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Big progress in HSC results

59.16pc pass; jump in GPA-5 scorers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Higher secondary education has received an apparent boost as 59.16 percent of the examinees passed the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) Examinations 2005 under the seven education boards, the highest pass percentage in the last five years.

The percentage was 47.74 in 2004, 38.43 in 2003, 27.09 in 2002, 28.41 in 2001 and 37.05 in 2000.

As many as 4,15,088 students -- 238,295 boys and 176,793 girls -- appeared in this year's HSC examinations and 245,549 of them -- 143,293 boys and 102,256 girls -- passed.

Some 5,509 examinees secured

the highest Grade Point Average (GPA)-5 against 3,036 last year. Among them, 2,804 are from Dhaka Board, 284 from Chittagong Board, 1,177 from Rajshahi Board, 492 from Jessore Board, 292 from Comilla Board, 108 from Sylhet Board and 151 from Barisal Board.

Pass percentages for boys and girls are 60.13 and 57.84 against 48.43 and 46.78 of last year. The HSC results of the seven boards were published yesterday under the grading system introduced in 2003.

Results of the Alim Examinations under Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board and HSC (Vocational), Business Management, and

HSC RESULTS				
Board	Pass Percentage '05	Pass Percentage '04	GPA-5 2005	GPA-5 2004
Dhaka	53.52	53.60	2,804	1,530
Chittagong	55.05	47.73	284	284
Rajshahi	65.93	45.23	1,177	670
Jessore	63.70	42.70	492	266
Comilla	60.06	51.80	292	148
Sylhet	44.40	46.69	108	78
Barisal	62.48	36.42	151	60
Total	59.16	47.74	5,509	3,036

STAR GRAPHICS

Maizbhandari quits BNP as govt fails to act against Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

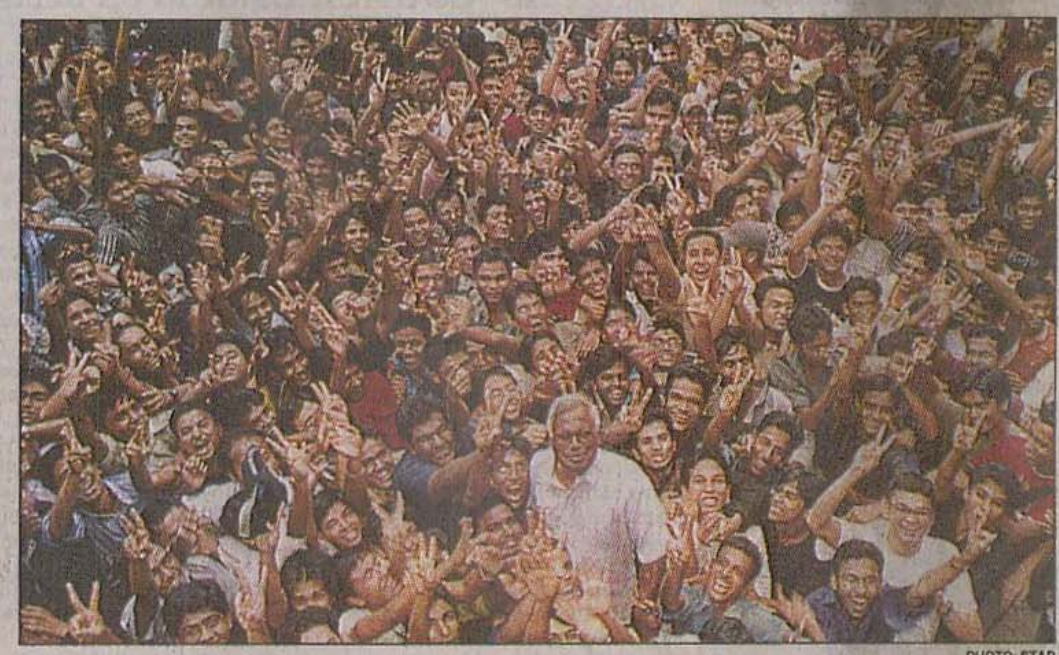
Syed Najibul Bashar Maizbhandari, ruling BNP's international affairs secretary, yesterday resigned from the party, protesting the government's failure to act against Jamaat-e-Islami which, he says, bears direct links to different blasts across the country.

"It is now clear that Jamaat and its allies are involved in the bomb blasts at shrines and other places in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Announcement

Today's issue contains a two-page (page 6-7) special supplement on ICC-Bangladesh regional seminar on "Capital Market Development: Asian Experience".



Jubilant GPA-5 winner HSC candidates of Notre Dame College, accompanied by their principal, flash V-sign yesterday. A total of 683 students from the college secured the feat.

4 more confess part in Aug 17 bombing

STAR REPORT

Four more people gave statements before magistrates in Dhaka and Bagerhat yesterday, confessing their involvement in the August 17 country-wide blasts.

Noor Azam Siddique alias Yasir and Belal Hossain, both arrested in an East Bashabo house on September 8, in their statements recorded by Metropolitan Magistrate Nani Gopal Biswas said

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Niko pipeline scam probe starts

SHARIF KHAN

As the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has threatened to suspend funding the Dhaka Clean Fuel Project, the energy ministry has assigned Petrobangla to investigate Canadian company Niko's gas pipeline scam.

A three-member Petrobangla probe committee headed by the director (operations) yesterday

started work to report its findings in three days.

The Daily Star last week ran a report on the pipelines scam.

The investigators yesterday talked with officials of the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd (TGTDL) from which Niko had taken pipes belonging to the Asian Development Bank-funded Dhaka Clean Fuel Project

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MEET ON POLL PRACTICES Tuesday Group to continue efforts for govt nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tuesday Group, a club of foreign diplomats in Dhaka, will continue efforts to convince the government to let it hold the planned conference on electoral practices, said diplomatic sources.

Some members of the group yesterday met at the residence of the Norwegian ambassador to Bangladesh and discussed the next

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Saifur for more aid, market access

WB-IMF meet begins in Washington

UNB, Dhaka

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman has urged the developed nations to give exports from low-income countries necessary market access and to execute recent initiatives for increasing aid to avert new perils being spawned in poverty.

He also urged the donor community to set up a new financing facility to help the low-income countries absorb the rising oil-price shocks.

"Any failure to do so would expose the world community to new challenges and risks," he said addressing the plenary session of the 2005 Bank-Fund Annual Meetings in Washington on Sunday,

according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

"Lack of availability of needed assistance will not only be a major roadblock to MDGs but will also create new challenges for the developing countries to sustain domestic support to accelerate the pace of reforms," he cautioned.

Saifur, who is also the governor for Bangladesh of the Boards of Governors of World Bank Group and IMF, welcomed the recent initiatives for increasing aid commitments, providing debt relief, introducing innovative sources of development financing, and improving the quality of aid and its effectiveness.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Agrani loss shoots to Tk 2,172cr as int'l standards applied

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Agrani Bank incurred a staggering loss of Tk 2,172 crore in 2004 while it attempted to achieve international standard in its financial statement through making it more transparent.

In 2003, the bank made a net profit of Tk 25 lakh.

Syed Abu Naser Bukhtear Ahmed, managing director and CEO of Agrani Bank, told The Daily Star that in 2004 for the first time, the annual report of the bank was prepared in line with International Accounting Standards (IAS) 30.

In doing so, the shortfall against

the outstanding bad loans since 1972 were covered, resulting in the calculation of the huge loss.

He, however, said the bank has already started making profit and during the first six months of the current year, it made a profit of Tk 109 crore, which, he hopes, would stand around Tk 250 crore at the year-end.

The bank would still require eight years to cover the loss, he added.

In 2004, the bank's total classified loans stood at Tk 2692 crore, 95 percent of which, that is Tk 2548 crore, was bad loans. The bank kept provision of Tk 2096 crore against the bad loan.

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