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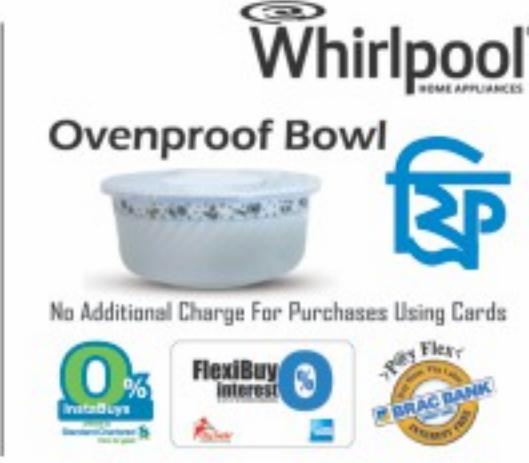
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Record pass rate in PSC

98.58pc primary students come out successful

WASIM BIN HABIB

Class V students have taken the success rate in this year's primary education terminal examination results to a new height as almost cent percent examinees came out successful.

The pass rate hit a record high of 98.58 percent, 1.2 percentage points higher than that of last year, though the students faced disruptions in exam schedules due to opposition's shutdowns and blockade.

Students have consistently been doing well in the terminal exam since its introduction in 2009, when the pass rate

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RESULTS COMPARISON

Division	PassRate 2013	PassRate 2012	GPA-5 2013	GPA-5 2012
Dhaka	98.70	97.10	1,05,646	90,152
Rajshahi	98.58	97.06	26,663	30,813
Khulna	99.00	98.54	23,594	28,966
Chittagong	98.79	97.00	38,441	34,034
Barisal	99.25	99.19	11,759	9,290
Sylhet	96.54	95.34	6,196	7,456
Rangpur	98.38	98.14	28,662	29,509
Total	98.58	97.35	2,40,961	2,30,220

Monipur High School students flash the V-sign as they celebrate their results in Primary School Certificate exams yesterday.

95pc pass Ebtedai exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ebtedai Education Terminal Examination results show a significant increase in the success rate and a boost in the number of top graders.

This year, 95.80 percent students have passed the exams. The success rate was 92.28 percent last year.

The results published yesterday showed a significant improvement in other indicators. This year, the number of schools with cent percent pass has risen, while the number of failed pupils and schools with zero pass rate has come down. A total of 35,890 students have flunked the exams against last year's 65,778.

The number of GPA-5 achievers this year has become more than double. This year, 7,253 students have secured GPA-5 against last year's 2,920.

Around 2,73,979 class-V madrasa students took the tests. Of them, 2,62,472

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PHOTO: FIRUZ AHMED

Arrest drive on 169 opposition leaders, activists held in 9 districts

STAR REPORT

The joint force and police yesterday arrested 169 opposition leaders and activists in nine districts for their alleged links with arson attacks, felling of trees and vandalism during the recent blockades and hartals.

Meanwhile, law enforcers in the capital released three women BNP leaders -- party Vice-chairman Selima Rahman, lawmaker Rasheda Begum Hira and former MP Halima Newaz Arli -- two hours after they had been detained in front of party chief Khaleda Zia's Gulshan residence, party sources said.

Police held them as they were about to enter the house, to which Khaleda had been restricted since Sunday, the day she was due to address the opposition-called "March for Democracy" rally.

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Role reversed, railway loser

Tk 2cr lost a day as govt stops service

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Bangladesh Railway is incurring Tk 2 crore loss everyday thanks to the government's decision to halt the entire train service in a bid to thwart the opposition's "March for Democracy."

With no trains operating, coming to office, passing the office time in a leisurely manner and taking back the tickets people had bought in advance were the only tasks for the staffs to do.

Kamalapur Railway Station that usually bustles with hundreds of passengers boarding on and off trains wore a deserted look yesterday. Except for law enforcers and railway staffs, hardly anyone was found on the platforms of the busiest rail terminal of the country.

A small number of people were seen in front of the ticket counters either

returning their tickets bought in advance or enquiring about train service.

Railway officials say a total of 335 passenger trains carrying nearly 2.5 lakh passengers ply across the country everyday but only a few local trains operated yesterday. All the 72

intercity trains were kept idle at different stations.

On Sunday morning, a number of trains left different districts and were heading for Dhaka, assuming that the opposition's Dhaka march would end in the afternoon. However, the authorities ordered to stop the trains midway after BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia

announced to extend the "March for Democracy" till yesterday.

"The authorities asked us on Sunday night not to run any train until further instructions," said a top railway official, seeking anonymity.

Frustrated by the decision, railway staffs said proper functioning of the state-owned service was depending on what steps Khaleda Zia would take.

The decision to halt passenger train services altogether stands in stark contrast to what the government did during the recent spates of blockades sponsored by the BNP-led alliance.

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ARSON, CLASH

AL man burned to death; 20 injured

STAR REPORT

An Awami League leader was burned to death by opposition activists in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj yesterday.

In Chandpur, at least 20 people were injured in a clash with police.

Enamul Haque, 65, died in his shop in Shibganj after a group of BNP activists set it afire at about 6:00pm, police said. He was also the president of Shibganj Traders Association.

Enamul's body was recovered after firefighters extinguished the blaze around 11:00pm. Later, the employees of the shop identified him.

Fire officials said it took them several hours to douse the blaze as there were inflammables stored in the shop, reported our Chapainawabganj correspondent.

Police said the opposition men carried out the arson apparently to vent their anger over the arrest of Jubo Dal activist Shahadat.

In Chandpur, a clash broke out between police and opposition men on Chandpur-Comilla road in Hajiganj yesterday afternoon.

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People cross the Ashulia bridge on foot finding no ride to the capital yesterday as law enforcers and ruling party men impose restrictions on transport movements to foil the opposition's extended "March for Democracy". Inset, even this physically challenged man has to suffer.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think the government is handling the current political situation maturely?

Yes (18%)

No (82%)

TOTAL VOTES: 353

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for the government not to allow the main opposition to hold its Dhaka march programme?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

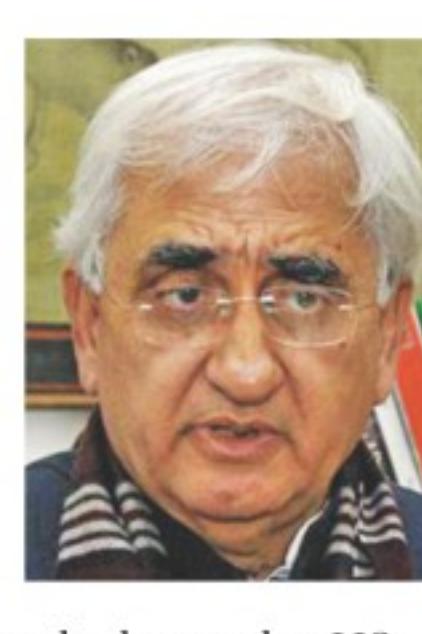
India's views on Bangladesh should help US Says Salman Khurshid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India has hinted at the need for a united approach between India and the US on Bangladesh where the political situation in the run up to proposed general elections is becoming increasingly volatile.

Salman Khurshid, external affairs minister of India, told The Hindu newspaper: "We don't discuss democracy in third countries but we do hope the US... there were obviously some differences of perception [with respect to Bangladesh] that I noticed last time I was there [Washington], particularly in the dealing of the present government with some of their own internal institutions."

The daily quoted officials in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs as that they have been trying to close this



Hafiz shown arrested in arson case

Remanded for 2 days

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP Vice-chairman Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed was placed on a two-day remand yesterday, hours after he was shown arrested in the Bangla Motor arson attack case.

Hafiz's name was not in the first information report (FIR) of the case but police charged him for "instigating" his party men in the arson attack on police.

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PRAYER TIMING December 31	
Fajr	Azan Jamaat
5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45 1-15
Asr	4-00 4-45
Magrib	5-27 5-30
Esha	7-00 7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Those were flag-bearing sticks only
DMP boss says about AL men in action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Benazir Ahmed yesterday said the ruling party men were carrying national flags, not sticks, while marching down the city streets on Sunday.

"As far as we know, they marched with

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Crude bombs seized in city

3 'Shibir men' held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested three alleged activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir and seized 134 crude bombs and a huge amount of bomb-making materials after raiding a mess in the capital's Mohammadpur early yesterday.

The materials can be used to make at least 60 crude bombs, said Biplob Kumar Sarkar, deputy commissioner of Tejgaon Division.

Acting on a tip-off, police conducted the raid on the ground floor of a six-storey building on Sultana Razia Road around 2:00am, said Inspector Abdul Matin of Mohammadpur Police Station.

"Nine Shibir activists had been staying in the mess and making bombs to

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