

GPA-5 galore

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abroad and of them 120 came out successful.

The combined pass percentage under 10 education boards including Madrasa Education Board and Technical Education Board rose to 74.28 from that of the last year's 72.78, according to statistics of the Education Boards' Computer Centres.

Under the 10 boards, 28,671 students -- 16,769 male and 11,902 female -- scored GPA-5, which was 20,136 last year. The pass percentage of boys and girls this year stands at 74.62 and 73.87 respectively.

Statistics show that like the last two years, almost one-third of GPA-5 scorers are from Dhaka board.

A total of 431 students out of 461 obtained GPA 5 from ten cadet colleges across the country, said a press release of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Like the other years, Alim examinees under Madrasa board did exceptionally well compared to other nine boards with a pass rate of 86.55. About 63,864 out of 73,790 students came out successful with 2,957 GPA-5 scorers.

The Technical board students also did well with 82.48 percent pass rate and 202 GPA-5 achievers.

The results of this year's HSC and equivalent examinations were simultaneously published at all examination centres and educational institutions yesterday noon, in 57 days since the exams ended.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid formally handed over the results to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina around 9:30am.

The number of colleges with cent percent pass rate decreased to 714 from last year's 755 while the number of institutions with zero success came down to 25 from 41 in 2009.

In terms of pass rate, Sylhet Education Board tops the chart among the eight general education boards while Dinajpur gets the bottom.

A declining trend of expelled students has also been marked this year as the number reduced to 608 from last year's 664. It was 785 in 2008 and 1,046 in 2007, according to statistics.

For the first time in years, two colleges outside the capital--Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College and Mirzapur Cadet College in Tangail--secured the first and second positions respectively on the list of top 20 institutions under Dhaka Education Board.

Holy Cross College and Rajuk Uttara Model College in the capital ranked third and fourth position respectively, while Residential Model College fifth.

As per the ministry's newly introduced selection system, an institution's success is measured under four criteria--the number of students registered for the exam, number of students appeared, pass rate and number of GPA-5 achievers.

Considering the controversy in selecting institutions with cent percent success rate, the ministry set the new criteria this year, which were also applied in the recent Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exams.

Mojahid

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attempt to kill late Prof Humayun Azad on February 27, 2004.

Assailants stabbed prominent writer Humayun Azad brutally with machetes in front of Bangla Academy when he was on his way back to his residence.

The court fixed the date again as CID Inspector Mostafizur Rahman, also the IO of the case, could not submit the case diary before it yesterday.

The CID produced Sayeede before the court as it had fixed yesterday for hearing the remand prayer earlier. The IO on July 11 prayed for his seven-day remand.

Sayeede was also shown arrested in connection with the case on the same day.

REMAND OF MOJAHID-SAYEED

Third Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ali Hussain yesterday allowed Uttara police to take Mojahid and Sayeede on a three-day remand granted earlier in connection with a case filed with Uttara police for creating anti-state activities across the country.

The duo were produced before it on completion of their 13 days' remand in four cases filed with Paltan and Ramna police stations on February 12, 17 and June 20 and 26.

The two along with Nizami were shown arrested on June 30 in the case and they were placed on a three-day remand.

CASE AGAINST SAYEED

The same court yesterday re-fixed July 18 for hearing on a prayer for a seven-day remand of detained Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayeede in a case filed for

Two held

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A team of Rab-3 arrested the men at the company's Rampura office with the help of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) officials.

SEC officials said the accused had made contracts to sell shares of listed and non-listed companies through private placement, a system of selling securities without an initial public offering.

Only an issue manager can sell shares by private placement, whereas Green Bangla has no licence to carry out merchant banking, stockbroker, and stock dealer activities, said SEC Executive Director Farhad Ahmed.

It means Green Bangla is not authorised to sell shares under private placement, said Ahmed.

As per a primary investigation, Rab and SEC found that the accused made arrangements to sell shares of at least 13 companies through private placement to at least 100 individuals.

"The number may even be higher," said Ahmed.

The move came as stakeholders complained to SEC about the illegal trade. Earlier, SEC had sought help from Rab to unearth the manipulation.

Ahmed also said SEC wants to bring them to book.

SEC also requested any person deceived by this cartel to contact Rab or SEC.

Eden student

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Kabr said he had planned the murder eight days ago and bought a knife with Tk 250 from Faridpur.

He claimed that he had been having an affair with Menka since 2004. He spent two years in Malaysia since 2007 during which Menka started an affair with another youth.

Menoka's mother Hasina Robbani said Kabir entered her daughter's room a little after noon while she was sleeping, and she woke up hearing Menoka crying.

"I knocked the door, but Kabir refused to open it until police came", Hasina said.

Mirpur Police Station Sub-inspector Abu Bakkar said they recovered the knife used in the killing.

Girls perform

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examinations in terms of pass percentage.

A total of 2,77,946 girls and 3,02,677 boys participated in the HSC examinations under the eight general education boards this year.

The success rate among the girls is 71.88 percent while 71.76 percent of boys were successful.

Principal of an esteemed college in the capital and Dhaka Education Board Chairman observed that awareness among parents and provision of government stipends have played an important role behind such an achievement by girls.

Females in three groups--Science, Agriculture and Home Economics; Humanities; and Islamic Studies and Music; and Business Studies--have beaten the boys more sharply.

Among 39,127 female students in the Science, Agriculture and Home Economics group, 75.46 percent have passed while the pass percentage of males among 67,400 is 71.63.

In the Humanities, Islamic Studies and Music group, a total of 1,71,497 girls attended the examinations and their pass percentage is 66.40 while out of 1,15,066 boys from the group 63.90 percent were successful.

Girls even excelled in the Business Studies group with a pass percentage of 83.76 while the percentage of the boys is 79.35.

Among the eight boards, girls performed better in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Dinajpur Boards while boys excelled in Comilla, Jessore, Barisal and Sylhet. However, girls won the battle in the overall result analysis in the eight boards.

However, boys managed to secure higher Grade Point Average (GPA). A total of 14,364 boys achieved the GPA 5 while 11,148 girls achieved it.

Last year, the pass percentage of boys was 73.63 while the pass percentage of girls was 71.73 in the HSC and its equivalent examinations.

"Girls are becoming more sincere towards their education while their guardians are becoming more aware," said Husne Ara Begum, principal of Viharunna Noon School and College in the capital.

Another thing that played a major role behind the success of girls was the stipends given to them by the government, she added.

Dhaka Board Chairman Fahima Khatun said, "The stipend offered to the girls by the government has sharply decreased their drop-out rate and motivated them to succeed."

Parents of candidates living in rural areas along with those residing in the urban sides are becoming serious towards educating their daughters, she said hoping that girls will continue to achieve more success in coming years.

Unfit buses

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Sixteen mobile courts carried out yesterday's drive simultaneously throughout the capital to keep the city roads free from dilapidated and unauthorised vehicles.

Additional District Magistrate Amitabh Sarkar, who is coordinating the drive, said the mobile courts would continue the drive until they achieve success.

Nearly 1,446 buses, 8,125 trucks and 2,365 minibuses that are unfit and dilapidated are plying the city roads.

The government earlier decided to launch a drive to rid the city of 20-year-old buses and minibuses, and 25-year-old trucks and vans. The drive will be conducted four days a week.

Meanwhile, a large number of commuters, especially office-goers and students, struggled to find buses during rush hours. Many were found waiting on the streets for hours while some walked all the way to their destinations.

Those who managed to board buses or minibuses found it difficult to find space in the crowded vehicles. Some were left with no choice but to hire CNG-run auto-rickshaws.

"We usually face problems in getting transport in the morning. But the number of buses on the street was very low today forcing many to walk to their destinations," said Tapan, who walked up to Jatabari from Shonir Akhra.

Rakib Hasan, a resident of Khilgaon, said he waited for a bus for over one hour in vain to go to the Jatiya Press Club.

"We cancelled our programme at the Jatiya Press Club after failing to get any transport from Karwan Bazar," said Dhruvo Sourabh, an employee of a private organisation, in Karwan Bazar at about 12:30pm.

Similar was the spectacle in almost all parts of the city throughout the day. The scarcity of motor vehicles, however, brought fortune for

rickshaw and van pullers, many of whom charged almost double the usual fare.

"I had to pay a rickshaw-puller Tk 80 to go to Purana Paltan from Rampura while the standard fare is Tk 40," said a staff of a private company. The government should have arranged more public buses before launching the drive, he said.

Executive Magistrate Saidur Rahman, who led a mobile court in Tejgaon, said they fined 21 vehicles Tk 18,000 until 2:30pm.

"We started the drive at 11:00am but failed to seize even a single old bus," he said.

Another Executive Magistrate Mahbubur Rahman said, "We found fault in eight vehicles and fined them Tk 10,800. Legal actions were taken against them."

Mahmudur

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Metropolitan Magistrate Konika Biswas yesterday rejected Mahmudur's bail petition in this case.

On Tuesday, Mahmudur was shown arrested in the case filed for defying an ACC order for submission of wealth report within seven days after receiving notice.

In the case statement, Mahmudur was accused of committing punishable offence by defying ACC's order, which served a notice on April 19 to the former energy adviser asking for wealth statement.

The anti-graft watchdog on June 13 filed the first information report with Gulshan Police Station against former Board of Investment chairman Mahmudur, who has been in detention since June 2.

The High Court (HC) on July 12 granted Mahmudur Rahman bail in four criminal cases filed on different dates.

But the Supreme Court, two days later on Wednesday, stayed a HC order that gave him bail in a case filed on charge of preventing police from discharging their duties.

MK Alamgir

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cannot stand for a parliamentary election unless five years have passed since he served out the sentence.

Election Commissioner Muhammad Sohul Hussain yesterday said they will take a decision after receiving a certified copy of the verdict.

Alamgir contested the election, as the chamber judge of the Appellate Division stayed the HC order a few days before the polls.

Legal experts said the AL leader will lose his parliament membership, as the EC's decision cancelling his candidature now stands valid.

Mahmudul Islam, principal lawyer of the EC, declined to make any comment on the court order.

Constitution expert Dr M Zahir said the SC order means Alamgir's parliament seat has fallen vacant, and the EC has no alternative to holding a fresh election to his constituency, Chandpur-1.

SC Bar Association President Khandaker Mahub Hossain told The Daily Star that Alamgir has already lost his parliament membership because of the court order.

This is the first time that the Appellate Division has upheld EC's decision cancelling a person's candidature on graft charges.

EC lawyer Prabir Neogi told this correspondent that cancellation of the candidature is valid as per the court order.

He said Alamgir however can contest the by-election as the SC on July 4 scrapped his conviction and sentence.

The AL lawmaker's counsel, Rakanuddin Mahmud, told The Daily Star that the SC order would not affect his client's parliament membership since he took part in the 2008 election on order of the chamber judge of the Appellate Division.

He also said there is no need to file a petition with the Appellate Division to review its decision.

During the last caretaker government rule, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case against Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir on charges of amassing wealth illegally and concealing information from the ACC.

On July 26, 2007, the Special Court-3 sentenced him to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for earning around Tk 3.27 crore through misuse of power, and three years in jail for withholding information about six fixed deposits worth Tk 1.17 crore.

Chandpur RO on December 3, 2008, cancelled Alamgir's nomination. The EC upheld the decision after dismissing an appeal from Alamgir.

On December 15 that year the EC's decision was adjudged legal and the AL leader's writ petition rejected by the HC.

But three days later, the chamber judge of the Appellate Division stayed the HC order,

and asked the EC to allow Alamgir to participate in the election on December 29.

He also asked Alamgir to file a regular leave-to-appeal petition with the SC.

Accordingly, the bureaucrat-turned-politician filed a petition with the top court for permission to appeal against the HC order.

On October 18 last year, the SC declared illegal the parliament membership of Major (ret'd) Jasim Uddin.

It handed down the ruling, as Jasim took part in the December 29 election before five years had gone since his retirement from the military.

Later, the EC held a by-election to his constitution, Bhola-3.

Ministries not

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they had made recommendations to ministries to improve governance. But the ministries, in many cases, paid little heed to them.

The chiefs requested the premier to monitor the implementation of those recommendations.

In the meeting, the chairman of parliamentary standing committee on communications ministry raised allegation against Communication Minister Syed Abul Hossain of non-cooperation with the body.

The premier, however, said she would examine reported incidents of conflict of interests, for which parliamentary bodies fail to perform properly, meeting sources said.

Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on health ministry, told The Daily Star that the chiefs of the parliamentary bodies emphasised on implementing their recommendations on time.

Suranjit Sengupta, chief of the parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry, drew the meeting's attention to absence of a law empowering the committees.

The premier asked him to work on a draft to introduce such a law.

Sheikh Hasina urged the chairmen to work together with the ministers to avert misunderstandings and asked them to follow the constitution and rules of procedure to run the committees.

Participating in the discussion, a number of chairmen also urged the premier to restore the warrant of precedence promulgated by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's government to upgrade the status of MPs.

After the meeting, Chief Whip Abdus Shahid said 32 chiefs of different parliamentary bodies were present at the meeting. They told the premier that since formation of the committees, they held a total of 625 meetings.

Dhaka Board

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three positions as the list was prepared based on highest number of GPA-5 scorers.

Notre Dame College topped the list last year with 1,207 students securing the feat followed by Dhaka City College with 934 and Viharunna Noon College with 531 GPA-5 scorers.

This year Notre Dame College got the sixth place with 81.18 rank points, while Viharunna Noon was placed on the eighth position with 79.85 rank points.

The Ministry of Education has ranked top 20 colleges under each board by academic standards in four categories.

The four criteria were the number of students registered with an institution, percentage of regular students among those registered, percentage of successful students, and numbers of GPA-5 scorers and total examinees.

The ministry set 100 rank points for the four categories.

The new criteria have brought significant changes among the list of top colleges which removed top colleges of Dhaka city from the top two positions, say principals of different colleges.

Principal of Mirzapur Cadet College in Tangail Mohammad Shahidul Islam told The Daily Star that the changes in the top 20 colleges are largely because of the new selection criteria.

He termed the new criteria "perfect", saying with these criteria performance of the colleges is properly evaluated.

ASM Mushfiqur Rahman, principal of Rajuk Uttara Model College, which secured fourth place, told The Daily Star the new selection criteria have brought the two cadet colleges on the top two places.

The new criteria have brought an end to an "unhealthy" competition. Earlier, only the number of GPA-5 was considered to select the top colleges which the institutions wanted to get more students and increase the number of GPA-5 achievers, he observed.

"If the new criteria were not there, our college would have been in a much lower position on the list," Principal Mushfiq said.

He however pointed out some weak points of the new criteria that the colleges with fewer students and fewer dropouts get advantage in the selection race.

Principal of Viharunna College Husne Ara Begum told The Daily Star that the new criteria are one of the causes for the changes on the list.

But there are some other reasons as well, she said.

"There are some colleges which don't have any students in humanities or business studies group, in which securing GPA-5 is a bit tough. As a result, colleges like ours lag behind as we have students from science, humanities and business studies."

DHAKA BOARD'S TOP 20 COLLEGES

Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College secured the first place with 89.6 rank points, Mirzapur Cadet College second with 85.36 points, Holy Cross College third with 83.03, Rajuk Uttara Model College fourth with 81.83, Residential Model College fifth with 81.3, Dhaka City College seventh with 80.93, Bir Shreshtha Noor Mohammad Rifles Public School and College ninth with 70.49, Dhaka College tenth with 77.51, Cambrian College 11th with 76.79, Ideal School and College, Motijheel 12th with 75.92, National Ideal College, Khilgaon 13th with 75.37, Shahid Syed Nazrul Islam College, Mymensingh 14th with 74.16, SOS Hermann Gmeiner College 15th with 73.45, Adamjee Cantonment College, Mirpur 16th with 72.53, Dhaka Commerce College 17th with 71.87, Savar Cantonment College 18th with 71.58, Cantonment Public School and College, Mymensingh 19th with 69.76, and Shamsul Haque Khan School and College, Demra secured the 20th place with 69.4 points.

Nepal move

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wages and other costs.

The latest move was a result of the commerce secretaries meeting for two-day talks that concluded in Dhaka yesterday.

The transit route from Bangladesh to Mongla for Nepalese cargo is believed to help bring about economic integration in the region.

Also, both sides have agreed to promote two-way tourism.

Contacted, some other central leaders said issues like

Law enforcers

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Saidur Rahman took the decision to make the region a peaceful area so that locals get attracted to the outfit and law enforcers do not disturb its members anymore.

Anwar Alam, arrested on July 12 in Bogra, is now being griled by Bogra police.

He is likely to be brought to the capital today to put him face to face with Saidur and detained JMB military commander Shiblu alias Shishir.

Intelligence Wing Director of Rapid Action Battalion Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan said, "We suspect JMB still possesses a good amount of explosives and hand made bombs and grenades."

Ziaul Ahsan said they are on efforts to seize explosives, if JMB possesses any.

In an interrogation statement of JMB's ex-military commander Zahidul Islam Sumon alias Bompu Mizan read Bhagne (nephew) Shahid is operating a bomb-making factory in north Bengal.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the statement.

Mizan was arrested on May 14 in 2009. The following day, 11 bombs, a pistol, and a huge stash of chemical residues, plastic explosives, grenade casings, fuses and detonators were seized from the capital's Mirpur area.

The clues given by Mizan

led Rab to launch a number of unsuccessful drives in several northern districts to unearth the factory.

Detained Saidur has already admitted to detectives that his outfit has several hundred explosives, hand-made bombs and grenades stashed at different dens, said the DB official who interrogated the JMB man.

The Bogra SP also said Anwar claimed that as part of a new strategy they have deactivating their military wing in northern region and are now focusing on new recruitment from the region.

The JMB boss also admitted that they made a good number of bombs and grenades in northern region to foil the 2008 national elections.

He also said explosives might have been stashed in Dhaka region.

Police said Nazmul alias Bhagne Shahid, a highly motivated JMB member, is accused in several cases filed at different places in the country.

Some of the cases are in connection with assaulting police and arms looting in Joypurhat, Grameen Bank robbery in Pabna, lootings of BRAC banks in Natore and Tangail, bomb attacks on four cinemas in Mymensingh and attack on Prof Humayun Azad.

Factors behind

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Board chairmen, teachers and students say that now students are becoming conscious about studies.

Dhaka Education Board Chairman Prof Fahima Khatun said providing training to teachers contributed greatly to this success, apart from the government's firm role in ensuring lessons in classrooms.

"We have trained teachers especially of rural areas to improve their quality," she said.

Prof Abul Kashem, chairman of Bangladesh Technical Education Board, said he told all the heads of the institutions that the government would not give any facilities to them if they would not increase the standard of education in their colleges.

He said they suspended impartation of lessons at the institutions that failed to achieve satisfactory results and their students were moved to other institutions with better standards. This motivated other institutions to do better.

Prof Dipakendra Nath, chairman of Rajshahi Education Board, said if the government would have arranged more training for teachers especially in rural areas the results would have been even better.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said even though the level of standard of education is yet to reach the desired

elevation, the government with the efforts of teachers and students was able to improve it.

The pass rate of the humanities group this year is lower than the science and business studies groups'. More students sat for the HSC from this group than the latter two.

The number of students with GPA-5 from the former group is also the lowest compared to the latter two in the eight general education boards, according to the stats of Education Board Computer Centre.

Students of business studies group, however, marked a significant progress with pass percentage while students of science group stood first in terms of securing GPA-5 this year.

The stats show a total of 286,563 students from humanities group took part in the examination in eight boards and of them 187,407 or 65.40 percent passed.

Business studies group saw the highest pass percentage of 80.93 percent while 73.04 percent passed from science group this year.

As many as 1,51,776 of business studies examinees out of 1,87,533 passed with 6,205 securing GPA-5.

In science group, 106,527 students appeared for the exams and 77,805 of them passed. However, 16,112 students achieved GPA-5 from this group, the stats show.

AL leaders

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witnessed across the country since it assumed power as lawmakers and their close associates in almost every constituency