

**Why DUCSU
polls not in
time: HC**

Staff Correspondent

THE High Court on Sunday asked the government and the Dhaka University authorities to explain in four weeks why they would not be directed to hold elections to the Dhaka University Central Students Union according to the Dhaka University Order 1973.
The bench of Justice
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Naima Haider and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman also asked the authorities to explain their failure to hold the DUCSU polls for 26 years in violation of the Dhaka University Order and the fundamental rights of guaranteed by Article 27 of the constitution.
The court passed the order after hearing a writ petition filed by former DUCSU vice-president Sultan Mohammed Mansur Ahmad and its former general secretary Mohammed Mushtaq

Hossain and Dhaka University student Zafrul Hasan Nadim.
The respondents - Dhaka University, its vice-chancellor, registrar, proctor and treasurer, and the education secretary - were asked to reply to the ruling.
Petitioners' lawyer Subrata Chowdhury and Rabin Ch Paul argued that failure of the authorities to hold DUCSU polls for 26 years was arbitrary, irrational and discriminatory as they were holding other elections such as Senate and Syndicate of

the university.
The lawyers argued that general students were paying fees for the DUCSU polls but they were not getting any facilities guaranteed in the 1973 order.
The writ petition was against the backdrop of longstanding demand from former and current students of the university for the DUCSU polls which was due in 1990s. The latest DUCSU election was held in July 1990.
On March 4, president, Abdul Hamid, also the chan-

cellor of the university, at the 50th convocation of the university, said that DUCSU election was a must to pave the way for the creation of new leadership and to strengthen democracy.
'DUCSU election should be held immediately, otherwise a vacuum would be created in the future leadership in the country,' he warned.
The university authorities time and again promised to hold the DUCSU election after the latest elected body of DUCSU was formally dissolved on May 28, 1998.