

SSC EXAMS RESULTS

Another record-breaking year

SURANJITH DEABNATH

The results of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations 2008 published yesterday broke all previous records with 70.41 per cent pass and 41,917 GPA-5 achievers.

The number of schools with hundred percent pass records has also increased to 2,272 from last year's 778, while the number of schools with zero pass came down to 91 from 248.

Educationalists and teachers of renowned schools believe this success in the country's largest public examination is the outcome of students' efforts and guardians' awareness.

The results were published under the grading system introduced in 2001 and showed a tremendous boost with pass rate of 70.41, a leap of 13.82 point from last year's rate.

Similarly, the results also showed a leap in achieving the highest grade point average (GPA-5) as it shot up to 41,917 from 25,732 last year.

The same improvement has also

been seen in the combined average result of seven education boards, Dakhil examination under Madrasa Education Board and SSC vocational examination under Technical Education Board.

The combined pass rate is 72.18 against last year's 58.36 percent and 52,500 students secured GPA-5 compared to 32,646 last year.

About 10.07 lakh students appeared in this year's SSC and equivalent examinations and about 7.27 lakh of them have passed. Pass percentage for boys and girls is 73.69 and 70.45 respectively.

Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman officially announced the results at a press conference at the education ministry.

The increase in pass rates continues gradually since 2001 which proves that education standard is improving. The pass percentage was 57.37 last year, 62.22 in 2006, 54.1 in 2005, 50.27 in 2004, 36.81 in 2003, 42.18 in 2002 and 39.03 in 2001, he told the press conference.

The education adviser thanked all officials and employees of nine education boards for publishing the results in 60 days as per the promise of the ministry. The examinations began on March 27 and ended on April 27.

Dhaka Board has secured top position among the seven education boards with pass rate of 77.81, while Sylhet Board got the lowest 53.88 percent.

In Dhaka Board, about 1.7 lakh passed the exam with 18,936 students securing GPA-5, also highest among the boards.

About 1.34 lakh students or 64.89 percent passed the exam in Rajshahi Board with 8,656 achieving GPA-5. Under Comilla Board,

Now Emdadul is overwhelmed by his son's result. Everyone at the

Board	Pass Percentage 2008	Pass Percentage 2007	GPA-5 2008	GPA-5 2007
Dhaka	77.81	60.81	18,936	9439
Rajshahi	64.89	59.18	8,656	6910
Comilla	73.00	46.83	3,679	2387
Jessore	71.43	60.87	4,079	2329
Chittagong	72.62	57.94	4,316	3313
Barisal	68.77	50.67	1,659	641
Sylhet	53.88	47.27	592	713
Grand Total	70.81	57.37	41,917	25,732

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TOP ACHIEVERS

Paddling against all odds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Sabir Hossain had to pull a rickshaw van to support his family whenever his father fell ill.

He missed many classes but never gave up hope. Yesterday with the results of SSC 2008, Sabir has proved everyone of his mettle.

For Sabir, a student of Nilphamari Govt High School, has obtained GPA-5.

This lanky, dark boy never let poverty stop him from achieving his best. There was the night before the SSC chemistry exam when there was no kerosene oil in his house to light a lamp to study.

His father Emdadul Haque had gone out, despite his hip pains with his rickshaw van in search of work because he needed the money to buy medicine to stop the pain.

Late that night Emdadul returned with a bottle of kerosene oil instead because he wanted his son study for the next day's exams. Out of frustration for their desperate situation, Sabir cried that night and was unable to revise properly.

Now Emdadul is overwhelmed by his son's result. Everyone at the

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WATER PROJECTS

Govt officials blamed for 85pc corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government officials were responsible for 84.8 percent corruption in the country's water sector while politicians and contractors the rest, says the Global Corruption Report 2008 by Transparency International (TI).

The officials flouted tender rules at will and were involved in corruption in major development projects like irrigation, river dredging and flood prevention.

Negligence of duty tops the acts of corruption (33.3 percent) followed by asset-stripping (27.3 percent) and abuse of power (21.2 percent), according to the report released across the world yesterday.

Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) unveiled the report at a press conference at Cirdap auditorium. The part on Bangladesh is based on analysis of corruption reported in the print media throughout 2006.

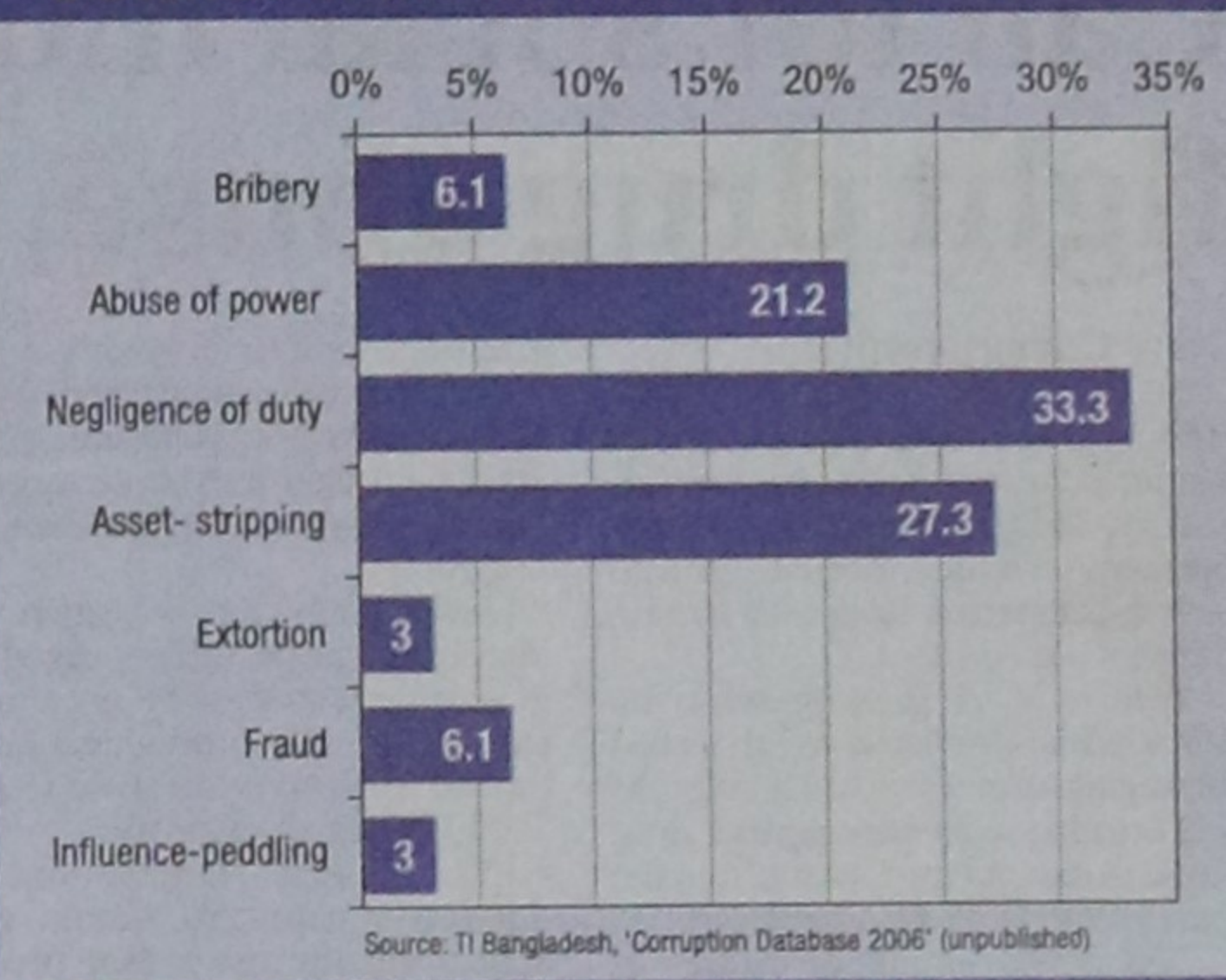
The theme of this year's global report is corruption in the water sector.

Observing that graft in the

sector puts lives and livelihoods of billions of people at risk, the global report says nearly 1.2 billion people

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CORRUPTION IN THE WATER SECTOR



52,500 get GPA-5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of GPA-5 holders in the SSC examinations has risen sharply by 37.81 per cent compared to that of the previous year.

A total of 52,500 candidates of SSC and its equivalent examinations under nine education boards secured GPA-5 this year, while the number was 32,646 last year.

This year, 41,917 students secured GPA-5 under seven education boards while the figure was 25,732 last year.

The number of GPA-5 achievers stands at 18,936 in Dhaka Board, 8,656 in Rajshahi Board, 3,679 in Comilla Board, 4,079 in Jessore

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2,272 schools achieve 100pc pass rate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of schools, madrasas and technical educational institutions having 100 per cent pass rate in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations has nearly tripled (293 per cent increase) this year.

A total of 2,272 institutions achieved 100 per cent pass rate in the SSC and SSC equivalent examinations this year while the number was 774 last year.

Of those, 185 institutions are from Dhaka, 71 from Rajshahi, 72 from Comilla, 58 from Jessore, 31 from Chittagong, 57 from Barisal, 10 from Sylhet while 1,770 are under Madrasa board and 18 under

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GPA-5 ACHIEVERS

Ideal, VN, Monipur top 3 schools

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ideal School and College, Viharunissa Noon (VN) School and Monipur High School in the capital secured the top three places in terms of their students getting GPA-5 in SSC examinations this year.

Of them, 767 students from Ideal school and College, 678 from Viharunissa Noon School and 652 from Monipur High School got GPA-5, the highest point on the GPA scale.

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CITY CORPORATION, MUNICIPALITY POLLS

Most AL leaders for joining race if emergency goes

Party requests govt to refix nomination submission date

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Most Awami League (AL) decision-makers yesterday said the party should participate in the upcoming city corporation and municipality elections slated for August 4 only if the government lifts the state of emergency completely ahead of the polls.

"Strategically, we should take part in the elections to four city corporations and nine municipalities to strengthen the party, otherwise a third party or force might gather strength in those areas which would not be good for the party," AL Organising Secretary Mahmudur Rahman Manna said at a meeting of the AL Central Working Committee.

Meanwhile, in a latest development, the AL yesterday requested the government to shift the date for submitting nominations for the local government elections from July 3 to July 5, saying it wants to discuss the matter with the government at the official dialogue on July 3.

Contacting the government yesterday, a senior AL leader also requested for not reinstating the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) before announcing the poll results.

On June 20, the government announced the schedules of the local government elections and relaxed the EPR in the poll areas allowing campaign processions and rallies for 21 days until zero hours of August 3.

An AL source confirmed

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ACC unearths MPO scam

Case against Rajshahi Mayor Minu soon

UNB, Dhaka

A special team of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has unearthed irregularities in inclusion of educational institutions in the Monthly Payment Order (MPO).

The team, formed to look into corruption in the education sector, has collected documents from the education ministry relating to inclusion of educational institutions in MPO.

"Significant irregularities in inclusion of educational institutions in MPO have so far been primarily revealed," ACC Director General (admin) Col Hanif Iqbal told the commission's regular briefing yesterday.

"The special team is now going through the files and documents," he said.

Then, Hanif said, the special team as per requirement will compare the documents with those stored in the department concerned that deals with the MPO.

The ACC director general further said the education ministry has already cancelled some MPO inclusion orders due to the

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PHOTO: STAR

SSC examinees of Motijheel Ideal School and College are jubilant yesterday after they took their school to the number one spot in this year's SSC results.

ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH

Commissioner of DCC Chy Alam gets 13yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday sentenced detained Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Ward Commissioner Chowdhury Alam to 13 years' imprisonment for amassing wealth worth Tk 4.97 crore illegally and concealing wealth information to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of Special Court-3 set up on the Jatya Sangsad Bhaban premises also fined Alam Tk 1 crore. He will have to serve one more year behind bars if he failed to pay the amount.

Besides, the court sentenced three of his family members to three years simple jail for aiding and abetting him in the crime.

The convicts, Alam's son Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, brother Khorshed Alam Mintu and brother-in-law Rahmat Ali Labu, were also fined Tk 5 lakh each, defaulting on which will earn them

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KHALEDA AGAINST LOCAL BODY POLLS FIRST

Govt wants to take country back to pre-Jan 11 situation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said the government wants to take the country back to the pre-January 11 situation by holding the local body elections before the parliamentary polls ignoring opinions of all political parties.

"All major and minor political parties including the Awami League want the national elections first. But ignoring the opinions the government wants to hold the local body elections first which will take the country back to the pre-January 11 situations," she told journalists after yesterday's trial proceedings in the Niko graft case against her and 10 others at a special court.

"By holding the local body elections, the government plans to form a party of its chosen people and cling to power by electing

them," she said.

Judge Khandaker Kamal Uz-zaman of Special Court-9 yesterday set July 7 for the next hearing on charge framing in the case.

Khaleda was produced before the court at 10:05am.

She told reporters that her party wants to cooperate with the government, but it has to create a favourable atmosphere first for holding the parliamentary elections.

"We want to cooperate, we want an acceptable election with participation of all political parties. But before that, the government will have to lift the state of emergency to ensure a congenial atmosphere for the election," she said, adding, "Creating that atmosphere is the duty of the government and it has to prove its neutrality by treating everybody equally."

She said, "Several parliamentary elections were held under

caretaker governments in the past without the state of emergency in place. The present caretaker government will also have to lift the emergency if it wants to hold a free and fair election."

Questioning the government's willingness to hold the parliamentary election, Khaleda said there should not be any obstacle to holding the election in October.

Justifying her call for holding the parliamentary polls by October, she said the Ramadan, Hajj and Eid-ul-Azha would all take place after October and that is why it would not be wise to hold the national election after October.

The former premier said the government in its one-and-a-half-years rule has left the country entangled in enormous problems and only an elected government can help the nation out of those problems.

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