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GPA-5 Notre Dame, Viqarunnisa, City College on top again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Notre Dame College, Viqarunnisa Noon College and Dhaka City College again turned out to be the top three colleges that are home to the highest number of GPA-5 achievers in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination under Dhaka Board.

These three colleges secured first, second and third positions for the third consecutive year in terms of producing GPA-5 achievers in the board.

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HSC EXAMS RESULT

Another year of good achievement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of this year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) Examinations under seven education boards saw pass percentage of 64.27 while as many as 10,205 examinees achieved highest grade point average (GPA)-5.

Last year, 63.92 per cent students passed and 9,450 students achieved GPA-5 in the second

largest public examinations. The percentage was 59.16 in 2005, 47.74 in 2004, 38.43 in 2003, 27.09 in 2002, 28.41 in 2001 and 37.05 in 2000.

The average pass percentage in the HSC under seven education boards, Alim examinations under Madrasa Education Board and Business Management examinations under Technical Education Board is 65.60 against 65.65 of last

year and a total of 11,140 examinees secured GPA-5 compared to 9,864 examinees of last year, 5,534 of 2005 and 3,047 of 2004.

As many as 5,33,158 students -- 3,05,387 boys and 2,27,771 girls -- appeared in this year's HSC and its equivalent examinations and 3,49,749 of them -- 2,03,018 boys and 1,46,731 girls -- passed.

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No students pass from 60 colleges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of least performing colleges and madrasas in Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) exams has reduced to 60 this year compared to last year's 86.

However, a total of 434 educational institutes including 356 madrasas achieved cent percent pass rate. This number of such

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HSC RESULTS 2007				
Board	Pass Percentage '07	Pass Percentage '06	GPA-5 2007	GPA-5 2006
Dhaka	70.77	74.76	5,254	4,837
Rajshahi	61.89	56.76	1,818	2,035
Comilla	65.75	63.73	506	447
Jessore	59.48	54.40	1,191	732
Chittagong	61.36	61.45	911	1,006
Barisal	55.63	61.50	211	239
Sylhet	65.98	65.45	314	154
Grand Total	64.27	63.92	10,205	9,450

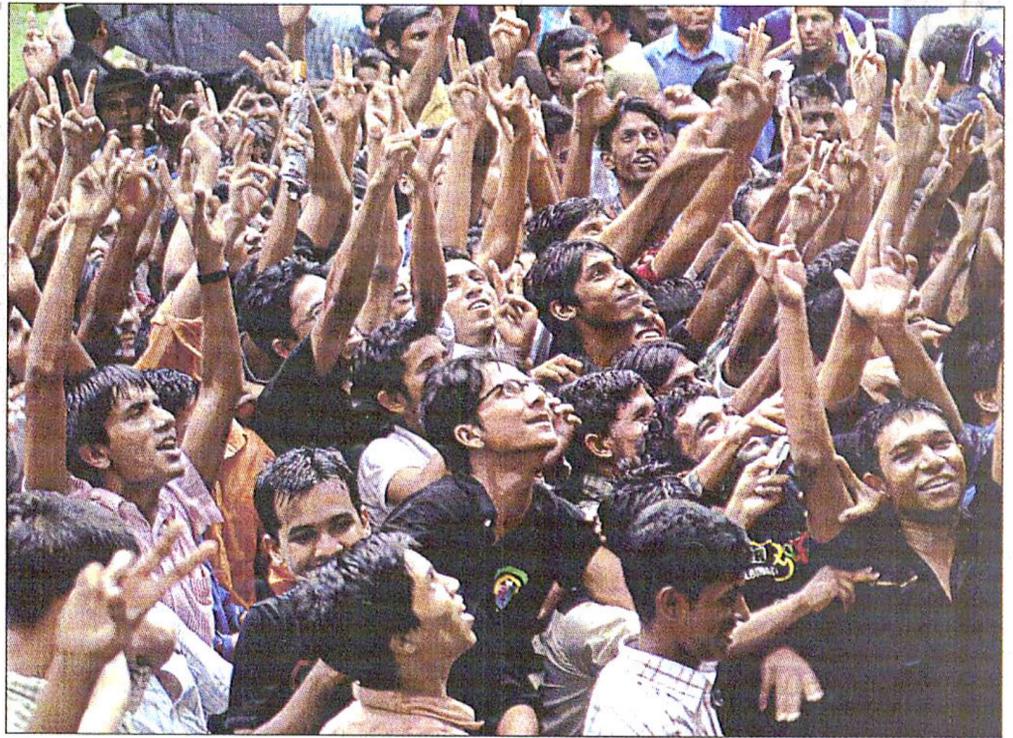
11.45pc rise in GPA-5 achievers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of students, who secured the highest Grade Point Average (GPA)-5 in this year's HSC examinations, rose 11.45 percent on last year's.

A total of 11,140 students achieved GPA-5 this year compared to last year's 9,450. Of the total GPA-5 holders, 6,510 are male

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Jubilant students of Notre Dame College, Dhaka, celebrate yesterday as their institution had the highest number of GPA-5 achievers in the HSC examination this year.

SC to order today on HC bail to Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court will deliver its orders today on the state applications for leave to appeal against the High Court orders granting bail to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in extortion cases as arguments from both sides closed yesterday.

A six-member full bench, headed by Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin, after hearing both sides said orders would be passed on Monday on the four leave-to-appeal applications filed by the government side, seeking to overturn the High Court rulings.

The High Court, upon writ petitions filed by the detained Awami League president, had granted her bail in two extortion cases and issued rule upon the government to explain why placing the cases against her under the Emergency Power Rules 'should not be declared without lawful authority'.

Responding to another writ petition, the High Court, issuing a

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Minu handed 13 yrs behind bars for extortion

Pankaj gets 13 years, his wife 6 years in graft cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tribunal in Rajshahi yesterday sentenced Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu to 13 years in prison for extortion while in Dhaka Awami Smechhashebak League General Secretary Pankaj Debnath received 13 years' prison terms on different charges including illegal income.

Minu and 10 others were also fined Tk 20.5 thousand each. In default of the payment, they will have to be in jail for five more months.

One of the tribunals set up to deal with the graft cases sentenced Pankaj's wife Monica Debnath to six year's imprisonment. The second man of the AL front wing was fined Tk 10 lakh and Monica, who was tried in absentia, Tk 2 lakh. For failing to pay the fines, they will have to serve a year and six months more respectively.

MAYOR MINU Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Minu and nine of the accused-

district BNP vice-president Nazrul Huda, BNP men Mainul Islam, Ranju, Islam, Ashraf Ali, Shamsul Haque, Sentu, Babu and Abdullah al Mamun -- were in the dock during delivery of the judgment.



Mizanur Rahman Minu

The other accused, former city BNP general secretary Shafiqul Haque Milon, is still on the run. The judge started reading out

the judgment at 12:50pm and completed within a couple of minutes.

The accused were sentenced to a month's imprisonment and fined Tk 500 for waylaying the complainant, 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Tk 10,000 for extortion, three years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Tk 10,000 more for threatening the subject of the crime.

The punishment to Shafiqul Haque Milon will take effect the day he surrenders or is captured.

Shamsul Alam Khan, a governing body member of the local Evergreen Model College, filed the case with Rajpara Police Station on April 21.

The Third Court of Additional Sessions Judge ASSM Jahirul Haque framed charges against them on July 26. Earlier on May 16, charges were pressed against 11 people.

Minu's wife Salma Shahadat

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DINKAL CASE Khaleda asked to appear before court Sept 27

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked lawyers to produce former prime minister Khaleda Zia before it on September 27 in connection with a case filed for not submitting service returns of Daily Dinkal Publications Limited for years.

Metropolitan Magistrate AJM Abdullah Baqui passed the order after Khaleda's lawyers submitted a petition seeking time for her, who

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Curfew relaxed further today

UNB, Dhaka

Curfew has been relaxed further. There will be no curfew from 5:00am to 12 midnight today in Dhaka and five divisional cities, according to an official handout.

The curfew was imposed on Wednesday night to quell violent student protests.

BARAPUKURIA COAL

Ailing mine runs in full swing after 2 years

SHARIEF KHAN

In a major operational breakthrough, the seriously troubled Barapukuria coalmine has resumed nearly full production after two years eliminating the need for the nation to import coal to run its lone 250-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant.

"A phase of the coalmine that was shut down along with mining equipment in October 2005, has been successfully reopened on August 18. Coal production from this phase has started from August 23," says Aziz Khan, managing director of the Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL).

The re-opening operation took place around noon August 18 at a depth of 1,100 feet ensuring highest safety measures, as there were threats of explosion and air poisoning, sources said.

Sealing off this phase of the complex underground mine actu-

ally deprived the BCMCL the access to 2.30 lakh tonnes of coal, which has a production value of at least \$100,000.

A technical officer of the BCMCL termed the reopening a major breakthrough for the financially crippled mine. "We believe this will change the economic situation of the mine," he noted.

In early October 2005, the mining authorities sealed off mine phase no 1,110 along with one of the two sets of mining equipment worth \$5.5 million to avert a disaster due to emission of poisonous gas and self-combustion. It became very difficult to reopen this phase as it was filled with carbon monoxide and methane.

Mining of coal was then restricted to just one phase.

As a result, the mine's daily coal production target of 2,700 tonnes was halved. This production was inadequate to run the 250MW coal-fired power plant at the mine site

that requires 2,400 tonnes of coal daily for its operation in full capacity.

With the opening of the sealed off area and the recovery of the mining equipment in fully operational shape, the mine is now producing 2,700 tonnes.

"It is surprising that the mining equipment is completely intact, except for the hose-pipes worth may be \$20,000, everything is running," notes a BCMCL official.

He said, "We are expecting to increase the production between 2,800 tonnes and 3,200 tonnes in the next month."

The October 2005 production cut did not immediately affect the power plant, as there was huge coal in the inventory. By October 2006, the inventory was depleted and power production in the two-unit plant was limited to just one unit.

According to a Power Development Board (PDB) source,

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Mainul for media cooperation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information and Law Adviser Barrister Mainul Hosen yesterday stressed the need for a friendlier relationship between the government and the media to avert any untoward situation.

"There is no doubt that this is a complicated situation and therefore, we should cooperate with each other to overcome the situation," he said at a briefing in his secretariat office following his meeting with editors of various newspapers.

"The relationship between the

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DU INCIDENTS Actual number of accused would not exceed 10,000

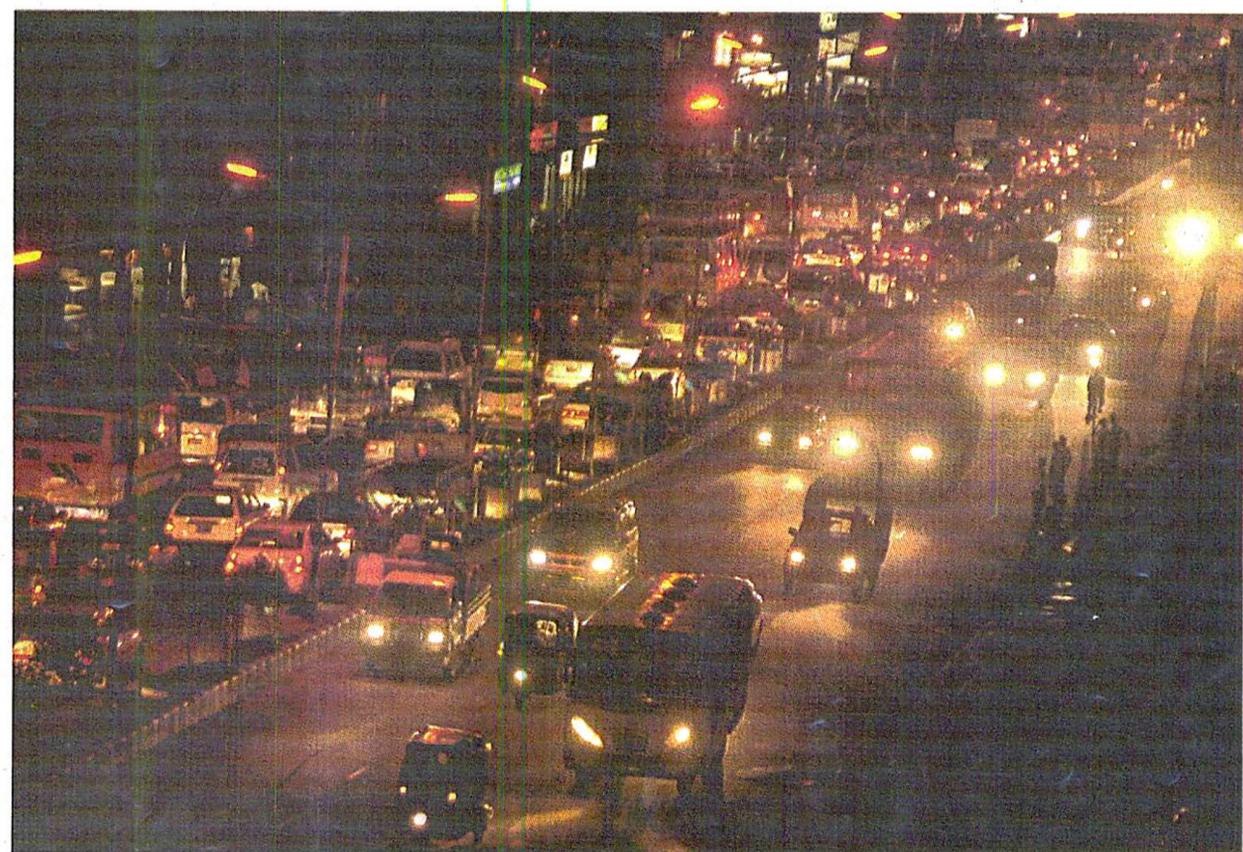
Says DMP commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Naim Ahmed yesterday said the actual number of accused in the cases filed so far for the recent incidents on Dhaka University (DU) campus and in other parts of the metropolis would not exceed 10,000.

Addressing a press conference at his office, he said, "Though over 76,000 unidentified people have been made accused in 35 cases, the number would obviously come down."

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Gridlock reappears on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital yesterday evening as the city life returns to normal after daytime curfew and the weekend. The photo was taken at Farmgate.

UK ENVOY ON RECENT VIOLENCE Initially spontaneous, later money involved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury yesterday described last week's demonstrations as initially spontaneous, which later took a sinister dimension because significant amount of money and coordination got involved.

He made these comments at the foreign ministry where all foreign envoys were summoned by the foreign adviser for a briefing about last week's demonstrations at Dhaka University and the subsequent imposition of a curfew.

"Our assessment from what we have heard is that it was initially spontaneous and then it was not. It became much more than the incident. It soon became something much bigger, something much sinister," said Anwar to the media, adding, "A lot of money and coordination came into the equation."

"We understood that it was a serious disturbance which has strategic consequences and we saw the government take quite concise and quite decisive action very quickly to try to bring the situation under control," he said referring to the government's decision to impose the curfew.

The Bangladesh-born British envoy added, "Most neutral people could not understand why the escalation went into that dimension and that has caused a lot of question marks among the people."

No other envoy however was willing to speak to the media after the meeting.

Anwar said Britain's assessment that the incidents were coordinated, stemmed from the fact that the demonstrations continued even after the government had issued an apology and met the students' initial demands by withdrawing the army camp from the Dhaka University campus.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury later told the media that the government received the full support of the envoys. "At least, no one disagreed," he said.

"I told them that their [the diplomatic community's] safety is ensured during curfews," Iftekhar said adding, "The situation is fully under control. The aims and goals of the government will not be disturbed."

The British envoy also condemned the reported harassment and beatings of journalists and called for an investigation, but added that the media could have exercised 'restraint' in their coverage for the sake of progress of the country.

Pressed for comments on the beatings and harassment of journalists by law enforcers during and between the curfews, Anwar said, "I condemn the incidents. I am really sorry to hear about that, I wish those didn't take place. I hope the authorities will look into it and take action."

But, when asked about the requests for 'self-censorship', Anwar said the media was allowed to be 'very free' since the state of emergency had been declared. "All

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