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PHOTO: PID

DELIGHTED FUTURE NATION BUILDERS

Students celebrate success in this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and its equivalent examinations at their respective institutions in Dhaka and Chittagong yesterday. (1) Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid hands over a copy of the results to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the secretariat in the city. (2) Viqarunnisa Noon School and College; (3) Motijheel Ideal School and College; (4) Monipur High School, Mirpur; (5) Motijheel Government Boys' High School; (6) Dhaka Residential Model School; (7) Fauzdarhat Cadet College; (8) Dr Kastagir Government Girls High School; and (9) Chittagong Collegiate School.



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PHOTO: STAR

78PC PASS IN CTG Fauzdarhat tops list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Pass rate in SSC examinations under Chittagong board rose by 5.96 percentage point to 78.27 percent this year from last year's 72.31 percent.

Total examinees were 77,465 under the board this year. Of them 77,325 students sat for the examinations and 60,521 came out successful from 921 schools.

The pass rate among male examinees is 80.12 percent and among the female is 76.58 percent.

Despite rise in pass rate, the number of GPA-5 achievers decreased.

This year 5,800 candidates secured GPA-5 compared to 4,819 last year. Among the GPA-5 achievers are 2,567 male and 2,252 female.

Top ten schools under the board are located in the metropolitan area.

Fauzdarhat Cadet College stood first in the list, which has the maximum number of GPA-5 achievers in terms of examinees. Forty-four students out of 45 candidates earned GPA-5 from the cadet college.

Pass rate falls in Rajshahi, boys do better

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Pass rate in this year's SSC examinations under Rajshahi board stands at 80.32 percent, showing a fall from last year's pass rate of 85.61 percent.

A total of 13,079 students sat for Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations this year. Of them 10,441 came out successful.

This year 9,937 students secured GPA-5 against 10,568 GPA-5 achievers last year.

Like the previous four years, boys performed better than the girls this year too. Out of this year's GPA-5 winners 5,717 are boys and 4,220 girls.

Despite the pass rate being decreased, no educational institutions see pass rate nil this year, said Rajshahi Education Board Chairman Tanbirul Islam.

Rajshahi board was being criticised for last few years for its failure to prevent the educational institutions from having zero pass rate, he added.

Fatwa legal, not to be imposed

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Court verdict that declared fatwa illegal.

Sultana Kamal, however, points out that there are confusions on the definition of "properly educated persons" who can issue fatwa, and the "religious matters", based on which fatwa can be given.

"But we're happy that there are safeguards in the verdict which says that fatwa cannot be issued to violate rights or harm reputation or dignity of any person, which is covered by the law," said Sultana, also executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra.

But much of the success will depend on its enforcement by the law enforcers, she observed.

Maruf suggested the government specify the eligibility of the scholars who can deliver fatwa in line with the apex court judgment. Saying the verdict reflects their opinions given to the SC, he opined that anyone misusing fatwa should be immediately arrested.

Also hailed the verdict is Dhaka University Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique. According to him, it will definitely reduce punishments and other brutality in the name of fatwa.

Rajmojib Nari founding President Shirin Akhter and

general secretary Sharmin Kabir in a statement expressed satisfaction over the verdict but said everyone needs to be vigilant so that none can misuse the fatwa to resort to violence against women.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, believes scopes of misusing fatwa remains, which could increase violence against women.

"Although it [the verdict] says that fatwa cannot be forced, in reality, it is being forced," she said, adding that this will be fuelled by the fact that many people will not read the full verdict; all they will see is that fatwa has been declared legal.

Maleka Begum fears that things will become worse for women now that fatwa has been declared legal.

Undoubtedly, people who mean to misuse it will go on to misuse it, she says, for we live in such a country where even the constitution is violated.

"It would have been better had the court specified the cases where fatwa would not be allowed," she notes.

Meanwhile, the family of Hena Akhter, who was whipped to death following a fatwa at Noria upazila in Shariatpur in January this year, expressed satisfaction over the judgment and

hoped that none will be killed in the name of fatwa.

"It's sad that Hena is no more among us. But we're happy today hearing that no body will die like Hena," said Mohammad Chunnu, her brother-in-law.

With the quizzing of Sayedee, the first phase of interrogation of four alleged war criminals detained in jails ended.

Earlier on May 5, 8 and 10, the investigation agency grilled Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahed and BNP standing committee member Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

The agency will now fix a "fresh strategy" and then appeal to the International Crimes Tribunal for permission to quiz them again, it said yesterday.

Contacted, Sanaul Huq, a member of the investigation agency, said

"When we asked him [Sayedee] about his original name, he first refused to say anything. But when we showed him some relevant documents, he admitted he changed his name after the Liberation War."

Talking to journalists, Chief Coordinator of the investigation agency Abdul Hannan Khan said Sayedee told them

Sayedee name

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he added the word "Sayedee" with his name as he hails from Saudkhali village.

Hannan said Sayedee also changed his date of birth. And he did all this in a bid to eliminate his identity as a war criminal.

The chief investigator also said Sayedee admitted Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams -- auxiliary forces of Pakistani occupation army during the Liberation War-- committed heinous crimes.

"But he tactfully denied his involvement in these crimes," Hannan added.

Another member of the investigation team told this correspondent Sayedee looked perplexed when they showed him evidence and documents of his involvement in war crimes.

Sayedee was brought to the "safe home" from Dhaka Central Jail at 8:40am. He was quizzed from 10:00am to 5:10pm with over half-an-hour lunch break.

During interrogation, Sayedee was allowed to talk to his counsel waiting in an adjacent room.

He was sent back to the jail after interrogation.

Sayedee's counsel Tanbir Ahmed told journalists that investigators did not put any pressure or give any threat to his client.

78PC PASS IN BARISAL

SSC results improve

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal Education Board has done better this year than the previous year's SSC examination results in terms of pass percentage and number of GPA-5 achievers.

This year 78.30 percent passed in the examinations with 2,755 GPA-5 achievers, which was 74.64 percent with 2,751 GPA-5 achievers in the previous year.

A total of 61,590 students, out of 61,857, sat for the SSC 2011 examinations under Barisal board.

Of them, 2,755 secured GPA-5 (4.47 percent).

Of the total percentage, 79.44 percent (23,976) boys and 77.19 percent (24,246) girl students passed in the examinations.