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27th BCS candidates threaten to self-immolation

The unsuccessful candidates of the controversial 27th BCS examinations staging 'fast unto death' protest since November 1, on Wednesday threatened to launch self-immolation from 'Friday if their demands were not met by then, reports UNB.

A spokesman for protesters, who claim themselves to be victims of whimsical decision of the Public Service Commission (PSC), said they have decided to resort to self-immolation, accusing the authorities of being indifferent to their grievances. "If the government does not respond by today (Thursday), we will resort to such extreme action on Friday after Ju'ma prayer," he added.

More than 100 of the candidates, who came out successful in the first-phase results but later were disqualified in the second phase results, declared their next step while staging hunger strike for the fifth day along with their parents and guardians at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka.

The protests, which began on Saturday, is part of a campaign to force the PSC to reverse its decision and to restore the first-phase results. On Wednesday, 10 more of the fasting candidates and guardians were taken to nearby DMCH for treatment. So far about 60 of the fasting protestors were removed to hospital on deterioration of their condition.

BNP and Awami League leaders Rizvi Ahmed and Asaduzzaman Nur today visited the strikers.