

Creative system clicks

FROM PAGE 20

those questions.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid thinks introducing the creative system in five new subjects coupled with several measures taken by his ministry helped gain the good results.

"A positive impact has been apparent in the examinations thanks to taking tests in the creative method," he said.

Echoing the minister, Chairman of Dhaka Education Board Prof Fahima Khatun said now the students are compelled to study textbooks as it is not possible to answer the questions without having thorough knowledge of the texts.

Similarly, the teachers are also giving emphasis on going through textbooks now as they have to make questions out of those books, she told The Daily Star.

"With the help of our upazila and district education officials we have ensured close monitoring on classroom activities and provided extensive training to the teachers which contributed greatly to this success," said Prof Fahima.

Besides, she said the students and guardians are now more conscious about their studies.

Chairman of Barisal Education Board Prof Dr Bimal Krishna Mazumder also gave the same view, saying the education boards paid more attention to the schools and conducted training of the teachers to make them efficient in teaching under the creative system.

Appointment of SEC boss

FROM PAGE 20

The minister said the appointment may be made next Sunday.

On April 30, after publishing the probe committee report on the share market scam, Muhith said the SEC would get a new chairman in a couple of days.

He yesterday said the appointment could not yet be made for some unavoidable reasons.

The minister said the government has to seek out a person suitable for the post. "The prime minister will go abroad on May 15, and I hope the appointment of new SEC chairman would be made before that."

The anti-corruption commission has been requested to

investigate the irregularities mentioned in the probe report.

National Board of Revenue has been working to see whether the persons named in the report pay income tax regularly.

The NBR has already asked banks to provide it with the statements of transactions of the bank accounts of 15 people including the SEC chairman.

The minister, however, expressed dissatisfaction over publishing the names in the media and said, "I am surprised how these became public. The intelligence unit is behind this. This practice should be stopped."

The government will continue taking measures to regain the confidence of investors of the share market, he noted.

The anti-corruption commission has been requested to

investigate the irregularities mentioned in the probe report.

Replying to a query, the minister said Prof Yunus is the founder of the bank and the government never exerted any control over him.

Referring to Prof Yunus' statement that Grameen Bank is not like other state-run banks, the finance minister said, "I differ with him on this point."

He said Grameen Bank is completely a government bank, as it was established through a government ordinance.

The finance minister said they respect and honour Prof Yunus like all others in the country. "After the High Court rejected his petition, Prof Yunus continued to attend office, but we did not say anything as he is an honourable person."

Since he was the managing director it will take time for him to get all his papers and documents out of his office, Muhith said.

The bank has 22,000 employees across the country and serves four crore people, mostly poor.

After questions were raised about the use of a Norwegian fund by Grameen Bank, the government formed the review committee led by Prof AK Monowar Uddin Ahmed of Dhaka University Economics Department on January 11. The committee submitted its report to Muhith on April 24.

The finance ministry has been published without any editing, which is available at www.mof.gov.bd.

On the demand of Grameen Bank staff to appoint Prof Yunus as the chairman of the bank for a smooth transition in leadership, Muhith said it is not acceptable.

He added the government appointed the present chairman following procedures

to remain in the bank he founded three decades ago.

Before Prof Yunus made his resignation public, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the deputy managing director of Grameen Bank is to act as the managing

Nayeem

FROM PAGE 1

He also refused to talk to the reporters, when approached at his SC chamber yesterday.

President Zillur Rahman on May 11 appointed Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, a senior Appellate Division judge but junior to Justice Nayeem, as the 20th chief justice of the country.

The first time Justice Nayeem's seniority was ignored was in appointment of outgoing Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque in September last year.

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), dominated by pro-BNP lawyers, at an urgent general meeting yesterday strongly protested the appointment of the new chief justice, and decided not to offer felicitations to him.

S C B A President Khandker Mahbub Hossain told the meeting that they will, however, accord farewell to Justice Khairul Haque.

Some senior counsels yesterday told The Daily Star that this is the first time in the history of judiciary that an SC judge resigned in protest against violation of seniority in appointment of chief justice.

Senior jurist barrister Rafique-ul Huq, after a meeting with Justice Abu Nayeem at his SC chamber, told The Daily Star that he [Nayeem] stepped down as he was passed over twice in appointment of chief justice.

He said although Justice Shah Abu Nayeem is younger brother of BNP leader Brig (retd) ASM Hannan Shah, the government could have appointed him as chief justice.

There is no possibility of his being the chief of the next caretaker government following the SC verdict on 13th amendment to the constitution, he added.

Rafique-ul Huq said the SC in that verdict opined for excluding judges from the caretaker government.

Eminent jurist barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud and Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star that a number of SC judges were passed over in the past, but none of them protested.

The president of the republic appointed the new chief justice as per constitutional provisions and there is no violation of law in the appointment, Rokanuddin Mahmud said.

The attorney general said Justice Shah Abu Nayeem has created a political issue for pro-BNP lawyers by resigning from the office.

Justice Shah Abu Nayeem did not take part in the judicial work for over seven months, although the SC has given historical verdicts in a number of cases in this period, he added.

On April 25, Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque in a letter termed Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman's keeping himself away from judicial work is seriously contemptuous of the chief justice, sources said.

On April 20, Justice Shah Abu Nayeem in a letter to the chief justice said he was reluctant to sit in the bench presided by Justice Khairul on principle, since he was senior to the chief justice, sources said.

The finance minister said they respect and honour Prof Yunus like all others in the country. "After the High Court rejected his petition, Prof Yunus continued to attend office, but we did not say anything as he is an honourable person."

Since he was the managing director it will take time for him to get all his papers and documents out of his office, Muhith said.

The BNP chairperson will stay in the USA for about a week and is scheduled to return home on May 29.

The finance ministry has been published without any editing, which is available at www.mof.gov.bd.

On the demand of Grameen Bank staff to appoint Prof Yunus as the chairman of the bank for a smooth transition in leadership, Muhith said it is not acceptable.

He added the government appointed the present chairman following procedures

to remain in the bank he founded three decades ago.

Before Prof Yunus made his resignation public, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the deputy managing director of Grameen Bank is to act as the managing

82pc pass SSC

FROM PAGE 1

creative question method in five new subjects, training to teachers and proper monitoring helped students achieve good results.

A total of 2,31,269 examinees under 10 education boards failed this year.

About 13.07 lakh students from 26,225 institutions appeared in this year's SSC and equivalent examinations and of them, 10.75 lakh have passed. The pass rate for boys and girls are 83.76 and 80.76 respectively.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid officially announced the results at a press conference at the ministry yesterday around 1:30 p.m.

Earlier, he handed over the results to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina around 11:00am.

Apart from the schools, the SSC results were also made available on the education board website and via SMS on mobile phones.

Comilla Board has secured the top position among all the 10 education boards with a pass rate of 85.85 percent while Dinajpur the lowest position with 77.48 percent success rate.

In Dhaka board, Rajuk Uttara Model High School and College topped the list of 20 best institutions for the second consecutive time.

Viqarunnisa Noon School, Ideal School and College, Motijheel, and Dhaka Residential Model College ranked second, third and fourth respectively position wise based on five academic standards.

The five criteria are: the number of students registered with a school, percentage of regular students among those registered, percentage of successful students, the number of students who scored GPA-5, and the average GPA of an institution.

The results under Madrasa Board, which has been dominating the success chart for the last few years, came down to fourth position this year. The pass rate in this board is 83.23 percent with the number of GPA-5 achievers dropping to 12,756 from last year's 20,755.

On the other hand, the pass rate of Technical Education Board is 81.37 percent with a significant rise in the number of top graders. Some 1,122 students got GPA-5 against last year's 72.

Six out of eight centres abroad saw cent percent success with 59 out of total 246 students achieving the highest grade.

Eight out of the 12 cadet colleges in the country secured 100 percent pass

while 555 of the total 560 students of the colleges have scored GPA-5 this year, says a press release of Inter-Services Public Relations.

Students of science group have marked a major progress with 90.76 percent pass rate while the rate is 74.19 percent for humanities group and 86.37 for commerce group.

Like other years, schools in urban areas, especially in metropolitan cities, dominated the GPA-5 category and 100 percent pass record.

At the press conference, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said this year's pass rate is the highest in the history of the country's

Verdict

FROM PAGE 1

fatwa as the SC verdict termed it legal.

"It's an extremely positive verdict," former caretaker government adviser Sultana Kamal told The Daily Star.

But women's rights activist Maleka Begum said: "Regardless of what the full verdict says, the first part, which terms fatwa legal, will undoubtedly have a negative impact."

"Following this verdict, I hope Imams and other Islamic professionals who normally give fatwa will be more aware and the torture in its name will scale down significantly," said Abdullah Maruf, one of the five Islamic scholars who requested the SC to cancel a High Court verdict that declared fatwa illegal.

Sultana Kamal, however, said 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, executive director of Aina Salish Kendra.

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

Maruf suggested the government specify the eligibility of the scholars to deliver fatwa in line with the apex court judgement. Saying their opinions to the SC have been reflected in the verdict, 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, the judgment will definitely reduce punishments and other brutality in the name of fatwa.

Karmojibi 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.

"The government must ensure the verdict will be implemented accordingly," the statement read.

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.

No visitors

FROM PAGE 20

press secretary, briefed reporters after the meeting.

Previously, the secretariat was closed to the visitors on Thursday.

As the prime minister holds the cabinet meeting on Monday, the law enforcement agencies remain very busy to ensure foolproof security for her and other cabinet members and it is difficult for them to provide security of the visitors.

"So the cabinet fixed Monday to be non-visitors' day," Azad said.

Around 2,000 visitors come to the building every day.

Yesterday's meeting also approved a proposal on management, conservation and collection of fish in the Bay of Bengal, allowing maximum of 30 trawlers for fishing.

It also approved sending a Bangladeshi delegation to Vietnam for signing a memorandum of understanding to import rice from the country.

TOP SCHOOLS

DHAKA EDUCATION BOARD

Rajuk Uttara Model School and College
Viqarunnisa Noon School
Ideal School and College, Motijheel

RAJSHAHI EDUCATION BOARD

Pabna Cadet College
Joypurhat Girls Cadet College
Bogra Govt Girls High School

COMILLA EDUCATION BOARD

Comilla Zilla School
Feni Girls Cadet College
Comilla Cadet College

JESSORE EDUCATION BOARD

Jhenidah Cadet College
Police Line Secondary School
Sheikh Akizuddin High School

CHITTAGONG EDUCATION BOARD

Fauzdarhat Cadet College
Collegiate School
Ispahani Public School

BARISAL EDUCATION BOARD

Barisal Cadet College
Barisal Zilla School
Barisal Govt Girls High School

SYLHET EDUCATION BOARD

Sylhet Cadet College
Blue Bird High School, Sylhet
Sylhet Govt Pilot High School

DINAJPUR EDUCATION BOARD

Rangpur Cadet College
Cantonment Public School and College, Rangpur
Amena-Baki Residential Model School, Dinajpur

Bin Laden

FROM PAGE 20

force the US to retreat from the Middle East, his writings have revealed, reports The Guardian.