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DUCSU polls today. The Dhaka University campus weaving a festive look with posters, festoons and banners. —New Nation photo

# DUCSU polls today after 7 years

DU Correspondent

Over 24 thousand students of the Dhaka University elect their representatives to the DU Central Students Union (DUCSU) and 13 hall unions today.

The DUCSU polls are going to be held after seven years. The last election was held in January 1982. After two months of the polls the DUCSU and the hall unions were dissolved following imposition of martial law in the country.

The students will give their verdict for 20 seats in the DUCSU and 156 seats in 13 residential hall unions (12 from each hall). The polling will continue from 8 am to 2 pm.

A total of 184 candidates from nine panels and 40 independents are contesting for 20 DUCSU seats. Of them 14 will fight for the post of vice-president and 15 for that of general secretary. The number of candidates in the last DUCSU polls was 392 including 33 for the posts of vice-president and general secretary.

In the hall unions polls, 953 candidates are in the race for 156 seats of office-bearers.

Only the Central Students Action Committee (CSAC) comprising 14 students organisations, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra

Shibir (ICS) are competing with full panels in the elections. The arch rivals are, however, the Sultan-Mushtaq panel of CSAC and the Dudu-Ripon panel of JCD. The other ones are: Shamsu-Amin panel (ICS), Kamal-Basher panel (pro-Obaid JCD), Mukhles-Azam panel

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## VC assures free, fair election

DU Correspondent

The Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof Abdul Mannan has assured of holding free and fair elections to the DUCSU and the hall unions.

Talking to newsmen at his official residence yesterday afternoon he expressed his satisfaction over the peaceful election campaign and hoped that the students of the university would set a new example in the history of democracy through the electoral fight.

The vice-chancellor, who is also the President of the DUCSU said the students should prove what is demo-

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## DUCSU polls

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Jatiya Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Biplobi Mancha), Bakar-Moin panel (Gonotantik Chhatra League and J-L Chhatra League), Faijul-Faruk panel (Chhatra Federation), Azam-Reza panel (pro-JSD Chhatra League) and Obaid-Mainul panel (Islami Chhatra Andolon).

The university authorities have taken tight security measures for holding the elections peacefully. Entry of the outsiders in the campus and their stay in the halls have been restricted from 8 am yesterday. Heavy contingents of police have been deployed at different entry points of the campus. Police will also be posted at all polling booths from this morning.

The Arts Building area will be strictly restricted only to those involved in counting votes from this afternoon. Only Journalists with the pass issued by the DU authorities will be allowed.

For the non-resident students university transports will be available during the polling period. No public transports will be allowed to enter the campus.

The university campus witnessed a sudden silence yesterday as election campaigns were banned as per rules. The classes of the university ended at 1.30 pm the candidates were seen moving in the campus silently asking the students for casting votes in their favour. The residential halls are weaving a festive look with banners, posters and wall writings.

The university authorities have declared closure of the institution for today and tomorrow. The classes will resume on Saturday.

## VC assures

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cracy in true sense adding that the election would be a landmark in our national life.

Reiterating his call to all quarters concerned to extend their cooperation in peacefully holding the elections, Prof Mannan hoped that the students would accept the election results.

He further said that due to a absence of DUCSU and hall unions the students of the university faced different problems. The administration also faced problems in taking decisions as there was no students representative in the Senate, the highest decision-making body of the university, he added.

Prof Ahsanul Haq, DUCSU treasurer and chief returning officer of the elections, Dr MA Mannan, proctor and chairman of the Security Council and Dr Abdul Mamin Choudhury, chief of the election management committee, were also present on the occasion.