 presiding officers and a large number of assistant presiding officers. Ninety-one university officials will serve as polling officers throughout the day. A special expert committee has also been formed to prepare and verify the results once the counting begins.