



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 Svechchhasebok 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 Jartrabari.

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, festoons, 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."

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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.

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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



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 Nazirerpul 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.