

Grading for HSC, too

SSC system may undergo changes

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

Grading system will be introduced in Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations from next year and the existing system in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations may be changed.

In SSC, the difference of marks between 'A' and 'A+' may be reduced to 10 from present 20 and a new slab -- 'B+' -- may be introduced.

Marks obtained in fourth subjects may be counted in determining the Grade Point Average (GPA), which is not done now.

The education ministry is working on proposals on grading system, made by Prof. Mohammad Junaid, Chairman of Dhaka Education Board, sources in the ministry said.

The ministry has also received proposals from different educational institutions and heads of organisations working on the education sector for changing the grading system in SSC, they said.

The present grading system disheartens brilliant students as it fails to accurately assess merit, they said, reflecting views of teachers and guardians of students.

The proposals also include application of different methods for different

papers to assign marks and separate marking for two papers, the sources said.

When contacted, Education Minister Dr. Osman Farruk said, "The grading system will be introduced in Higher Secondary Certificate Examinations (HSC) after necessary modification and improvement".

He said there are some problems in the grading system 'but we will continue the system by making necessary changes'.

Prof. Junaid said in his proposals said the big difference of marks between grades in SSC examinations is creating problem.

A student getting 79 marks is now bracketed with a student scoring 60 marks. This is a big difference. Merits of the two students are not same. This evaluation even affects academic life of students, he said.

The proposals said students can be more benefited if Bengali first and second papers and English first and second papers are evaluated separately.

Students have become reluctant to take a fourth subject as its marks are not included in the result. In many educational institutions, teachers of fourth subjects can lose their jobs.

The grading system in SSC was introduced in 2001.

Present System			Proposal-1			Proposal-2		
Class difference of marks obtained	Letter grade	Grade point	Class difference of marks obtained	Letter grade	Grade point	Class difference of marks obtained	Letter grade	Grade point
80-100	A+	5.00	80-100	A+	5.00	91-100	A+	5.00
60-79	A	4.00	70-79	A	4.00	81-90	A	4.50
51-59	B	3.00	60-69	B+	3.50	71-80	B+	4.00
41-50	C	2.00	50-59	B	3.00	61-70	B	3.50
33-40	D	1.00	40-49	C	2.00	51-60	C	3.00
0-32	F	0.00	33-39	D	1.00	41-50	D	2.00
			00-32	F	0.00	33-40	E	1.00
						00-32	F	0.00

One to die for killing wife

COURT CORRESPONDENT

One person was sentenced to death by a court in the city yesterday for killing his wife for dowry.

Judge AHM Mustaque Ahmed of the First Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka sentenced Faruque Zaman alias Jashim to death for killing his wife Taslima Akhter alias Khushi. He was convicted under Section 302 of the Bangladesh Penal Code (BPC).

Jashim killed his wife at her house at South Shaota village in Manikganj on August 20, 1999 as her mother failed to give him Tk 25,000 as dowry.

The verdict said the convict can file an appeal with the High Court within seven days of delivery of the verdict.

Jashim is the son of one Anisuddin. Taslima Akhter Kushi is the daughter of one Rubpan of Talbagh Bank Colony in Savar.

A day after the killing, the victim's maternal aunt Maina had filed a murder case with Savar thana accusing Jashim.

The investigation officers of the case submitted charge sheet against Jashim on August 1, 2000. The court framed charges on February 22 last year and the trial began on March 23. Fourteen prosecution witnesses were cross-examined.

Dangerous DND den

ABDUL KADER

The Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) embankment area on the outskirts of the capital is still home to criminals.

The army-led anticrime drive failed to curb crimes like killing, rape, mugging, robbery and drug peddling in the DND area unlike others.

At least three people were killed and a robbery and a series of muggings and clashes took place after the launch of the army operation on October 17.

The most sensational was the killing of 15-year-old Kajal. She was killed after gangrape on November 3 at Sharulia.

The latest murder took place on the night of November 12 at Dogair Natun Para Road in Konapara.

However, the man killed is still unidentified. Contacted, Demra police said they could neither confirm the reason behind the killing nor identify the person.

The locals in Konapara, Basherpul, Daillah and Matuail are worried about the criminal activities still going on.

A resident of Konapara told The

Daily Star that a tactful robbery took place at the residence of Yusuf in Matuail seven days ago. Yusuf answered the door, hearing a knock at night. The robbers begged him to 'save them from arrest by the army', posing as guards of the nearby fish farm.

They forced their way into the house and looted Tk 75,000 in cash and valuables worth about Tk 1 lakh at gunpoint.

The muggers based in the Basherpul-Dharmik Para area still swoop on pedestrians when the Demra Road plunges into darkness at night.

Criminals think the area safe, as it is almost isolated from other areas.

Interestingly enough, the number of tenants in the area increased after the launch of the army drive because some criminals took shelter to escape arrest, said the locals.

Another man of the same area recalled that Makim Gaji, a notorious robber, took shelter in Matuail, fleeing from jail.

However, Abdul Wahid, a grocer of Konapara, has said people are

Gas issue may come up for discussion in JS Thursday

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Energy A K M Mosharruf Hossain yesterday said the gas issue may come up for discussion in parliament on Thursday to resolve the controversy on export.

He told journalists that Thursday is a private members day and the issue may be brought on the floor for discussion.

The state minister, however, remained unsure about it, given the short duration of the session and other pressing agenda of discussion.

Earlier, speaking at the inaugural session of the first two-day meeting of the SAARC technical committee on energy that began at Sonargaon Hotel in the morning, the state minister talked about development of a common power grid in the region.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood also spoke on the occasion as special guest. It was attended by power sector experts from India, Nepal and Bhutan, besides host Bangladesh.

SAARC Secretary General Q A M A Rahim also came here from its headquarters in Kathmandu to take part in the meeting.

Army drive HC order not to arrest Khulna Jubo Dal leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The High Court has passed an order on officials concerned with the Operation Clean Heart and the civil and police administrations in Bagerhat not to arrest district Jubo Dal President Fakir Tariqul Islam without warrant on specific charge.

Islam is also chairman of Shait Gambuj Union Parishad. Jubo Dal is the youth front of ruling BNP.

Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Nizamul Huq passed the order on Saturday following a writ petition (5507/2002) filed by Islam, sources here said.

This is the first such High Court order since launch of the Operation Clean Heart (OCH).

The High Court has also issued a notice upon officials of OCH, Deputy Commissioner (DC) and the

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Tinni murder Piyal placed on a day's remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shafkat Hossain Piyal, arrested on suspected involvement in the killing of his wife Syeda Tania Mahbub Tinni, was placed on a day's remand yesterday.

Earlier, Keraniganj police produced him before the First Class Magistrate's court, Dhaka at 3:00pm yesterday with a prayer for a five-day remand.

In their prayer, police claimed relationship between Tinni and her husband had deteriorated before she went missing.

Piyal should be placed on remand so that more information about her death and her killers could be unravelled, police pleaded with the court.

The defence lawyers, Masud Ahmed Talukdar and Gazi Towhidul Islam, meanwhile submitted a petition seeking bail and cancellation of the remand prayer.

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Legality of forced entry into AL's CRI office challenged in HC

UNB, Dhaka

A petition was filed yesterday before the High Court challenging the legality of forced entry by law enforcers into the office of Centre for Research and Information (CRI), the research wing of the Awami League, on October 21.

Abul Mal Abdul Muhith, chief advisor to CRI, filed the petition seeking a rule upon the government to show reason for the raid and sealing off the office without prior information or warrant from the legal authorities.

Army on October 21 raided the CRI office at Dhanmondi and sealed off the office after seizing publications, documents and properties from there.

A division bench comprising Justice Mohammad Abdul Aziz and Justice Md. Nazimuddin

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Chhabi Rani files 'naraji' petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The First Class Magistrate's Court, Bagerhat, yesterday fixed November 30 for hearing on 'naraji petition' in connection with Awami League leader Chhabi Rani Mondol assault case.

Magistrate Rabiul Alam passed the order when the petition was placed before him.

Chhabi Rani Mondol of Rampal thana in Bagerhat district submitted a naraji petition to the magistrate's court on Saturday against the charge sheet of the case.

The Investigation Officer of the case submitted a charge sheet against 15 leaders and activists of BNP on October 23 for assaulting Chhabi Rani at Rampal BNP office on August 23, this year.

Chhabi Rani in her petition has stated that police with 'ulterior motive' and under political influence have not named in the charge sheet eight BNP men who were also involved in the incident at Rampal BNP office.

Green Road blues

Traffic tangle and digging define the thoroughfare

SABRINA KARIM

It has been quite a while since people living on and around Green Road in the capital found the ride not as bumpy and road as dusty or muddy as it is now.

That this was the reality only three years ago may sound ridiculous for those who have to cover their face choking in dusts and sulk being stuck in traffic tailbacks.

Come rain or shine -- the dreadful Green Road, spanning the stretch between Panthapath and Science Laboratory crossing and its surroundings, is playing on the patience of commuters and pedestrians alike. Weekdays or weekend, this dug-out road tests the limit of both man and machine.

You might mistake it for a marsh-land rather than a road when it rains

in the area. The road remains water-logged for at least 15 days if it rains for even a day. Even when it is not raining, the pockmarked road along with sloughs makes it impossible for commuters to travel through.

The repulsive rubbish, mud and rainwater, and potholes and traffic tangle make it a hellish place to be.

It does take toll on the business, too.

"We lost a number of clients since it is annoying for them to come to this place during rains," says Shyamol Kumar Dey, of Sagarika Tailors.

Driving to Green Road turns out to be a tough task even for the most skilled driver. "Incidents are there when the sloughs make motor cars immovable," said Ataf Hossain, a businessman on Green Road.

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Areas close by like Crescent Road, Kanthalbagan Bazar Road, Central Road, Free School Street, part of Kalabagan and especially Bhuter Gali are no good either. Snarls are a sure sight since most of these roads are as good as narrow alleys.

To make matters worse, the city corporation has dumped huge concrete pipes on one side of the road. These drainage pipes take over almost half of the road, reducing it to an alley.

"These pipes are here for last seven to eight months," points out Saikat Hasan, shopkeeper at Busy Buy, a department store on Green Road. He also says the worn-down road has caused a slump in his sale.

Traffic tangle is invariably long and agonising almost all day long.



Hundreds of rickshaws and some other vehicles are stuck in a traffic jam yesterday on the city's Green Road that has shrunk to a narrow stretch due to digging.

Still no sign of water protocol

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has not yet finalised the country's first-ever protocol on drinking water.

There have been several meetings since it formed a committee to frame the protocol following a Daily Star report in February this year.

According to sources, the whole process got delayed after the government decided to include water from deep tubewells in the protocol.

"We were not at all prepared for this. However, since it was necessary, we had to make some revision

and readjustments," they told The Daily Star yesterday.

The mooted protocol aims at inclusion of at least ten naturally occurring toxic inorganic elements in the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) testing regime.

The government formed a committee in March this year to submit a report by October 14 this year.

The report, now awaiting approval from the DPHE chief engineer, could be submitted to the health ministry by next week.

The decision to frame the protocol after The Daily Star reported on February 20 this year that drinking water drawn from hand-pumped tubewells as well as deep tubewells across the country contained high levels of at least ten naturally occurring inorganic toxic elements. A Department for International Development (DFID) study sounded the alarm.

A crucial meeting in this regard was held on October 14 to finalise what elements should be included in the testing and monitoring regime for drinking water, the DPHE sources said.

In view of this, three new water testing laboratory is being set up in Barisal, Rangpur and Sylhet in addition to existing four, all of which have been improved to enhance

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HC verdict in favour of Anwar Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A division bench of the High Court yesterday dismissed a petition by barrister Moynul Hossain seeking an injunction preventing the use of Anwar Hossain Monju's name as the editor of the daily Ittefaq.

Justices Goura Gopal Saha and Sheikh Rezwana Ali reached the decision on the petition yesterday following a hearing held Saturday.

Earlier, barrister Moynul Hossain, the Ittefaq Executive Director-1, filed a case in the Assistant Judge Court (AJC) against the use of Monju's name as the paper's editor

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Two to die for double murder in Natore

UNB, Natore

Two men, one in absentia, were sentenced to death for committing a double murder over an insignificant matter at Senbag of sadar upazila in 1995.

Yunus, who was in the dock, and Akbar, who remained fugitive, were handed down the death penalty.

Eight other accused men were awarded rigorous imprisonment for life and a fine of Tk 5,000 or three months more in jail in case of non-payment. They are Wahed, Asgar,

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14 Khulna JCD leaders acquitted of Shibir leader murder charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, Khulna, on Saturday acquitted all the 14 charge-sheated accused in Shibir leader Abul Kashem Pathan murder case.

Abul Kashem Pathan, assistant general secretary of Government BL College students' union was gunned down on the campus of Khulna City College on October 23, 1994.

A murder case was filed with Khulna thana by Shibir leader Murad Hossain the same day.

Fourteen leaders of district and city units of Jatiyatabad Chhatra Dal (JCD) were named in the FIR as accused in the murder case. Of them, JCD central vice-president Wahiduzzaman Chanchal was murdered in 1998 as a sequel to intra-party rivalry.

The rest 13 charge-sheated accused are Shafiqul Islam Hossain, Arifuzzaman Apu, Mehedi Hasan Minto, Shafiqul Alam Tuhin, Belal, Tiku, Murshid Kamal, Hasanur Rashid Miraz and Shaikh Sohel Ahmed.



A worker of the Green World Fashion rolls down on a Moghbazar road in the city yesterday evening, when police blocked a procession of garment workers who demonstrated demanding their arrears.