

CUCSU polls held peacefully

Chittagong Bureau

CHITTAGONG, Feb 8: Elections of Chittagong University Central Students Union and six hall unions were held today almost peacefully.

The turnout of voters was more than expected and a total of 76 per cent of voters cast their votes. However, four young men were arrested as they tried to cast false votes with forged identity cards. Twelve students including nine girls failed to cast their votes as they had no proper identity cards.

Iftekhkar Hussain General Secretary of CU unit of JCD and Mir Mohammad Zafar Ali, a first year student of History Department were allegedly beaten by a section of Shibir activists. They made written allegation about the incident to the Proctor.

A microbus carrying a group of local journalists was forced out of the campus by

militant members of Islami Chhatra Shibir.

The casting of votes started at 8.30 am and continued till 3.30 p.m. without any
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break. The first three hours were marked by big gatherings of supporters of Islami Chhatra Shibir. The students who reside in town started pouring into the campus after 10 am and by 11 am their numbers increased manifold and the Shibir activists turned almost minority in front of the election centres. However, the Shibir boys were shouting and singing provocative songs. But the supporters of Sarbadaliya Chhatra Oikya, a combine of 12 organisations including BCL (H-A) and JCD, ignored the provocations. Islami Chhatra Sena supporters were almost calm. The general voters wore no badges and concealed their inclination.

However, the general atmosphere was peaceful as the campus was under the way of 1200 men of law enforcing agencies including some members of armed police battalion.

Nearly 1400 voters out of a total 2276 at Shamsunnahar Hall cast their votes and 6300 male voters out of a total of 8300 cast their votes at the University College Centre. The total number of voters is 10576.

A total of 327 voters cast votes at the two centres at a time.

Police forces were deployed at all important points including the entrances. No outsiders were allowed into the campus. But some former student leaders, DUCSU leaders of different opposition alliances entered into the campus in processions of respective organisations. They, however, witnessed the voting from outside of the centre. There was a pandal at Zobra village adjacent to the campus. Local alliance leaders and student leaders of component units of the Oikya Parishad were very eagerly waiting there.

The counting of votes started at 6 pm. Results are expected by late this night. A total of 83.3 per cent of votes were cast from Alaol Hall, 84.9 per cent from F Rahman Hall, 80.8 from Shah Jalal Hall, 77.4 per cent from Suhrawardy Hall, 80.6 per cent from Shah Amanat Hall and 58 per cent from Shamsunnahar Hall.

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