



7 DU-AFFILIATED COLLEGES Session jam dashing hopes of students

Delay in result publication, poor infrastructure to blame

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Seven and a half years into the affiliation of seven colleges with Dhaka University, students feel they are faced with new problems, most notably session jam, in addition to existing ones relating to shortage of teachers and infrastructure.

Both students and teachers have blamed the session jam on delayed publication of academic results in most departments. They have said evaluation of exam scripts and preparation of tabulation sheets take a long time, causing the delay in publishing results.

IK Selim Ullah Khondaker, the first coordinator for the seven colleges, has said the aim of the affiliation was to improve the quality of education in the colleges.

"But the aim of better education remains unfulfilled due to the delay in publication of results. By the time the results are published, students have already attended the next year's classes for seven or eight months," he explained.

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Former principal of Dhaka College.

"So, if a student finds out that they have failed to obtain the minimum grades for a promotion, having attended the next year's classes for over half a year or so, they will naturally feel shocked because then they will be required to finish the courses from the previous year and start all over again," said Khondaker, also a former principal of Kabi Nazrul Government College and Dhaka College.

The seven colleges are: Dhaka College, Eden Mohila College, Government Shaheed Suhrawardy College, Kabi Nazrul Government College, Begum Badrunnesa Government Mohila College, Mirpur Government Bangla College, and Government Titumir College.

Since June this year, students from the seven colleges have taken to the streets several times, pressing for various demands including publication of results within 90 days, having an academic calendar, and relaxation of the CGPA conditions.

In the latest instance, several hundred students blocked the capital's Nilkhet-New Market intersection on August 16, 22 and 27, demanding the DU authorities lower the minimum CGPA requirement for promotion to the next academic year.

WHAT CAUSES THE DELAY?

DU data shows that 17 out of 25 departments published third-year results four to seven months after the exam. According to DU rules, however, the authorities should publish results within 90 days after completion of an exam.

Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, pro vice-chancellor (academic) of DU, said excepting four or five departments, all others published results in due time. "We usually serve show-cause notice to the departments that fail to submit scripts or prepare tabulation sheets in time," he added.

Scripts are evaluated by teachers of both the seven colleges and the DU while the tabulation sheets are prepared only by the DU teachers.

Teachers prepare the result tabulation manually, which delays their work as the authorities are yet to introduce automation for the job, said a former principal of one of the seven colleges, wishing not to be named. One of the reasons for not introducing automation might be financial benefits, he added.

A teacher gets Tk 75 to Tk 150 per script for tabulation. Usually, each teacher tabulates around 4,000 to 5,000 scripts per academic year, according to DU sources.

Dismissing the allegation of financial benefits, Kamal said, "Dhaka

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BNP activists at a rally in the capital's Abdullahpur yesterday. Dhaka (north) city unit of the BNP and its associate bodies organised the rally to realise the party's one-point demand for holding the next national election under a non-partisan administration.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

US to back PM's call for free, fair polls Under Secretary Uzra Zeya tells PM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Washington wants to support Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's calls for free, fair, and peaceful elections.

US Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Uzra Zeya said this when she met the PM on Thursday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

"The United States is committed to advancing democracy and free elections all over the world and, as a partner to Bangladesh, seeks to support Prime Minister Hasina's public calls for free and fair elections in Bangladesh that are carried out in a peaceful manner," said a statement from the US embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

Under Secretary Uzra Zeya wrote on X, formerly Twitter, that she was honoured to reconnect with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina before co-hosting a High-Level Side Event on the Rohingya Crisis.

"We discussed the importance of free and fair elections, US-Bangladesh partnership, and US appreciation for Bangladesh's continued generous hosting of 960,000 Rohingya refugees," she wrote.

The US embassy statement said,

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PROBE INTO MURDER OF SIKH LEADER Trudeau wants India to cooperate

Declines to release evidence; US giving Delhi no 'special exemption' over the issue, says Biden's adviser

REUTERS, New York

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday called on India to cooperate with an investigation into the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia and said Canada would not release its evidence.

Trudeau said on Monday that Ottawa had credible allegations linking Indian government agents to the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June, prompting an angry reaction from New Delhi. Nijjar, 45, was a Canadian citizen.

The Canadian government has amassed both human and signals intelligence in a months-long investigation into the Sikh separatist leader's murder, CBC News separately reported on Thursday citing sources.

Traditional Canadian allies have so far taken a relatively cautious approach to the matter. Political analysts said this was partly because the United

States and other major players see India as a counterweight to the growing influence of China.

"There is no question that India is a country of growing importance and a country that we need to continue to work with ... and we're not looking to provoke or cause problems," Trudeau said in a press conference in New York on the sidelines of the annual high-level United Nations General Assembly.

The Canadian government amassed both human and signals intelligence in a months-long investigation into the Sikh leader's murder: report

"That's why we call upon the government of India to work with us to establish processes to discover and to uncover the truth of the matter."

The CBC report said, citing Canadian sources, that no Indian official, when pressed behind closed doors has denied the allegation that

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Khaleda Zia's health deteriorates Shifted to CCU from cabin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was shifted to the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) from her cabin at Evercare Hospital in the capital yesterday.



She was taken to the CCU around noon as her physical condition deteriorated, said AZM Zahid Hossain, her personal physician.

The medical board formed to treat Khaleda took the decision.

Previously, on September 18, the former prime minister was taken to the hospital's CCU, where she received treatment for around 10 hours before being shifted back to the cabin.

The BNP chief has been suffering from multiple health complications,

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AL 'peace rally' in the capital today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an apparent bid to counter the BNP's demonstrations on the streets, the ruling Awami League will hold a rally in the capital today.

Dhaka city (south and north) unit AL will hold the "peace rally" at the south gate of the Baitul Mukarram national mosque at 3:00pm.

AL's central leaders will address the rally at that time.

Meanwhile, the BNP will set out on a road march from Barishal to Patuakhali to realise their one-point demand—the resignation of the government and national polls under a non-partisan administration.

The ruling party will also hold a series of programmes till October 4. Awami League rolled out the series of movements, a day after BNP unveiled a series of rallies and road marches that started on September 19.

The AL leadership believes the next 40 days are crucial as the BNP will try to intensify their movement to unseat the

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Hidden ocean source of CO2 on Jupiter moon

AFP, Paris



Carbon dioxide detected on Jupiter's moon Europa comes from the vast ocean beneath its icy shell, research using James Webb Space Telescope data has indicated, potentially bolstering hopes the hidden water could harbour life.

Scientists are confident there is a huge ocean of saltwater kilometres below Europa's ice-covered surface, making the moon a prime candidate for hosting extra-terrestrial life in our Solar System.

But determining whether this concealed ocean has the right chemical elements to support life has been difficult.

Carbon dioxide — one of the key building blocks of life — has been detected on Europa's surface, but whether it rose up from the ocean below remained an open question.

Aiming to find an answer, two US-led teams of researchers used data from the Webb telescope's near-infrared spectrometer to map CO2 on the surface of Europa, publishing their results in separate studies in the journal Science.

The most CO2 was in a 1,800 kilometre-wide (1,120 mile) area called Tara Regio, where there is a lot of "chaos terrain" with jagged ridges and cracks.



A view shows a destroyed residential building in the area damaged during a Russian missile strike in the town of Kurakhove, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Donetsk region, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SPORT

BD-NZ 2nd ODI today

Rain played spoilsport as it washed out the first ODI between Bangladesh and New Zealand at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium on Thursday and with the forecast of a shower looming large, the two sides will meet at the same venue for the second ODI of the three-match series today. Both teams would be hoping for a full match as they eye to gauge their strengths and test their squads before the deadline for submitting the World Cup squad on September 27.

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