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Girls outshine boys in HSC

WASIM BIN HABIB

Girls outshone boys in this year's Higher Secondary Certificate and equivalent examinations in terms of pass rate.

The number of male students participating in the examinations was higher than that of their female counterparts but results show that girls were more successful.

Awareness among parents and girls and facilities like government stipends mainly contributed to such a change in a society like this where girls' education is thought to be not necessary, said education boards' officials and principals of different colleges.

A total of 4,26,755 girls and 4,90,918 boys took the HSC and equivalent examinations under eight general education boards, madrasa and technical boards this year. The success rate among girls is 79.19 percent while it is 78.23 percent among boys.

Among the eight general boards, girls did better in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Jessore, Chittagong and Dinajpur boards while boys from Comilla, Barisal and Sylhet excelled in the exams.

However, the boys performed much better in terms of achieving highest grade point average (GPA)-5. Some 33,168 boys achieved GPA 5 while 27,994 girls made it to the highest grade.

Girls are getting facilities from the government, which encourage them to be more sincere in their studies, Manju Ara Begum, principal of Viqarunnisa Noon School

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A pickup truck falls into a deep pothole veiled under the murky stagnant water on a street in Dayaganj in the capital while a biker splashes into the water, narrowly escaping injury. The photographer stayed on location for three hours yesterday and counted 25 similar accidents. However, the authorities concerned keep looking the other way.

PADMA BRIDGE Govt to divert money from low-priority projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As per the prime minister's directive, every ministry would prioritise its projects and divert money from low-priority projects to the construction of the Padma bridge, said Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan yesterday.

Ministers of every ministry would hold meetings soon with their secretaries and other top officials to categorise projects and act accordingly, he said while briefing reporters

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PRAYER TIMING July 19

	Asan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

4 policemen jailed for mugging

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A Sirajganj court yesterday sentenced four police constables to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment and two others to three years of imprisonment for mugging a gold trader last year.

Additional District and Sessions Judge-1 Umme Kulsum also fined the four constables Tk 50,000 each, in default of which they

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IFAD ready to help in farm sector uplift

The UN body chief tells The Daily Star

REAZ AHMAD

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is seeking to mobilise more funding for rural and farm sector development in Bangladesh, and is also set to open a full-fledged country office in Dhaka.

"Encouraged by the practice of democracy at grassroots-level organisations in Bangladesh, we sought directions from

the government (of Bangladesh) on areas where IFAD can further assist and tout for funding through co-financing," President of the Rome-based specialised UN body Kanayo F Nwanze told The Daily Star in an exclusive interview on Tuesday.

Nwanze, now on a visit to Bangladesh, said he had a meeting with the prime

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Kanayo F Nwanze

Buet teachers now wait for Nahid's steps

Postpone demo for 2 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agitating Buet teachers have postponed their demonstration for two days from today "to show respect" to the education minister's initiative in resolving the ongoing crisis through negotiations.

"We have postponed our demonstration for two

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GAZIPUR BY-POLLS

Hannan Shah taken aback

BNP to boycott voting

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP standing committee member Brig Gen (ret) ASM Hannan Shah has apparently been taken aback by the party decision of boycotting the Gazipur by-election as he aspired to win back the parliamentary seat after about 15 years.

The opposition politician, however, said he would obey the party decision and sacrifice his aspirations for the sake of the

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Tajuddin's family to get AL priority

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Family members of the country's first prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad will be given priority for the Awami League nomination in the Gazipur-4 by-elections, party insiders say.

The parliamentary seat fell vacant after Tajuddin's son Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj recently resigned as a ruling AL lawmaker.

Insiders say the AL will consider other

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India elects new president today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian parliamentarians and legislators will exercise their franchise today to elect the country's new president amid indications that UPA nominee Pranab Mukherjee will walk away with a comfortable margin against BJP-backed Purno Agitok Sangma.

A total of 4,896 lawmakers-- 776 members of parliament and 4,120 members of legislative assemblies in states--are eligible to vote in parliament and state assemblies. The total vote value is 10.98 lakh and a candidate needs to get 5,49,442 vote value to win the race if all voters exercise their franchise.

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Pranab Sangma

Couple stabbed to death in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

An elderly couple were stabbed to death at their newly built house in Kodalia village of Mirzapur upazila in Tangail early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Muslim Uddin Shikder, 60, and his wife Hasna Begum, 55.

Police recovered a blood stained sharp weapon from the couple's

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BAIL IN RAMADAN Ghulam Azam's plea rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday rejected the petition of former Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam seeking a 30-day bail during the holy month of Ramadan.

Ghulam Azam's defence counsel Abdur Razzaq during the hearing of the petition Tuesday sought the bail as Ghulam Azam wanted to fast with his family and perform the I'tikaf (an Islamic practice of being on retreat in a mosque for a certain number of days, especially during Ramadan).

The prosecution had argued that the bail petition was wrapped in religious sentiments.

Tribunal-1 Chairman Justice M Nizamul Huq said such bail petition was made by war crimes accused

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The award has been handed over by Dr. Mashiur Rahman, Prime Minister's Adviser on Economic Affairs to Mr. S.M. Mahbulul Karim, Managing Director of Nitol Insurance Company Limited in a ceremony organized by The National Board of Revenue (NBR) at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, on 10th July 2012.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you think the government decision to open bank accounts to collect voluntary contributions from the public to construct the Padma bridge is logical?

Yes (13.1%)
No (84.7%)
No Comments (2.2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 544

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think the government will be able to take action against the Chhatra League men if found involved in collecting money from people for the construction of the proposed Padma bridge?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)