SSC pass rate falls AL activists

SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 1 For the first time, SSC examinations were held under the Dinajpur Education Board. At least 1,02,101 students sat for the examinations under this board and 64,913 of them

passed. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid handed over the results to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally around 12:30pm yesterday. Chairmen of all the education boards were present on the occasion.

Announcing the official results at a press conference at the education ministry, he said. "A positive change in the standard of education has been made even though it fell short of our expecta-

The results were also made available on the education board website and in all schools and exam centres. The results could also be received via SMS on mobile

phones. THE 10 EDUCATION BOARDS

Students of Madrasa Board did exceptionally well compared to those of the other nine education boards' with a pass rate of 85.85. About 1,59,444 students came out successful and of them 16,309 obtained GPA-5.

Students of Sylhet Education Board did better than those of the seven other general education boards. Sylhet Education Board had 78.71 percent of their examinees passed while Rajshahi Board had the lowest, 58.41 percent, of students passed.

In Sylhet Board 29,443 students came out successful and 1,896 of them obtained GPA-5. Last year, Sylhet Board had the lowest percentage of pupils passed.

In Dhaka Board, 69.11 percent, about 1,65,570 students, passed the SSC exams with 19,086 students securing GPA-5.

About 66,457 students or 58.41 percent passed the exam in Rajshahi Board with 4,474 achieving GPA-5.

In Comilla Education Board, 64,266 students, 72.77 percent, came out successful and 4,202 got GPA-5.

In Jessore Board, 72,271 students or 68.01 percent passed and 4,767 achieved GPA-5.

In Chittagong Board, 43,132 examinees passed with a success rate of 69.61 and 4,529 of them scored GPA-5.

In Barisal Board, 31,826 students were successful with a pass percentage of 65.63, while number of GPA-5 achievers is 1,688.

In Dinajpur Education Board, the pass rate is 63.58 percent. The number of GPA-

5 securers is 5,292. Students of the SSC (vocaflood control embankment tional) also did well this year and 75 km roads of LGED have with 70.90 percent passed. Some 53,216 students passed the exam, while 64 of them

got GPA-5. The success of science group students marked a slight drop to 83.75 percent compared to last year's figures. In humanities group 55.10 percent students passed and 72.06 percent passed in the busi-

group. Like the previous years, schools in urban areas, espe-

assault UNO cially in the metropolitan for not giving cities, dominated with high number of the GPA-5 achievtransport for ers and cent percent pass records. TOP GPA-5 SECURING local MP

The top GPA-5 securing

schools of the eight general

education boards are:

Vigarunnisa Noon School

and College (887) of Dhaka

Board: Collegiate School

(346) of Chittagong Board;

and College, Bogra, (174) of

Rajshahi Board; Blue Bird

High School of Sylhet (138) of

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Swarupkati Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) in Pirojpur was assaulted by a group of Awami League cadres at his office yesterday for refusing to give his transport to local AL law-

According to a case filed by UNO Manik Har Rahman, AL lawmaker Principal Shah Alam of Pirojpur-2 (Swarupkati-Bhandaria-Kawkhali) constituency asked the UNO to send his transport during the MP's visit to Kawkhali and Bhandaria upazilas yesterday morning.

The UNO later asked permission from the deputy commissioner of Pirojpur about giving his transport but the authority denied permission for using transport out of the jurisdiction area of the

Sources said a group of AL cadres led by Jehad Talukdar went to the UNO's office complex at about 2:30pm when he was holding a meeting.

The AL cadres then allegedly assaulted him, ransacked land phone set and connection and snatched his mobile phone for his refusal to give transport for the use of AL lawmaker.

However, Shah Alam MP denied any personal involvement in the assault of the UNO and said the UNO misbehaved with him.

The AL lawmaker, admitting the fact of refusal of UNO to give transport, said the UNO recently used his car to visit his home at Kushtia, which was also out of his jurisdiction.

Shahjahan Khan, officer in charge of Swarupkati police station, told The Daily Star that a case was filed by the UNO yesterday night in this connection.

Beximco

FROM PAGE 1 Deputy Chairman of Beximco Ltd Salman F Rahman is also the private investment affairs adviser to Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, also by Aila-fed tidal surge, forcing

the prime minister. Government-owned try. Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) and Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) and Beximco Ltd's Shinepukur Holdings Ltd complete the top five loan defaulters, finance

ministry sources said. to launch any relief efforts. The parliamentary standing committee on the finance ministry asked for the list of bank loan defaulters and accordingly the central bank sent a list of loan defaulters to

the finance division. The list contains 2,500 names of individuals and companies who have defaulted loans of Tk 1 crore or more.

The parliamentary committee first sought the list of all loan defaulters but Bangladesh Bank said there are about 80,000 loan defaulters and providing the list would be difficult.

The committee then asked for the list of loan defaulters who have defaulted loans of Tk 1 crore or more.

Dakhil exams

FROM PAGE 16 Though the overall pass rate in all the ten educational boards of the country declined by 1.29 percent, the madrasa board

pass rate is higher than last year's 82.06 per cent. The pass rate in Madrasa Education Board this year is 17.42 per cent higher than the average pass rate of 70.89 per cent of the ten education boards. Last year the madrasa

board's pass rate was 9.88

percent higher than the overall pass rate. Out of 1,85,726 examinees from the madrasa board this year, 1,59,444 passed the Dakhil exams. A total of 16,309 students attained GPA 5, placing the board at the second position after the Dhaka Board

in terms of top GPA 5 achievers in the country. A total of 12,002 male students and 4,307 female stu-

dents secured GPA5. The pass percentage of male students under the Madrasa Board this year is 88.23 per cent. Among female candi-

dates 83.03 per cent passed. Meanwhile, of the 75,057 students who took the SSC (vocational) exams, 53,216 passed the exams.

The pass rate among female students under the board is 71.61 per cent while it is 70.58 per cent among male students. Of the 64 GPA 5 achievers under the board, 42 are male

and 22 are female.

SEDITION CASE

pivotal role in foiling the forward march of a brigade from Bogra during the coup attempt by former army chief

General Nasim in 1996.

Sahab said the ARY Group gave Rahim £40,000 as bribe at the NSI DG's Gulshan Safe House in November 2003.

Sahab also mentioned that "as far as his knowledge goes" in 2003 and another at commission.

TFI awe-struck

NEWS

FROM PAGE 16 were assigned the interrogation job and they could not get any significant information

"It seems that officials assigned to quiz such a former senior officer were too preoccupied with addressing him 'sir'," said a source wishing

Rahim was arrested on May 16 after former NSI director Wing Commander (retd) Sahab Uddin named him in his statement.

interrogation at TFI Rahim denied his link with the smuggling, and rather pinned the blame on Sahab and field officer Akbar. "Protesting his innocence, Rahim said he came to know

from Rahim.

about the arms haul after former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar phoned him and wanted to know if he had any knowledge about the incident," the official said. Rahim also said he had formed an enquiry committee led by Brig Enam after the

incident and reported to the home ministry that Sahab was a corrupt official and was involved in arms dealing while Akbar was involved in various crimes in Chittagong, the source said.

transferred Akbar to Noakhali for his involvement with criminal activities. Sources said Rahim will-

ingly gave a two-page statement in which he mentioned his "heroic" deeds while in he said.

service. He said he played a

Besides saving himself, Rahim is also trying to shield the then ministers, state ministers and other high profile political leaders, the sources added.

They said since CID interrogators could not make any headway in the investigation , quizzing Rahim, the police are The source said during the likely to pray to the court to take Rahim on further remand.

Sahab Uddin in his confessions to the TFI said that Rahim and another former NSI top boss Maj Gen (Retd) Rezzaqul Haider Chowdhury, two officials of a high commission of a neighbouring country and the managing director of the Aga Rahman Yousuf (ARY) Group held several meetings at home and abroad in connection with the arms dealing.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman attended a meeting in Dubai Rahim also claimed to have Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka in February 2004 with officials of the ARY Group and the high

The meetings held in Dhaka were also attended by Paresh Barua alias Amir Bhai

Another ex-NSI

FROM PAGE 16

was in London, was called in by the then government in 2006 and sacked from the service. Sahab in his statement

during interrogation earlier mentioned that NSI DG Brig Gen (Retd) M Abdur Rahim called in detained ex-NSI director Wing Commander (retd) Sahab Uddin, Major Liakat and another top NSI official at his office room in March 2004.

Later, the DG briefed them that a shipment of arms and equipment bought under the funding of Dubai based Aga Rahman Yousuf (ARY) group would be smuggled in the country with the assistance of the high officials of the high commission of a certain coun-

He also briefed the officials that their jobs would be not to do anything about the consignment despite knowing every-

Sahab in his statement also said that the then NSI DG earlier had called in four officers including him and Major Liakat at DG's office room in 2003 when the DG had told them that the high commission was pushing for some requests fulfilling which was not possible without government's decision.

The requests included releasing ULFA leader Anup Chetia or to let Chetia escape when he would be shifted to Mymensingh jail from Dhaka Central Jail and installation of a private TV channel in Dhaka with ARY group fund.

The then DG also told them that DG's wife Shirin Rahim would be the chairman while a relative (son or daughter's father-in-law) of a colonel would be the managing director (MD) of the ARY TV channel when it would be set up.

Road projects

FROM PAGE 1 the road sector projects of the

current fiscal year. In 2008-09, road projects

accounted for 8.64 per cent of total ADP allocation. Of the total 133 projects under the transport sector, 96 belonged to road sub-sector. Of those, 24 projects, which

were initiated before 2006 and which constituted 25 per cent of all projects, in the road subsector have been receiving allocations in very small amounts causing long delays in their implementation. Despite slow implementation of the above-mentioned projects, 27 new road projects have been initiated since 2006 and many of these new projects have also been receiving inadequate allocations.

The project for bridge construction on Dhaleswari river at Tangail-Alison was taken in 2005. The size of the project is Tk 94.36 crore. Cumulative expenditure up to December 2007 is Tk 69 lakh and average yearly expenditure is Tk 28 lakh. The BIDS study calculates that if the project progresses at this speed, it would take 339 years wrapped up swiftly.

to complete.

The project for Pabna-Bandherhat-Naziganj-Rajbari link road construction was taken in 2004. The project size is Tk 41.37 crore. The cumulative expenditure till December '07 was Tk 1.35 crore. The average yearly expenditure is Tk 39 lakh. It would take around 103 years to complete.

The project of Panchagarh Sugar Mills-Benghari-Madia-Shaldanga-Deviganj road development was taken in 2000. The size of the project was Tk 24.63 crore. In seven years till December 2007 the cumulative expenditure was Tk 3.42 crore. Average yearly expenditure was Tk 53 lakh. It will take 40 years to complete the project.

By analysing several other such projects, the study said, "A moratorium should, therefore, be imposed on inclusion of new road projects until a substantial part of the back-

logged projects get cleared." It said the next budget (FY 2009-10) should prioritise the existing road projects and allocate resources in a way so that priority projects, near about completion, can be

2 more BDR men

FROM PAGE 1

Zakir, who joined BDR in 1988, is the son of M M Najir Ahmed Bhuiyan of Feni's West Chhagalnaiya village.

His body will be sent to his village home by the BDR after the postmortem.

Another BDR release said BDR Dinajpur Sector's Imam Hafez Hafizur Rahman, 47, died of liver cirrhosis developed from hepatitis-B.

He was treated at both Dinajpur hospital and Rangpur Medical College Hospital, but later took a month's leave on May 10 to get admitted to Modern Hospital in Dhanmondi in Dhaka, where he died yesterday at 1:30am, the release added.

reports: Judge M Momin Ullah of District and Sessions with the BDR mutiny case.

Judge's Court set the dates for framing charges against the 108 arrested BDR jawans.

All the 108 BDR jawans were before the court during the yesterday's hearing. Officer-in-charge of Sylhet

Kotwali police station Inspector Syeduzzaman filed two sedition cases with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Sylhet on May 17 against the 108 BDR jawans for staging a mutiny with firearms that they looted from their battalion arsenals.

The investigation officers do not need to press charges as they case were filed directly with the court.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed 60 suspected Our Sylhet correspondent BDR mutineers on a five-day remand each in connection

GPA-5

FROM PAGE 16 Bird High School, Sylhet with 138, and Barisal Zilla School with 122 students.

All SSC candidates from Barisal Cadet College, 96 per cent of candidates from Sylhet Cadet College and 93 percent of candidates from Rajuk Uttara Model School and College achieved GPA 5.

Under Chittagong Education Board this year, Collegiate School topped the list with 346 students achiev ing GPA5 followed by Dr Khastagir Government Girls High School with 229 and Govt Muslim High School with 196. The top three schools in

under Comilla Education Board, which achieved the highest number of GPA 5, are Comilla Zilla School, Comilla Modern High School and Nawab Faizunnesa Government Girls' High School. Under Rajshahi Education

School and College of Bogra, Bogra Government Girls' High School and Bogra Zilla School took the top three positions. Under Jessore Education Board, Khulna Zilla School, Government Coronation

Board, Cantonment Public

Secondary Girls' School and Kushtia Zilla School and under Barisal Education Board Barisal Zilla School, Barisal Government Girls' High

School and Barisal Cadet College secured the top three places. Under the Sylhet

Education Board, Blue Bird High School topped the list of most GPA-5 achievers followed by Sylhet Government Pilot High School and Government Agragami Girls' High School.

The top three schools under Dinajpur Education Board are the Cantonment Public School and College of Rangpur, Rangpur Zilla School and Rangpur Govt Girls' High School.

JS body chief

FROM PAGE 16 lawmaker, rejected Khokon's demand outright, and said there cannot be any question

of seeking an apology. "I just disclosed the information from a document of the Parliament Secretariat, he said a pailtud has admed

Khokon, also a BNP lawmaker, at a news briefing in his Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) chamber, said if Shajahan Khan does not seek an apology, they will file civil and criminal cases against him.

Shajahan however said Tarique's lawyer is welcome to file a lawsuit against him. "If the case is filed, I will get a scope to produce the document to the court, and the court will decide the matter," he added.

The parliamentary subcommittee, which was formed by an all-party parliamentary committee to probe widespread allegations of corruption in the Parliament Secretariat over the last seven years, has been investigating various allegations of financial irregularities.

The sub-committee chief on Sunday disclosed that the Parliament Secretariat had to meet the cost of 530 litres of octane for a government vehicle used in a political tour by Tarique in June 2006.

Khokon said Tarique Rahman, also the elder son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, was never a member of the parliament and he never used any car of the parliament, adding that the allegation was raised to taint Tarique's reputation.

Khokon also said during the immediate past caretaker government's tenure, Tarique was arrested on false charges abroad after being released on

Home to form

FROM PAGE 16

according to the extortionists' demand.

cases the police did not cooperate when victims went to police stations to file complaints about telephone calls for money.

reporters.

Over 50,000 rally in new bid to oust Georgian leader

AFP, Tbilisi

More than 50,000 opposition supporters rallied in Tbilisi yesterday in a bid to oust Georgia's leader that led authorities to cancel a major state holiday military parade for fear of clashes.

packed into the city's huge football stadium before thousands of them marched through the streets, in a mass protest against Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili. On Tuesday evening they

congregated outside Holy Trinity Cathedral, the city's main church, before marching on parliament. The rally marked the cul-

mination of over a month of opposition protests in the ex-Soviet republic aimed at forcing Saakashvili's resignation. "We will fight for this country, Saakashvili cannot stay

president," said Nino Burjanadze, the former parliamentary speaker who is now one of Saakashvili's most vehement opponents. "The only thing we have to

their resignation," she added in a speech at the stadium. The Georgian opposition has been staging daily protests

since April 9 in the biggest

discuss with the authorities is

demonstrations against Saakashvili's rule since Georgia fought a brief war with Russia last August.

Opponents accuse Saakashvili of mishandling the conflict with Russia and of becoming increasingly autocratic since he came to power The demonstrators first after the peaceful 2003 Rose Revolution.

In the stadium on Tuesday, the crowd sang the national anthem and observed a minute of silence for those who died during the August war, in which Georgia lost a bid to reexert control over its two

separatist regions. "Saakashvili must leave because he ceded our territories to the Russians," said Natela Urashvili, a 49-year-old dentist who attended the protest.

The Georgian defence ministry said its parade this year was cancelled after demonstrators planned to march down the capital's main avenue, traditionally the venue of a military parade to mark the national holiday.

"Saakashvili must see today how many people are angry at his rule. We are many and we are unhappy with the situation in Georgia," said Artchil Oniani, a 67-year-old engineer who readied to march with the crowd.

Pak war zone

FROM PAGE 16 it is not as frequent and intense," he told AFP by telephone.

"Bodies of Taliban are lying everywhere in my area as well as in nearby localities. There are at least three bodies of Taliban lying in my locality. I identified them because near them lie their dusty turbans and weapons."

A spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban had on Monday told AFP that firebrand commander Maulana Fazlullah asked insurgents to

casualties. But Muslim Khan added that: "We will fight for the enforcement of Sharia law till

the last drop of our blood." The security official said troops had also established bunkers on mountains around Saidu Sharif -- Swat's old capital next door to Mingora -- while fighting continued in two villages within 25 kilometres (15 miles)

of the town. "Helicopter gunships shelled militant hideouts in Kanju and Kabal areas on Tuesday morning," the official

Security forces launched their onslaught against Taliban fighters in the districts of Lower Dir on April 26, Buner on April 28 and Swat on May 8, after Taliban fighters advanced to within 100 kilometres (60 miles) of Islamabad.

The United Nations refugee agency says that 2.38 million people have fled their homes and been registered as

displaced since May 2, although it cautioned that the figures may change as crosschecks were ongoing. Fears are also growing for

thousands of civilians who remained trapped in the war zone, under siege with scant food, water and medical supplies. "People trapped in the Swat conflict zone face a

humanitarian catastrophe

unless the Pakistani military

immediately lifts a curfew that has been in place continuously for the last week," said stop fighting and leave Brad Adams, director of New Mingora to avoid civilian York-based watchdog Human Rights Watch. "The government cannot

allow the local population to remain trapped without food, clean water and medicine as a tactic to defeat the Taliban." The military has said that about 20,000 of Mingora's

population of 300,000 remain in the city, hunkered down behind closed doors. Reports of civilians killed in the crossfire continued to flood in, HRW said. Pakistan's military has said it is taking all possible measures to avoid civilian casualties. It has not

released any figures for such deaths. The military says nearly 1,160 militants and 69 soldiers have died in the current offensive, but those tolls cannot be

confirmed independently. The Taliban advance last month came despite a February deal with a pro-Taliban cleric which put three million people in the northwest under Sharia law in a bid to end the two-year Taliban

insurgency.

Lanka accused

FROM PAGE 16 signs of torture, while two were found with their hands tied behind their backs and single bullet wounds in their heads.

Another aid worker said the

below-market prices after members of their families had been killed or had disappeared, he said. Since the victory earlier this month, President Mahinda Rajapaksa's government has been under pressure to 'win

the peace' with a generous

devolution package for Tamils in the north. Ministers have said they want to break the identification of the Tamils with the northern and eastern provinces and integrate them into the Sinhalese majority popu-

Meanwhile, UN human rights chief Navi Pillay on Tuesday called for an international investigation into attacks on civilians during the final stages of the civil war in Sri Lanka.

"There are strong reasons to believe that both sides have grossly disregarded the fundamental principle of the inviolability of civilians," Pillay told the UN Human Rights Council as it opened a special session

"An independent and

credible international investigation into recent events should be dispatched to ascertain the occurrence, nature and scale of violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law, as well as specific

Pillay reiterated her concern about allegations that Tamil Tiger rebels prevented civilians from fleeing the combat zone in recent weeks and effectively used them as human shields. She also highlighted

responsibilities," she added.

reports that the government fired heavy artillery on the densely populated conflict zone, and allegations that the army may have killed rebels who were trying to surrender. "Establishing the facts is crucial to set the record

straight regarding the conduct of all parties in the conflict," Pillay said in her video mes-Her remarks came as mainly Asian and Western countries tabled two draft resolutions for the special

session that were largely at

odds in their approach to the aftermath of the conflict. The Asian-backed one, which was also sponsored by Sri Lanka, commended Sri Lanka's government while the mainly Western backed one called on Colombo to investigate alleged abuses and allow free access to displaced peo-

killings were part of a strategy and was mercilessly tortured to drive out the Tamils. in custody, following which he Many Tamils have sold is now undergoing treatment their homes and land at

to Tk 30 lakh as extortion regularly. He said criminals visit construction sites to threaten construction firm owners when they do not pay

"We are very worried about the situation and urged the home minister to take effective measures to save us from extortionists," he said.

He informed that the REHAB would also form a fivemember cell to deal with the menace. Probal alleged that in many

"Many have been harassed at police stations. So, we will not go to police stations anymore; rather we will go to the home ministry cell to lodge our complaints," he told

lation throughout the country.

on Sri Lanka.

navigable as the river has

the deputy commissioner's office in Narayanganj permits people to raise makeshift and other structures in the river violating BIWTA recommendations.

building engineering company has grabbed around 500-foot land towards the ri on the west bank of the Dhaleshwari, just beside Mukterpur Bridge, to make

popularly known as Jainal Kosai' (butcher), has demarcated around 2,000 square feet on the riverbed and is making preparation to fill up the land. There are allegations that

control now," claimed Syed Munwar Hossain, secretary width.

Beside that jetty, Syed Golam Hossain, a local sand and brick trader, has encroached on a vast portion

land as the Supreme Court has given a status quo in this regard," says a BIWTA offi-The BIWTA authorities are now dredging the Balu river in an attempt to make only a 100-foot channel

"We cannot recover that

encroachers. The river here was around 200 metres wide and the main communication channel between the northern and northeastern parts of the

been narrowed down by

The government formed a taskforce on rivers which BIWTA jetty in Shyampur recommended in 2006 that which once used to be called at least 100 metres of the the jetty of Army Welfare Balu's width be restored. The authorities, however, are "But that land is in our working to restore only onethird of the recommended

Comilla Zilla School (264) of Comilla Board; Khulna Zilla School (199) of Jessore Board: Cantonment Public School and Collage, Rangpur, (197) of Dinajpur Board; Cantonment Public School

Sylhet Board and Barisal Zilla School (122) of Barisal Board. PRESS CONFERENCE At the press conference, Education Minister Nurul Islam said the government tried to ensure an exam hall

environment free from copying and other unfair means. Asked about the reasons for the decline of the pass rate, he said the prevention of cheating in the exams could

be the reason. Asked about measure to check seat crisis in colleges, he said they have already discussed the issue with many colleges on how to increase the number of seats. He said they would sit again. "If needed, we will introduce

On schools that have zero

pupils passed, he said, "We

will investigate those institu-

tions to find out the reasons.

double shift."

If needed, we will hold the monthly pay orders (MPOs)." He said they would make 200-mark English compulsory for madrasa students to eradicate the existing discriminatory systems of the

general and madrasa boards.

Aila toll

FROM PAGE 1

said at least 32 people including children were killed in Cyclone Atla. Shyanmagar and Assassuni upazilas were the worst affected. At least 90 percent of thatched houses and mud huts have been demolished

shelter in nearby buildings and cyclone centres. Those in cyclone shelters were passing hard times for scarcity of food, drinking water and medicines. The local administration was yet

thousands of people to take

Meanwhile, fears were growing of an outbreak of diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases. Our Patuakhali correspondent reports: The number of people affected in Cyclone Aila is over 11.50 lakh. 400 Km

been damaged. The district had at least 30,000 hectares of crops including Aus damaged in the Our Gopalganj correspon-

dent said hundreds of mud

connections and mobile

network were yet to start

functioning.

of the river.

houses and trees were uprooted during the cyclone on May 25. The affected areas had been without electricity for ness studies and commerce over 24 hours. Land phone

Grabbing easy Reports received from Narayanganj say a ship

its dockyard. In Gopchar, Haji Jainal,

Back at the Buriganga country. bridge, vast encroachment was visible just beside the