

DUCSU polls bring hope for democracy

Special Correspondent

The peaceful elections to Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) has again raised the expectation for an intensified pro-democracy movement in the country. The tolerance and spirit of peaceful co-existence demonstrated by the students on the strife-torn Dhaka University campus during DUCSU elections signalled the possibility of an united students movement for establishing democracy.

The students of Dhaka University played the pioneering role in all democratic movement in the past and compelled the political leaders to unite for a greater national cause. The students failed over the last three years to bring the leaders of mainstream political parties together to work for establishment of a representative government.

The students have given massive mandate to a single party, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), BNP-backed students organisation, in the just concluded DUCSU elections.

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Amanullah Aman and Khairul Kabir Khokan have got the mandate of the students of Dhaka University to work for improved academic atmosphere in a democratic environment. The newly elected DUCSU leaders will have to work with broader outlook to forge greater unity to intensify the democratic movement. The election of DUCSU has been held at time when the President has announced that national elections will be held by early next year. In this backdrop the DUCSU election is very important and will have profound impact on national elections.

The mainstream Opposition has rejected the elections offer by President H.M. Ershad saying that there could be no free and fair elections under this Government. The Opposition demanded polls under a neutral government. The DUCSU leadership can play a significant role, by uniting the students, in compelling the Government to concede to Opposition's demand for a free and fair elections. Any internecine quarrel, like last year, will spoil the new opportunity for an intensified democratic movement in the country after a lull of over two years in the political arena.