# Hasina wants JP to stay

FROM PAGE 1 In response, Ershad, a for-

mer military dictator, said he made the announcement sensing that the main opposition BNP would not take part in the next elections protesting the abolishment of the caretaker government system.

Sources present during Awami League and Jatiya Party summit meeting last night revealed this to The Daily Star.

"Who said that BNP would not participate in the elections? I think all parties will participate in the elections," a source quoted her as saying at the meeting held at Gono Bhaban last night.

Hasina also reminded Ershad that they had worked together before, staged demonstration against the misrule of the last BNP-Jamaat government, and also competed in the last elections together. "We will also compete in the next

quality education, they say.

Officials place stress on

teachers training and moni-

toring to ensure good educa-

tion in rural schools.

Otherwise the gap can only

results, published yesterday

under the grading system,

show a significant 82.67

percent pass in eight educa-

dents failed the exams,

mostly from rural area,

The education ministry

this year has prepared a

list of 20 best performing

schools in each of the eight

boards. Among these 160

institutions, 77 are run by

the state where most stu-

dents come from compar-

atively well-off families.

The remaining are either

Cadet Colleges or run by

specific forces like the

Most of the renowned

schools are also located

either in the metropolitan or

Around 2.58 lakh stu-

tion boards.

board sources say.

The JSC examination

polls together as part of the grand alliance," Hasina was quoted as saying.

Jatiya Party is a component of the Awami Leagueled grand alliance that achieved a landslide victory in the last general elections.

The meeting discussed the latest political situation of the country including the ongoing trial of war criminals. Jatiya Party's recent long march towards Sylhet protesting the proposed construction of Tipaimukh Dam, and the planned long march towards Teesta on January 17-18 also came up for discussion.

A total of 21 Jatiya Party leaders, mostly presidium members and lawmakers, and 15 senior leaders of Awami League joined the meeting chaired by Hasina.

Awami League leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Kazi

in district towns.

GIRLS SUCCEED LESS

performed better.

ber of male students.

This year, 97,211 more

females sat for the JSC

exams than males.

However, male students

students under eight general

education boards is 2.32

percent lower than the num-

beaten boys at the top level

of results. Of the total 29,838

GPA-5 scorers, 14,943 are

The number of students who

either did not turn up for the

examinations or have failed

has reduced significantly

from previous years.

However, many of the 3.06

lakh students who failed or

remained absent from the

exams may have given up

their studies altogether due

girls and 14,895 are boys.

DROPOUTRISKREMAIN

Girls have, however,

The pass rate of female

boards.

Zafarullah, Obaidul Quader, Abdul Latif Siddique, Mahbubul Alam Hanif, Dipu Moni, Faruk Khan, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Ahmad

Lenin were present. While Jatiya Party leaders Anisul Islam Mahmud, Ruhul Amin Hawlader, Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, Kazi Firoz Rashid, GM Quader, MA Sattar, Mujib-ul-Haque Chunnu, Ghulam Moshi, Golam Reza were present at

Hossain, Nuh-ul-Alam

the meeting. After the meeting, Tofail Ahmed and Ruhul Amin jointly briefed the journalists and said Awami League and Jatiya Party would work together on any national issue including the move to

try the war criminals. Tofail Ahmed said the grand alliance would remain united until the objectives for which it was formed are achieved.

About taking part in the next election alone, Ruhul

Amin said they were still in the grand alliance and they would make the decision when the time came.

As agreed in the meeting, Jatiya Party would take part in any programme of the grand alliance including today's mass procession and rally of the 14-party combine in the capital.

14-PARTY RALLY TODAY

Awami League-led 14-party combine will hold a mass rally today demanding immediate trial of war criminals of 1971 and to resist the "opposition BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami's move to protect war criminals by creating anarchy in the country".

The rally will be held in front of Shikha Chironton in Suhrawardi Udyan in the capital.

## 88.71pc passes FROM PAGE 1

point average) this year whereas last year the figure was 504.

Over three lakh students sat for the examinations this year while another 14,000 students registered but did not appear for the exams.

With this result, madrasa students topped the list of success rate in nine education boards in the country--eight general and one madrasa board. However, in terms of GPA-5 achievers, they

This year successful girls outnumbered the boys (1.6 lakh against 1.4 lakh boys) but 639 male students achieved GPA-5 against 375 females.

scored between GPA-5 and GPA-4.

Madrasa secured the third position on the list.

The list of top 20 best performing institutions is prepared on the basis of five criteria set by the government including total number of examinees, successful examinees and GPA-5 achiev-

A total of 342 students, out of 348, who took the exams from seven overseas exam

# Journalist loses leg

said his right leg has been amputated from the knee and that he is now out of danger.

Rezaul Karim, officerin-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said Nikhil was whisked off to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later shifted to the orthopaedic hospital as his condition was critical.

Police seized the vehicle right away and arrested the driver, Sohel Rana, 22, at night from Mirpur 12, he To protest the accident,

enraged journalists from print and electronic media staged demonstrations at the scene for around two hours from 12:00 noon. They put up a barricade on busy Topkhana Road

arrest of the driver.

brought out a procession, burnt tyres and damaged several vehicles.

representatives from journalists.

submit its report within five working days.

Ali, health adviser of the prime minister,

Communications Minister

demanding immediate Obaidul Quader, Information and Cultural

> that the decision whether Nikhil needs to be sent abroad or not will come

> minister pledged to bear the cost of his proper treatment. "I will talk to the prime minister about it,

> HM Ershad in a fax message expressed his concern over the accident and demanded compensation for the victim.

# Rabindra Utshab begins today

Nobel laureate Amartya Sen will be present as the chief

Geetabitan.

Amartya Sen is sched-

Noted composer and Debojyoti Mishra will conduct a one-hour inaugural musical orchestra country -- the first of its exclusive musical extrava-

ganza. their voices to 12 Tagore

Chhara Oi Ranga Matir Poth" and "Dui Haate Kaler Mondira Je Shodai Bajey".

Noted Tagore exponents, poets, litterateurs and educationists from countries other than Bangladesh and India are expected to take part in the event that also features eight seminars at the venue. Starting from 10:00am every day, four seminars will be held a day (Friday and Saturday) and

will continue till 4:00pm. A 35-member interna-Emdad Haque and Kaniz tional orchestra named "Gandharvaloka Almas will showcase the life Orchestra", featuring star of Tagore and several of his musicians and singers from over 15 countries -- Canada, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, the USA, the UK, Scotland, the Netherlands, Columbia,

cluding day. Professor Emeritus Brazil, Poland, Slovakia, Macedonia, Iceland and New Zealand -- will also

perform Tagore songs at the programme. Tagore's dance-drama 'Chandalika' will be staged by a troupe from Jalpaiguri, India on the inaugural day ute the DVDs.

Urban students perform better

In Dinajpur Board for From over 15.38 lakh students who registered example, 15 of the top 20 schools are government 48,595 did not turn up for the schools. The picture is simiexams while 2,58,165 failed according to results publar for the seven other lished yesterday.

A large number of these students live in rural areas. Many among them won't be able to take the exams again because of poverty, board officials say. It is also not certain whether students who failed in three subjects will be allowed to re-enrol in class IX like they did last year.

Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury claims that the drop out rate has reduced significantly owing to government steps like stipends, mid-day meals and free textbooks.

The government has also formed a Trust Fund to give stipends to students from class VI up to the graduation level and once that gets implemented, drop out rates will reduce further, they

geted for the current fiscal year under the SFYP for 2011-

outlets wrongly interpreted

The plan targets an investment of Tk 13.5 trillion to achieve over 7 percent growth of the economy during the

which one may term ambi-

"But we will be able to do it," said the finance minister.

down no matter how much you try.'

Muhith said problems like high inflation that Bangladesh faces are not unique. "It is the problem of developing countries, of the world economy, not of Bangladesh alone. Such difficulty will remain. Despite that we will move forward," he added.

with the Spanish ambassador about the reaction of a business delegation from Spain, the minister said the delegation praised the vibrancy of Bangladesh economy.

"It's a booming economy," he said, recalling the reaction of the Spanish delegation that visited Dhaka earlier.

# Tackle use of black money

FROM PAGE 20

Few of them have even complained against their opponents of collecting national identity card of voters in exchange for money ahead of January 5 election.

The allegations came out at a view exchange meeting between Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda and the mayor and the councillor candidates held at Comilla Town Hall. Two leading mayoral aspi-

rants Afzal Khan and Monirul Hoque Sakku were absent from the meeting. Khan's son Masud Parvez and Sakku's election coordinator Atiqul Islam represented them. A number of councillor

candidates including Golam Zilani and Mizanur Rahman drew attention of the CEC to the use of black money. In reply to queries of the

candidates, the CEC said that there are tendencies to distribute money among voters on the night before the voting "Police, Rab and BGB will

remain alert to check distribution of black money. Outsiders will not be allowed in the area two days before the now. election," he said. Later at a meeting with

some others in March, July,

September, October,

November and December

The cabinet on December

19 approved a proposal for

extending the retirement age

of civil servants to 59 years,

which is an increase of two

years from the previous age

President Zillur Rahman

amended the Public Service

Retirement Act 1974 to that

effect through promulgating

an ordinance on December

placed before the parliament

for ratification in the next

session to be started at the end

Asked about the govern-

The ordinance will be

next year.

limit.

district administration officials, Huda said election

commission has achieved a lot of success but expected results did not come in the

city

case of black money. "Please do your best to prevent use of black money," he urged the officials.

While talking to locals and candidates at the Town Hall, the CEC urged people to elect good people as their representatives in the upcoming polls. "Comilla election can be a

role model of a free and fair

voting. Public expectation has

to be reflected through election," he observed. Shahnewaz, a councillor candidate of ward-10, alleged that one of his opponents is collecting national identity

card of voters in exchange for

"It is a serious crime. Submit specific allegation, then we will take tougher actions," the CEC said.

Masud Parvez Imran, son of ruling party-backed candidate Afzal Khan, said a showdown of arms took place during a factional clash of district unit Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal at a conference last year. But surprisingly, police could not recover a single arms till Dissident Awami League

mayor candidate Anisur Rahman Mithu alleged that he was threatened by an influ-

ential quarter.

Many candidates also raised questions about the use of electronic voting machine (EVM).

But the CEC ruled out any confusion about it, saying "EVM is a mistakefree counting system. There is no possibility of mistake or cancellation of votes. Many people who have no idea about the device are raising objections to it."

Those who can use mobile phone will be able to cast votes using EVM, he said.

"We have requested the lawmakers not to make frequent visits to polling centres They [lawmakers] will not find any scope to influence voters. They will have to leave the area after casting their votes, Huda said, adding that closecircuit camera will be installed at every polling centre.

The commission has no candidate in the election, and there is no doubt that the election will be held in a free and fair manner, the CEC Deputy Commissioner

Rejaul Ahsan, Returning Officer Abdul Baten and Police Super Mokhlesur Rahman, among others, were present in both the meetings.

months. But they will also now

enjoy the extended retirement

age once they are promoted

he added saying, they just

have to wait a little longer for

"The government

increased the retirement age

nance to amend the act, he

added saying, the retirement

age was increased in a bid to

Barisal Education Board

which has topped all the

education boards in terms of

Dhaka Board stands the fifth

boards as well as the students

were in the dark about the

before the exam. That is why

the students could not pre-

pare themselves properly,'

students started their prepa-

ration from January while the

teachers guided them prop-

Pass rates in English and

mathematics in his board rose

by more than 10 percent to 94

and 93 percent respectively

Bimal Krishna said.

were not hard.

"Last year, the education

with 81.45 percent pass rate.

the promotions now.

## 8 AL leaders

acquitted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday acquitted eight members of the ruling Awami League and its front organisations of vandalism and assault on police in a 2006 case after the prosecution witnesses did not turn up for sixteen consecutive hearings.

The case had been filed with Paltan Police Station accusing 11 people by name and 500 to 600 others unidentified of damaging vehicles, assaulting police and preventing them from discharging their duties in a occupyingsecretariat programme held by the then opposition AL-led 14-party alliance.

Those acquitted yesterday are LGRD State Minister Jahangir Kabir Nanok, Jubo League general secretary Mirza Azam, AL lawmaker Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon, former AL MP Haji Mohammad Selim, Dhaka city AL general secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Jubo League Dhaka city (south) unit president Mohiuddin Mohi, and Jubo League members Sohail and Jewel.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Jafar Md Kamruzzaman said that since the charges were framed against the accused in November 2007, the court summoned 16 times the prosecution witnesses including the complainant, Sub-Inspector Selimuzzaman of the police station, to appear before the court. But the witnesses did not comply with the court order.

in the case were present in the

Investigation officer SI Nasirul Alam pressed charges against them on April 7, 2007.

## BNP to return FROM PAGE 1

Speaking at another

programme in the capital, Fakhrul questioned if the president has on his own taken the initiative for talks with the political parties or he has been asked by the government to do so.

March 24.

has kept off the House for 47 consecutive working days.

votes on each of their 1,030 amendment proposals on the thanksgiving motion on

to be a lengthy one as discussions will take place on the president's speech, said secretariat.

House that began on October 20 had 13 working days.

## All students

FROM PAGE 1 achieved the credit of 100

percent pass, 428 are under examination even six months Under Madrasa

But this year, he added, the Education Board, only four institutions achieved the credit of cent percent success rate while 34 got zero erly. Moreover, the questions percent pass rate.

pass rate. Under madrasa which is another reason why board, two institutes had Barisal Board has topped the cent percent pass rate while 96 institutes had zero per-Some 15,38,640 students cent. from 18,484 schools, including those who failed in three

them, 14,90,045 did not show However, all the top 20 up in the exam halls. The number of schools with cent percent pass rate rose to 1,827. No student from

subjects last year, had regis-

tered for the test this year. Of

107 schools passed this year. The examinations began on November 1 and ended on

November 21. Students took College in Motijheel have tests in nine subjects. Many of the jubilant students who had been suffering

A number of students and

spondent to know the results.

reduced to 52 from 65. The number of schools having cent percent pass

Comilla, Chittagong and

FROM PAGE 20

guest at the event. An album series of 2,300 songs, dance drama and opera in 22 DVDs titled "Shruti Geetabitan" will be unpacked at the inaugural programme. Four hundred Bangladeshi Tagore singers have recorded the songs of

uled to unveil the DVDs.

music director from Kolkata "Shohosro Konthe Gaan" performed by one thousand Tagore singers across the kind -- lightening up the The artistes will lend

songs including "Aguner Poroshmoni", "Akash Bhora Surja Tara", "Kanna Hashir Dol Dolano", "O Amar Desher Mati", "Gram

The journalists also

Meanwhile, the communications ministry yesterday formed a five-member

committee headed by its Joint Secretary Mohammad Moyeenuddin to probe the accident. The committee will also have

Signed by the probe body chief, a press release said the committee will

Meanwhile, Dr Modassir

Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad and a number of government top brass visited Nikhil at the hospital where many journalists were also present. Modassir told reporters

The communications

Quader said. Jatiya Party Chairman

'Chitrangada' on the concluding day of the festival. Shurer Dhara artistes and Nagarik Natyangan will stage plays "Kalmrigoya" and "Achalaytan" at the

while another troupe from

Shantiniketan will perform

Two documentary films - "Rabindranath" by Satyajit Ray and "Bangladesh-e Rabindranath" by Chanchal Khan -- will also be screened at the festival site. Bangladeshi designers

literary characters through their costumes. Finance Minister AMA Muhith will be present as the chief guest on the con-

Anisuzzaman is the president of festival organising council. The daily Prothom Alo and Channel i are the media partners of the festival, while Impress Audio Vision Limited will distrib-

'It's all for a few officials' retained last position.

Over 40,000 students

Tanjimul Ummah Cadet Madrasa in the capital's Uttara topped the list of 20 best performing institutions under Madrasa Education Board, while Jhalokathi NS Kamil Madrasa was second and Al Jamiatul Falehia Kamil

centres were successful. Of

## them, 33 secured GPA-5.

FROM PAGE 1 low domestic resource mobilisation, low foreign aid and foreign investment not coming in a big way, achieving 7 percent growth is difficult," he said while releasing the sixth five-year plan (SFYP) docu-

ments at the Planning Commission. The minister made the remarks referring to recent media reports that he expressed doubt about 7 percent growth of GDP, tar-

Muhith said some media

what he had said.

period ending in fiscal 2015. Of the total investment, 77.2 percent is expected to come from private sector. The remaining Tk 3 trillion will come from public sector,

Despite limitations, he said, Bangladesh is considered a potential economy and a model for many in the world. "Economy cannot be pushed

Asked whether the failed Referring to his meeting students would be allowed to

> came out successful. Of them, 33 obtained GPA-5.

missed the allegation saying the retirement age was increased to get better service from experienced officials. "We did not take into consideration who are going to retirement or not," said the minister preferring not to be

ment's hurried move alleg-

edly to reward some secretar-

ies, a senior minister dis-

Public Administration Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder also denied the allegation and said, "But it is true that some of the secretaries would normally go to retirement this month or the next."

with good intentions, the matter was being discussed for years," he said. As there is no parliament session right now, the president promulgated an ordi-

discourage contractua appointments. He said there might be He said the retirement age some grievances among 5 to in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka 10 people who were in the and most of the developed pipeline for promotions as secretaries within a few countries is 60.

# GPA-5 galore in JSC exams

examinations through taking

preparations from the very

beginning of their academic

of January next year.

Combined results of JSC and JDC examinations rose to

83.71 percent from last year's 73.04 percent. A total of 29,838 JSC students -- 14,895 boys and 14,943 girls -- secured the highest grade point average (GPA)-5. Last year, 8,052 achieved the distinction in the

examinations that were introduced for class VIII students. The highest 12,021 stu-

dents got GPA-5 from Dhaka Board In terms of pass rate, boys did better than girls even though the number of girl examinees was higher than the boys'. The pass rate among boys is 83.91 percent

while it is 81.59 among girls. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid briefed journal ists on the results at 3:00pm at his secretariat office. The results were formally handed over to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at 12:30pm.

"Compared with last year, we are better off this year in terms of all indicators, like number of students, pass rate, GPA-5 achievers, and the institutions achieving cent percent pass rate, thereby indicating an improvement in the education sector," the education minister said.

Apart from students' hard

work and relentless efforts

expended by teachers and guardians, various government steps, notably timely distribution of textbooks to the students for free, broadcasting classes of the best teachers of the capital countrywide through BTV and giving stipends helped raise the pass rate, he added. tutions while Ideal School and

authorities would make the decision after analysing the became third. results. A total of 342 out of 384 JSC students who took the test from seven overseas centres

enrol in class IX, he said the

Teachers and educational dents, and average GPA of the officials said doing better in English and mathematics, Prof Bimal Krishna students' awareness of the Mazumder, chairman o

year, and training the pass rate as last year, said programmes for teachers students got more time for have contributed to such preparations since the examination was held for the sec-"This year, fewer students ond time this year. have failed in English and The highest 93.13 percent mathematics, which is one of examinees passed from the main reasons for the Barisal Board. Chittagong record pass rate and also for Board is at the bottom with the record number of GPA-5 72.65 percent pass rate while

Board, told The Daily Star yesterday. Under Dhaka Board, over 85 percent students passed in English and 87 percent in mathematics, she said, adding that the numbers were between 70 and 75 percent

scorers," Prof Fahima Khatun,

chairman of Dhaka Education

last year. Besides, she added, "Identifying subject-wise weaknesses of the students, we took initiatives to take special classes that also contributed to the result. Many students failed last

year out of fear of sitting for a

public examination for the

first time in their lives, she

said, adding that students now felt more confident. Eight educational institutions outside the capital secured positions among this year's top 20 institutions. Last year, only four institutions from outside Dhaka were on

institutions are either in the metropolitan area or inside the municipality. Rajuk Uttara Model School and College in the capital has topped the best 20 list of insti-

become second. Mirzapur

achievers, number of stu-

Cadet College, Tangail, from a case of nerves for the last couple of days had to wait The government made the for the results till late afterlist of the top 20 institutions on the basis of five factors -rate of regular examinees, guardians called this correpass rate, number of GPA-5

In the ruling, Second

Yesterday, all the accused court.

BNP has been boycotting parliament sessions since The BNP-led opposition

The opposition lawmakers walked out of the House on March 24 protesting the Speaker's refusal to hold

the president's speech. The 12th session is likely

sources at the parliament The 11th session of the

the Dhaka Education Board, 96 under Rajshahi, 334 Comilla, 46 under Jessore, 52 under Chittagong, 559 under Barisal, 70 under Sylhet and 242 under Dinajpur education boards.

Last year, under general boards, 863 institutions secured cent percent pass while 272 had zero percent

The number of institutions having cent percent pass rate this year increased in all education boards except for Jessore and Chittagong boards. In Jessore, it declined from 70 to 46 while in Chittagong it

rate under eight general boards increased by a large margin -- 1,827 this year compared to last year's 863.

percent pass rate.

Sylhet education boards have no institution with zero pass rate, while Dhaka has 11, Rajshahi 38, Jessore 16, Barisal 2 and Dinajpur has 40 institutions with zero