



## Not a single pass in 567 schools

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All the examinees from some 567 educational institutions failed in this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC), Dakhil and SSC Vocational examinations.

Pass percentage was below 20 percent at 1,348 educational institutions, less than 10 percent at 228 institutions and below 5 percent at 34 others. Majority of the institutions is Dakhil madrasa. Education Minister M Osman Faruk told reporters at a post-result press conference at the ministry.

"The ministry is contemplating stringent measures against such institutions," he added.

"Our thrust is not to punish

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## Hearing on speakers' houses June 30

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday set June 30 for hearing of the government petition in full bench seeking stay on the operation of the High Court verdict that had declared illegal the construction of residences of the speaker and deputy speaker in the Jatiya Sangsad complex.

On June 21, the High Court delivered the judgment upon a writ filed by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon and Institution of Architects, asking the government to take steps to declare the Jatiya Sangsad complex as part of national heritage.

Justice M Tazazzal Islam, chamber judge of the Appellate Division, passed the order upon a government petition.

## SSC EXAMS

# Result improves, 50pc still fails

9,886 get GPA-5, with 421 gone to Viqarunnisa school

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On an average, 50.27 out of every 100 candidates have achieved secondary schooling certificate this year, showing a notable improvement from 36.81 percent of last year and 42.18 of 2002.

A record number, 9,886

examinees in Secondary School Certificate (SSC), Dakhil and SSC (Vocational) exams, have scored the highest grade point average (GPA) 5 this year, compared to only 1,392 last year and merely 330 in 2002, when the letter-grading system was introduced in these SSC-level public examinations.

In bagging GPA-5, Viqarunnisa Noon School came out first with as many as 421 examinees scoring the highest grade, Ideal School and College finished second with 302, followed by Government Laboratory High School with 148, and Dr Khastagir Government Girls' High

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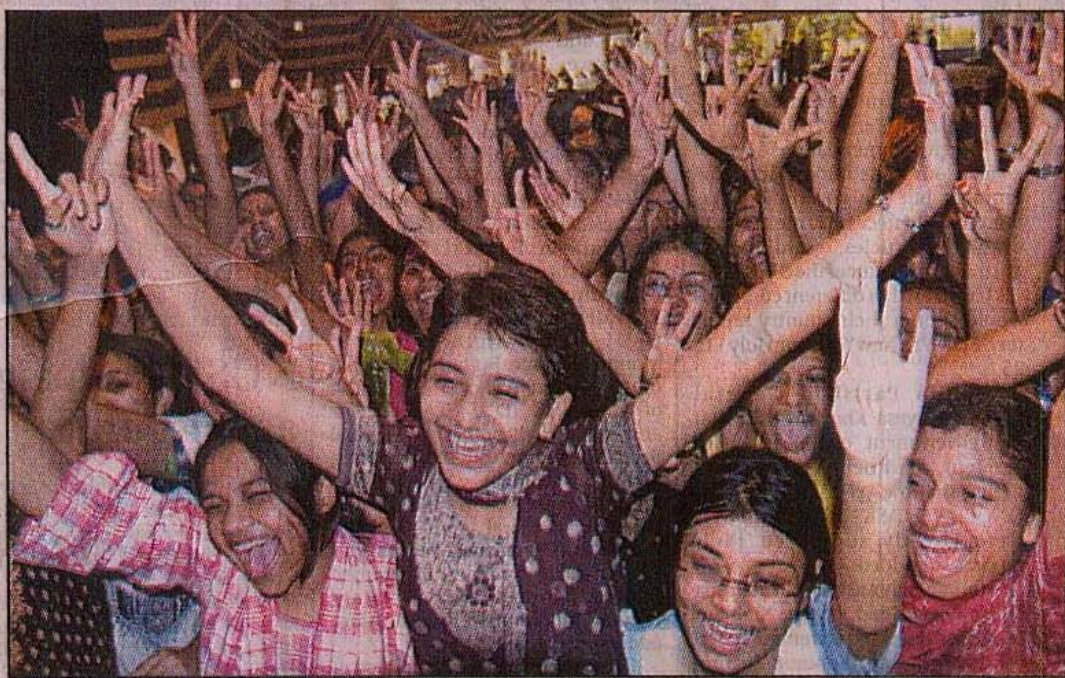


PHOTO: STAR

Students of the Viqarunnisa Noon School in a party mood on their campus yesterday after the SSC examinees of the famed institution outscored others with 421 GPA-5.

## Justice Mainur Reza Chy passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury died at a city clinic yesterday. He was 66.

His first namaj-e-janaza will be held on the Supreme Court (SC) premises today while the second janaza will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque after Asr prayers.

Justice Chowdhury, born on June 23, 1938 in Chapainawabganj, was appointed an SC judge in 1990 and was elevated to the appellate division in 2000. He was sworn in as the chief justice on June 17, 2002. He retired from the constitutional post on June 23 last year.

His wife Dr Nazma Chowdhury is a professor of political science in Dhaka University. She was also an

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## Acting CEC files petition to challenge sedition case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acting Chief Election Commissioner Saifur Rahman filed a writ petition with the High Court yesterday, challenging a sedition case lodged against him by the government for allegedly participating in the Janata Mancha (People's Platform) in 1996.

The petition, moved by his counsel Taniya Amir, says the charge was brought against him grossly abusing Section 124A of Bangladesh Penal Code and the section was inconsistent with the constitution and its basic structure.

The petition says there is no anti-state element in the sedition case.

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# 'Pichchi' Hannan nabbed hurt in Savar clinic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested 'Pichchi' Hannan, one of top 23 criminals on the police list who and four others shot their way through police dragnet in Uttara early Friday, at a private hospital in Sreepur, Savar.

"We've arrested him and he is now at the Rab headquarters," Anwarul Iqbal, director general of Rab, told The Daily Star last night. The home ministry announced a Tk 1 lakh reward on him for arrest or information leading to his capture.

Tipped off that Hannan took admission at Insaf General Hospital in Sreepur, a Rab team raided the

hospital at around 7:00pm. The top criminal, who has been dodging arrest for two and a half years, took admission at the hospital yesterday afternoon, hospital sources said.

Son of Wazi Ullah of Santoshpur village of Faridganj Upazila in Chandpur, Hannan stands accused in as many as 23 cases filed with Tejgaon, Mirpur, Uttara and Mohammadpur police stations, police said quoting primary statistics immediately after his arrest.

On Thursday night, a 40-member team of the elite anti-crime unit hemmed in house No.2 on Khwaja Garib-e-Newaz Avenue in Uttara Sector 11 at around 12:30am on Friday on information that Hannan

and four other top criminals were holding a secret meeting there.

As they knocked on the door, the criminals opened it and fired on the law enforcers at the first sight, sending the members of the elite anticrime force to duck for shelter. The criminals engaged in a fierce firefight and traded at least 150 shots with the Rab team before dashing into a car parked in front of the house and speeding away, leaving two law enforcers and one criminal wounded.

Hannan took bullets in the abdomen and had been at different clinics in the city, but stayed at none of them overnight fearing arrest. Rab

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# Tax list of top 100 professionals sent to JS body

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

For the first time, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday submitted to a parliamentary body a document listing the country's top tax-paying lawyers, doctors, engineers and architects, chartered accountants, contractors, real estate developers and buying house businesses.

The paper shows three years' incomes and taxes paid by top 100 taxpayers of each group of professionals.

The NBR has come up with the

list in compliance to the directive of a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry in March last. In that meeting, the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) body observed that the country's tax collection does not reflect the economic growth of certain social segments.

The committee maintained that a large rich class of professionals, outside the private sector organisations, has burgeoned in the country in recent years, which should be brought into the large taxpayers' net.

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## JUDGE'S WRIT Lawyers for full hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawyers yesterday appealed to the high court to order a full hearing of the writ petition filed by Second Speedy Tribunal Judge Shaikh Jahangir Husain against pressure and interference in his activities by public prosecutors.

The petition demands interpretation of several articles of the constitution, the lawyers argued when a High Court Division Bench of justices Mohammad Joydul Abedin and Sharif Uddin Chakladar began hearing the petition.

Jahangir in his petition alleged the government through two public prosecutors put pressure on him to release some notorious criminals ahead of Dhaka-10 by-polls that

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## BOGRA AMMO PROBE

# No progress one year on

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

One year of the sensational arms haul in Bogra ends today without any tangible progress in the probe into it as charges will be pressed against six suspects in four cases on the haul on July 1, sources said.

"The charges against the arrestees will be proved," hoped Anisur Rahman, public prosecutor (PP) of the case. Assistant PPs also expressed similar views.

Police sources seeking anonymity said the assistant superintendent of police (ASP) of Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

probing the cases stated in the charge sheet, "Awami League (AL) high-ups smuggled in the ammunition to destabilise the country."

But the charge sheet did not specify the AL leaders who brought the ammunition and from where and how they brought that. Lack of clarity in the charge sheet will go in favour of the accused, the sources said.

Before the investigation began, the prime minister, the then home minister and the inspector general of police also accused the AL of smuggling in the ammunition to

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# Hills home to militants

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK, back from Ctg

Islamic militant groups have set up a host of arms training camps in unprotected, isolated hilly forests in Chittagong far beyond the watch of police and forest officials, locals say.

The concern came to a head after the police discovered two camps in Hathazari and Rangunia upazilas on June 1 apparently by chance. They believe clandestine militant activities go on under cover of outlying villages, but could not confirm how many camps have sprawled up.

Intelligence agencies mounted a sharp watch on some kaomi madrasas (religious schools that follow an old curriculum) and local leaders of Islamist organisations

with suspected ties to militant operatives.

They are also watching some Islamic non-governmental organisations (NGOs) believed to be spending on secret militant training hefty funds that they bring in from the Middle Eastern countries in the name of building mosques, madrasas and welfare bodies.

The north forest department in Chittagong has 56,416 hectares of forestland in Mirersharai, Fatikchhari, Hathazari, Rauzan, Sitakunda and Rangunia and the south forest department has another 65,000 hectares in Chandnaish, Patia, Banskhali, Chokoria, Lohagara, Sankania and Boalkhali.

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## Revolver of state minister's gunman snatched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang yesterday snatched a licensed revolver and its bullets from the gunman of State Minister for Environment and Forest Zafurul Islam Chowdhury at Kamalapur in Motijheel.

The gang of four to five youths waylaid Abdus Sattar, assistant-sub inspector of Special Branch (SB) of police, near Peer Jangi Mazar at about 6:10am when he was going to receive the minister at Kamalapur Railway Station, police said.

They took away his licensed revolver, eight bullets and a magazine, police added.

The state minister was scheduled to arrive at Kamalapur Railway Station from Chittagong in a train.

"One of the youths pointed a pistol at my forehead, two brandished machete and home-made bombs while another forcibly

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## Clarification and our reply

The public relations officer (PRO) to Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas on Thursday said a news item published in The Daily Star misquoted the minister.

In a clarification letter, Yeakub Ali, the minister's PRO, protested

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