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Kids triumph over all odds

89.71pc pass JSC exams badly disrupted by hartals, blockades; 1.52 lakh get GPA-5

WASIM BIN HABIB

Despite the disruption in exam schedules due to political instability, class-VIII students have done remarkably well in this year's Junior School Certificate (JSC) exams with the success rate breaking all previous records.

The pass rate hit a record high of 89.71 percent, 3.6

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RESULTS COMPARISON				
Boards	PassRate 2013	PassRate 2012	GPA-5 2013	GPA-5 2012
Dhaka	87.93	85.02	55,223	17,595
Rajshahi	93.88	85.09	20,523	6,221
Comilla	90.45	91.86	16,095	3,763
Jessore	89.03	85.28	14,704	3,978
Chittagong	86.13	78.35	14,105	3,531
Barisal	96.60	93.82	10,763	3,172
Sylhet	91.15	90.45	5,748	1,364
Dinajpur	88.91	84.88	15,836	4,534
Total	89.71	86.11	1,52,997	44,158



Students of chart-topping Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in the capital rejoice after publication of this year's Junior School Certificate and Junior Dakhil Certificate exams yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

91pc pass JDC exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examination results show an increase in the success rate and a record boost in the number of the highest grade point average achievers.

The results show 91.11 percent students have come out successful this year. The pass rate was 90.87 percent last year.

The number of GPA-5, the highest grade point average, achievers has increased by a large margin this year as well. As many as 19,211 students have secured GPA-5 this year, marking almost seven times higher over the last year. The figure was 2,784 in the previous year.

Around 3.13 lakh

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PRAYER TIMING December 30		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-27	5-30
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Transport collapse batters economy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The breakdown in transport system yesterday ahead of BNP's rally badly hit the economy already on the back foot from the opposition alliance's drawn-out political activism.

The government restricted public movement by bus in a bid to foil the BNP-led demonstration programme 'March for Democracy', but trucks and lorries too stayed out of the roads for fear of violence, crippling the economy.

Most of the shops, including hawkers and roadside vendors, in Dhaka were shut, due to the combination of transport problems and fear of violence and looting in case the tension bubbles over, said SA Quader Kiron, secretary general of Bangladesh Shop Owners Association.

"All are in panic," he said, adding that the stores that did open received very poor turnout of customers.

Hardly any stores were open yesterday at the capital's New Market area, a

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CONTEMPT OF TRIBUNAL 2 editors of Economist not guilty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday disposed of the contempt of court proceedings against two editors of The Economist as it has found no proof of their involvement in hacking alleged Skype conversation between a judge and an expatriate Bangladeshi legal expert.

On December 6 last year, the tribunal issued a show-cause notice against Rob Gifford and Adam Roberts, chief editor

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Railway guard killed

'Shibir men' threw bomb at him when he stopped them for search

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A security guard of Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital was killed as two alleged Shibir activists hurled crude bombs at him when he approached to frisk them near the platform yesterday afternoon.

The deceased, Abul Kashem, 30, of Muksudpur in Gopalganj, was a sepoy of Railway Nirapatta Bahini, a force responsible for ensuring security at the railway station.

Railway police arrested two attackers --

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Abul Kashem



Ahsanul Haque Banna, 10, and his five-year-old cousin Abu Musanna at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

2 kids hurt in blast

Abandoned bomb goes off in Jamaat-dominated area of Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two children were injured yesterday when a crude bomb they were playing with exploded beside their homes at Budhpara in Rajshahi city, an area dominated by Jamaat and Shibir.

Ten-year-old Ahsanul Haque Banna and his five-year-old cousin Abu Musanna were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, said acting officer-in-charge Monir Hossain of Motihar Police Station.

The bomb went off at the mango orchard beside their adjacent homes around

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1:30pm. They had found the bomb in the backyard and started playing with it near a fire made for warmth.

The condition of Banna is critical since he received splinters in the head. He was admitted to the neurosurgery ward. Musanna suffered cuts to the right leg, said Prof BK Dam, head of the orthopaedic surgery department, where he was taken.

Banna is the son of Abdus Samad, councillor of ward 30 of Rajshahi City Corporation and chief of the ward unit Jamaat. Musanna is the son of Abdus Salam,

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Reading novel boosts brain function

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Being pulled into the world of a gripping novel can trigger actual, measurable changes in the brain that linger for at least five days after reading, scientists have said.

The new research, carried out at Emory University in the US, found that reading a good book may cause heightened connectivity in the brain and neurological changes that persist in a similar way to muscle memory.

The changes were registered in the left temporal cortex, an area of the brain associated with receptivity for language, as well as the primary sensory motor region of the brain.

"The neural changes that

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Correction

In a story headlined "Resigned but yet to leave" published in The Daily Star on December 28, we wrote former Minister Faruk Khan was among the ministers who resigned but yet to hand over government residences. In fact, Khan handed over his residence in 2012. We regret the error.

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