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## Dawn-to-dusk hartal today

By Staff Correspondent

The countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal, called by the BNP-led opposition alliance, begins at 6 this morning, protesting the proposed national budget for 2000-2001 fiscal.

The BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Olyka Jote, Jappan Democratic League, Progressive Nationalist Party and Nationalist Democratic Alliance staged separate demonstrations and took out torch processions in the city yesterday in support of the shutdown.

Main opposition party BNP held rallies in eight different places in the city and later brought out torch processions from the places. BNP's Lalbagh, Kotwali, Suprapur, Ramna, Demra, Motijheel, Sabujbagh and Khilgaon thana units brought out a huge procession from the central office at Naya Paltan in the evening.

Other torch processions were brought out from New Market by the BNP's Dhannondi-Mohammedpur unit, from Rokeya Sarani by the Kafrel thana unit, from Mirpur-10 roundabout by the Mirpur unit, from Azampur bus stand by the Utara thana unit, from Tejgaon rail gate by the Tejgaon thana unit, and from Postgola by the Shyampur thana unit.

Jatiya Party brought out a torch procession from the city's

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## Defaulting loans

47 directors of private banks lost positions in 5 years

By Staff Correspondent

The government notified 139 directors of different private banks for defaulting loans in the past five years and 47 of them already lost their positions.

Of the notified directors, 58 paid back their outstanding loans, 19 are still retaining their positions due to court injunctions while 15 others were acquitted of the charge. Finance Minister S.A.M.S. Kibria, disclosing the information in parliament yesterday, said the steps were taken during the period between 1995 and 2000 under the Bank Company Act.

Article 17 of the Act provides for removal of a private bank director if found guilty on charge of defaulting loans taken from any bank or financial institutions.

The finance minister also mentioned various other steps taken against the bank loan defaulters as he replied to a question from ruling party lawmaker Mohammad Shah Alam.

The Bank Company Act of

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## BSP team meets Prime Minister

A delegation of Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad yesterday met the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday evening, reports UNB.

They discussed various problems of newspaper industry including advertisement and newsprint.

The Prime Minister assured the delegation of looking into their problems.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed was present.

## Inside Today

### Article

#### Fledgling Democracies Increasingly Becoming Vulnerable

by Mansoor Mamoon

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### Supplement

A two-page supplement on Independence Day of the Philippines' on

Pages 8 &amp; 9

### Prayer Timings

| June 12 |        |  |
|---------|--------|--|
| Azan    | Jamaat |  |
| 4-15    | 4-45   |  |
| 1-00    | 1-30   |  |
| 5-00    | 5-15   |  |
| 6-50    | 6-55   |  |
| 8-15    | 8-45   |  |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Dhaka 36.44pc: Ctg 37.27 pc: Jessore 45.44pc: Comilla 35.40pc: Rajshahi 47.26pc

## Pass percentage lowest in 5 yrs

By Staff Correspondent

Results of Secondary School Certificate Examination held under the five boards this year were announced yesterday with an average pass percentage of 40.36, the lowest in the last five years and 15.12 per cent less than last year's.

The average pass percentage was 55.48 last year, 47.95 in 1998, 48 in 1997 and 52 in 1996.

This year, the highest pass percentage of 47.26 is in Ra-

jshahi Board and the lowest 35.40 in Comilla Board. It is 45.44, 37.27 and 36.44 for Jessore, Chittagong and Dhaka boards respectively.

Last year, Chittagong Board had the highest 59.86 and Ra-

jshahi Board the lowest 49.43.

The pass percentage was 58.75, 56.38 and 53 for Jessore, Comilla and Dhaka boards.

This year's SSC examination was marked by mass

copying. As many as 5,000 examinees were expelled on the first day of the examinations that began on March 2. The five boards had formed 60 vigilance teams this year to check copy-

A total of 918,045 examinees appeared at the examinations this year, of whom 381,762 passed.

### Dhaka Board

Shobnam Zerin of My-

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Shobnam Zerin, 1st in DB Science Group



Firdous Saleheen, 2nd in DB Science Group



Nafiz Tanzim Nipun, 1st in DB Humanities Group



Rehnuma Ahmed Keya, 1st in DB Business Studies

## Female candidates steal the show

By Staff Correspondent

Female students dominated the combined merit lists of Science, Humanities and Business Studies groups in this year's SSC examinations held under the five education boards.

In the combined merit list of Science Group in Dhaka Board, female students secured the first, fourth, fifth, eighth, ninth, 11th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th positions.

In Chittagong Board, female students got the first, fifth, eighth, 10th, 13th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th positions in the combined merit list of Science Group.

In Humanities Group, they also got the first, second, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th positions in the merit list of 20.

They also got the first, second, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th positions in Humanities Group.

Two students of Bangladesh Mashhoor ul Haque Memorial

In the Business Studies group also, female students secured the first, fourth, fifth, sixth, eighth, ninth, 11th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th positions.

In the combined merit list of Science Group in Dhaka Board, female students got the first, fourth, fifth, eighth, ninth, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th positions in the combined merit list of Science Group.

Traditionally good schools maintained their superiority but some less known schools also secured positions in merit lists of this year's SSC examinations.

Most of the cadet colleges failed to maintain their earlier positions.

Among the 11, Jenidah, Barisal and Rajshahi cadet colleges maintained their superiority in the merit list. Performance of Fouzdarhat Cadet College was very poor this year.

Two students of Bangladesh Mashhoor ul Haque Memorial

By Staff Correspondent

High School in Doha, Qatar also secured two positions in the merit list in Science Group in Dhaka Board.

Of the 55 students who shared the top 20 positions in Science Group in Dhaka Board, 10 are from Ideal School and College, eight from Viquarunnisa Noon School and seven are from Government Laboratory High School in Dhaka city.

However, Mymensingh Girls Cadet College secured the top position.

Four students each from St

High School in Doha, Qatar also secured two positions in the merit list in Science Group in Dhaka Board.

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