

Iajuddin advised rest for 4 more weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Iajuddin Ahmed is unlikely to take charge of his office immediately after his return to Bangabhaban from the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka tomorrow, as he has been advised to take rest for another four weeks.

Physicians at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore have advised the president to take rest for eight weeks from the day he underwent the bypass surgery. We have also suggested so," Professor Brigadier (Retd) MA Malik, head of a seven-member medical board, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said President Iajuddin Ahmed underwent the bypass surgery on May 26. "It will be nearly

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59pc pass SSC exams

Record 24,384 score GPA-5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations showed an improving trend with a pass-rate of 59.04 per cent against 52.57 per cent of last year and 49.74 per cent of 2004.

The average pass percentage of the SSC, SSC (Vocational) and Dakhil examinations is 62.22, according to results published yesterday within 76 days of the examinations.

A record number of 24,384 examinees secured the highest grade point average (GPA) of 5 in the SSC, compared to 17,276 examinees of last year, 9,886 of 2004 and 1,392 of 2003.

The letter-grading system was introduced at the SSC-level in 2002 when only 330 examinees secured GPA 5.

Board	Pass Percentage
Dhaka	61.35
Rajshahi	60.71
Comilla	63.45
Jessore	48.10
Chittagong	63.87
Barisal	59.30
Sylhet	56.52
Country	59.04

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Like the previous years, schools in urban areas, particularly those in metropolitan cities, dominated in the GPA-5 category this year also.

Among the top ten GPA-5 securing schools, six are in the capital under the Dhaka Education Board, two in Chittagong under the Chittagong Board and two in Comilla under the Comilla Board.

Highest 591 students of Vigarunnisa Noon School secured GPA 5, followed by Ideal School and College with 525 students achieving the same grade point.

Double Mooring Collegiate School in Chittagong bagged 297 GPA-5s while Motijheel Model High School 285.

Rejoinder, our reply

Following the publication of our report, "Mismanagement mars ICDDR,B's reputation" on June 16, we received the following rejoinder from Dr David A Sack, executive director, ICDDR,B which we publish in full along with a reply.

1. After living in Dhaka for nearly 13 of the last 29 years, I have deep regard for the people who work at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), its Board of Trustees, and the people who are helped by our hospital. I generally have high regard for the press of Bangladesh as well. Thus, I was extremely disappointed by the article by Mr Morshed Ali Khan in The Daily Star regarding the ICDDR,B (16 June, 2006). As Executive Director of the Centre, I can say that the allegations contained in this article

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PHOTO: STAR

Students and parents showing V at the Vigarunnisa Noon School and College after the examinees received GPA-5 in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exams yesterday on Bailey Road in the capital.

GPA-5 scorers increased 100 times in 5 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of grade point average (GPA) 5 achievers in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) level public examinations has reached a record high this year, as the figure is about 100 times higher than that of 2002 when the new system was introduced.

As many as 30,490 examinees of SSC, Dakhil and SSC (Vocational) examinations have scored the GPA-5 this year, while the number was 17,276 last year.

In 2004, the number of GPA-5 achievers was 9,886 while it was 1,392 in 2003.

Only 330 students secured GPA-5s when the letter-grading system was introduced in these SSC-level

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Pass rates go up in SSC (Vocational), Dakhil exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The percentage of passed students in the Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board improved this year like it did in the previous few years.

This year a record of 75.81 per cent of students achieved Dakhil certificate while 62.05 per cent passed the exams last year, 59.74 per cent in 2004, and 41.87 per cent in 2003.

Education Minister Osman Farruk and State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon, accompanied by the chairmen of the nine education boards yesterday gave the information in a news conference at the education ministry auditorium.

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PHOTO: AFP

LUCKY 13: Brazil phenomenon Ronaldo heads in the first of his two goals against Japan in Dortmund. With the second goal, he equalled the elusive record of most WC goals, 14, set by Germany's Gerd Muller 32 years back.

Brazil bid Japan WC bye

AFP, Dortmund

Brazil wrapped up their World Cup Group F campaign with a 4-1 win over Japan here on Thursday as an energised Ronaldo emerged from his shell to score the two goals that made him joint all-time World Cup top scorer with Germany's Gerd Muller.

The win made it three wins out

of three and secured a last 16 meeting with rank outsiders Ghana.

But the samba stars had to react after Keiji Tamada smashed home Japan's opener against the run of play on 34 minutes.

Ronaldo nodded the champions level seconds before the break to move ahead of Pele in the goal stakes.

A Juninho piledriver and

Gilberto's neat finish within 15 minutes of the restart and a neat Ronaldo swivel and shot wrapped up the contest.

Pele congratulated Ronaldo on his achievement.

"It was good he got off the mark right on half time. That will have been a weight off his shoulders," Pele told German television.

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Kewell takes Soccerroos to last 16

AFP, Stuttgart

Australia fought back twice to advance to the last sixteen of the World Cup with a pulsating 2-2 draw against Croatia early today.

Liverpool star Harry Kewell, the man of the match, sent the Australians into the second round for the first time in only their second finals' in 32 years with the equaliser 10 minutes from fulltime.

Passions overflowed in the final minutes with referee Graham Poll issuing red cards to Croatia's Dario Simic and Josip Simunic and

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VOTER LISTING

CEC says no to AL-BNP call to 'go door to door'

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Both the ruling BNP and main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday reiterated the demand for preparing the voter list by visiting door to door but the chief election commissioner (CEC) rejected the demand showing legal limitations.

Upholding the Election Commission's (EC) June-12 decision not to visit door to door for updating the existing voter list, CEC MA Aziz said yesterday there is

no scope to reconsider the decision.

He rather challenged those who said there is no legal bar to visiting door-to-door for the voter-listing job.

"Bring the eminent jurists to me, I will make them realise that following the verdict of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court there is no way to visit door to door," he told reporters at his office.

"I have been studying the law for 36 years. I can lecture you [re-

porters] for three to four hours if you want to understand the law," he told journalists.

"The procedure we have initiated according to the Supreme Court judgment will continue," the CEC asserted, claiming that he is doing everything in accordance with the law.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed said there is no legal bar to visiting door to door for preparing the voter list. "In no way can a fair voter list

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Ties with neighbours should not be an issue of domestic politics

Manmohan, Hasina agree

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A wide range of bilateral relations and regional issues, including terrorism and connectivity among Saarc countries, came up for discussion in a meeting between Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi last night.

During the nearly hour-long meeting at the official residence of Singh on Race Course Road, the

two leaders agreed that relations among the neighbouring countries should not be a matter of domestic politics, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to Hasina, said at Hotel Imperial after the meeting.

He said the two top leaders agreed India and Bangladesh should try to find common grounds where their national interests converge.

Saber said, "We appeal to BNP

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