



From bird to X



Tamim under observation



Serving a party is against the oath of BPSC



Will continue presidential campaign if sentenced



A shot of the BNP's grand rally in front of its Nayapaltan headquarters yesterday afternoon. The party announced that it would hold sit-ins at all entries to Dhaka today to press for its one-point demand for resignation of the government and polls under a non-party interim government.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Thousands of Jubo League, Chhatra League and Swechchhasebak League leaders and activists join "peace rally" at the south gate of Baitul Mukarram in the capital. The Awami League and its affiliates later announced they would not hold any rally in the capital today, adhering to police measures.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

BNP to press on with Dhaka sit-ins today

Says after DMP decision not to allow any demos at Dhaka's entry points; Fakhrul asks govt to quit at mammoth rally in Nayapaltan

SAJJAD HOSSAIN and MD ABBAS

From its mammoth rally in the capital's Nayapaltan, BNP yesterday announced sit-ins for today at all the major entry points to Dhaka as part of the party's larger movement to force the government to hold the upcoming national election under a non-party government.

In a late-night development, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police said they will not allow any such programmes, but BNP sources said they will go ahead with their planned sit-ins.

The sit-ins will be staged from 11:00am to 4:00pm at nine points.

Dhaka north city unit of BNP will hold sit-ins in front of Uttara BNS Centre and Gabtoli's SA Khalek Bus Station. Dhaka south city unit will stage those in front of Nayabazar BNP office and in front of Dania College on Chattogram Road at Jatrabari.

The party will also stage sit-ins at Sonir Akhra, Mukti Sarani, Gabtoli and Yousuf Super Market at Nayabazar.

"Our programme [today's sit-ins] will be completely peaceful and is our constitutional right. We expect that the administration will carry out its constitutional duty to allow us to hold our

programmes peacefully. I request the administration and the government again to extend their cooperation," Fakhrul told the rally joined by tens of thousands of party activists from across the country.

Yesterday's rally was scheduled to begin at 2:00pm, but the venue was packed with BNP leaders and activists by 9:30am as thousands of party supporters thronged Nayapaltan and its adjacent areas since Thursday night.

Roads and alleys stretching from Fakirapul to Kakrail Mosque were crowded with BNP activists, halting traffic in the area. By noon, the ever-expanding rally crowd spilled over onto nearby roads and streets and spaces up to Shantinagar.

They chanted various anti-government slogans, as they carried banners, lestoons, placards, and portraits of the party's top leaders.

"Go back Hasina, step down Hasina," one placard read.

"We and 36 political parties, and even those who are not with us, have agreed that there will be no election under the Awami League government. This government must resign, and parliament must be dissolved. The election must be conducted under

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"A new Election Commission has to be formed, and the election must be held under that commission. The aim of our one-point movement is the resignation of the current Awami League government."

Won't allow any party to stage sit-ins, rallies

Announces DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Neither the ruling Awami League nor the BNP will be allowed to hold events at the entries to the capital today.

Shortly after Dhaka Metropolitan Police made the announcement, top BNP leaders held a meeting online and decided to hold the sit-ins anyway.

BNP's like-minded political parties will also hold their sit-ins at the entry points. DMP Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq in a statement late last night said the permission was not given because of intelligence reports of public suffering and possible deterioration of law and order at the events.

The ruling AL, on the other hand, said it would not hold its "peace rallies" at entrances to the capital, and its leaders and activists would be at their party offices at every ward instead, said sources.

The DMP commissioner earlier said the BNP neither informed nor took permission from the DMP for the sit-in programmes.

Contacted last night, he said the people would not allow traffic disruption at the entries to the capital.

"We work for the people. We will take steps..."

Not all the entries to the capital city are within the DMP jurisdiction.

BNP's sit-ins are supposed to be held at the entry points of Dhaka from 11:00am to 4:00pm today.

AL won't hold rallies, but will stay alert

Decides after DMP measures; no use browbeating AL, says Quader at affiliates' rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adhering to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's decision not to allow any party to hold sit-ins or rallies today, Awami League and its affiliates will not hold their "peace rallies" at the entry points to the capital today.

But leaders and activists of Dhaka city AL (north and south units) will take position at their respective unit offices in every ward from the morning today and remain alert, said sources.

Earlier last night, Dhaka city AL units said they would hold "peace rallies" at five entry points to the capital today to counter BNP's sit-ins. This decision came hours after the BNP announced its programmes at the entrances to Dhaka city from 11:00am to 4:00pm today.

The ruling party has been holding such counter programmes since BNP's Dhaka divisional rally in December last year.

However, after the DMP refused to give the parties permission to hold rallies today, Dhaka City unit AL leaders cancelled their rallies.

Although BNP yesterday announced the decision to stage sit-ins today, the ruling camp did not mention any programmes from its rally at the south gate of the Baitul Mukarram national

mosque.

Addressing the rally organised by three of the ruling party affiliates, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader came down heavily on BNP and warned that they would block

After the DMP refused to give the parties permission to hold rallies today, the Dhaka City unit AL leaders cancelled their rallies.

BNP's path if the opposition party stirred any trouble.

"I've heard you [BNP] will block the roads. You will take position at the entrances to Dhaka. We will block your paths. There's no use browbeating us. Our roots are very deep in this soil."

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said BNP has appointed lobbyists.

"They wrote letters to the United Nations and the US ambassador through some lobbyists. They have

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SSC & EQUIVALENT EXAMS

Pass rate hits 13-year low

Officials say poor show in particular boards and subjects to blame

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The success rate in this year's SSC and equivalent exams has hit a 13-year low mainly due to poor performances in mathematics and bad results in Sylhet board due to floods in that region, officials said.

According to the results published yesterday, the pass rate dropped by 7.16 percent from last year's. The numbers of GPA 5s in the nine general education boards have also dropped.

As a reason for this year's poor show, board officials said students needed to take exams with a curtailed syllabus on 12 papers, but with full marks.

Last year, they had to sit for nine papers, also with shortened syllabuses, but with fewer marks to get. There were also more optional questions, they added.

Meanwhile, girls have once again outperformed boys in terms of both pass rate and achieving a grade point average of five.

The number of institutions with a 100 percent pass rate was 2,354 -- down by 621 from last year's 2,975, while the number of institutions with a zero percent pass rate was 48, which was 50 last year.

SSC RESULTS BOARD-WISE PASS RATE AND GPA-5		
BOARD	PASS RATE	GPA-5
Dhaka	77.75	46,303
Rajshahi	87.89	26,877
Cumilla	78.42	11,623
Jashore	86.17	20,617
Chattogram	78.29	11,450
Barishal	90.18	6,311
Sylhet	76.06	5,452
Dinajpur	76.87	11,410
Mymensingh	85.49	13,177
TOTAL	80.94	159,220

After receiving the results from the board authorities yesterday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina congratulated the students who passed and urged others to be attentive to their studies.

To the parents, she advised, "Don't compare your children to other children. Instead, let them develop their skills according to their own merit."

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With a big smile, an SSC examinee treats her rickshaw-puller with sweets on her way back home from her school after the result of this year's SSC and its equivalent exams was published yesterday. The photo was taken in Barishal city's Nazirpool area.

PHOTO: TITU DAS



Final exams at schools to be wrapped up by Nov

Says Dipu Moni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All primary and secondary schools throughout the country should complete final exams by November keeping the next general election in mind so that students do not face any problems, Education Minister Dipu Moni has said.

"We want to complete all exams of the secondary schools, including evaluation of students of classes 6-7, by November

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HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Daily Star office will remain closed today on the occasion of Ashura. There will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow. However, our digital version will serve the readers 24/7.