

# Students

FROM PAGE 16  
changing," said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, while briefing reporters on the results at the Secretariat yesterday.

Only 63,671 students had sat for the HSC equivalent exams under BTEB in 2010, but this year the number has risen to 1,04,587. Of them, 88,925 have passed and 6,393 achieved GPA-5.

Last year, the pass rate under the technical education board was 85.03. BTEB was the lone board whose pass rate had increased last year when the overall pass rate of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations had declined by 4.37 percent.

The trend remained almost unchanged this year, with 85.02 percent success rate, the second highest passing rate after the Madrasa Education Board under which 94.08 percent students passed. The pass rate in eight general education boards is 75.74.

Of the 1,570 technical institutions in the country, 178 achieved 100 percent success rate and none had zero percent pass rate.

"This is a very positive sign for us. Traditionally, people do not view technical and vocational education as being worthy, but now the perception has changed," said Quazi

Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, chairman of Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation.

Bangladesh needs more technical people as its economy is growing, said the economist, adding that the education policy also had the provision for technical education from class-VI, which would be gradually implemented in all schools.

"One equipped with vocational training can have better prospects in jobs," he told The Daily Star.

## MADRASA BOARD

Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board has topped the list of 10 education boards for the ninth consecutive year, with a pass rate of 94.08, which was 91.46 last year.

The number of examinees and GPA-5 achievers has increased this year. A total of 1,05,849 students - 63,017 male and 42,832 female -- sat for the Alim exams and 99,581 passed.

The pass percentage for boys and girls are 94.20 and 93.90.

Of the 6,025 GPA-5 achievers, 4,212 are male and 1,813 female.

Of the total 2,680 madrasas, 859 achieved 100 percent success rate and three had zero pass rate.

Darunnazatt Siddikia Kamil Madrasa of Dhaka topped the chart in Madrasa Board.



An HSC examinee of Adamji Cantonment College jubilant after getting the results of her exams yesterday. Her college came in third in Dhaka Board.

PHOTO: STAR

# Brilliant

HSC RESULT CHART				
BOARDS	PASS RATE 2014	PASS RATE 2013	GPA-5 2014	GPA-5 2013
DHAKA	84.54	74.04	31,902	22,347
RAJSHAHI	78.55	77.69	7,641	7,666
COMILLA	70.14	61.29	2,600	2,390
JESSORE	60.58	67.49	4,231	4,740
CHITTAGONG	70.06	61.22	2,646	2,772
BARISAL	71.75	71.69	2,225	1,853
SYLHET	79.16	79.13	2,070	1,535
DINAJPUR	74.14	71.94	4,474	3,433
TOTAL	75.74	71.13	57,789	46,736

FROM PAGE 1  
of information technology.

"At least 10 lakh teachers have been trained since the creative method of questions was introduced. This year questions of all the subjects were pre-

pared following the creative method," he said at a press conference at the secretariat yesterday.

Previously, students failed mostly in Mathematics and English, but the government has been providing stu-

dents with special classes for several years on these subjects in 85,000 schools, the minister noted.

Nahid, however, said the improvement should not be confined to higher pass rates only. "Our main challenge ahead is to ensure quality," he pointed out.

He ruled out any link between question paper leak and this year's better results. "We postponed exams after such allegations. Also, we probed the matter and took immediate action."

Government probes found that question papers of Mathematics part-II and English-II at this year's HSC exams under Dhaka Education Board were leaked. The English-II exam was postponed as the leak was detected ahead of the exam schedule.

In terms of the pass rate, Dhaka board stood first with 84.54 percent followed by Sylhet with 79.16 percent and Rajshahi with 78.55 percent.

The combined pass rate under 10 education boards, including madrasa

and technical education boards, is 78.33 percent, which is 4.03 points higher than that of last year.

A total of 70,602 students under 10 boards secured GPA-5 this year, rising by 12,405 from last year's number. Only 20 students scored GPA-5 when the grading system was introduced in 2003.

Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam of English department at Dhaka University observed that most families made higher investments in education which contributed to this year's better results.

"We can see even rickshaw pullers sacrificing their hard-earned money for their children's education. Education has now become a social movement. Media too has played a significant role," he mentioned.

A total of 11, 29,972 students under 10 education boards took the HSC and other equivalent exams that started on April 3 and ended on June 16. Of them, 8, 85,070 came out successful.

The number of students sitting the

exams under eight general education boards was 9, 14,603 this year. Of them, 6, 92,690 passed.

The institutions that saw cent percent pass rate went up to 1,147 against last year's 849, while those having zero pass rate stood at 24, which was 25 last year.

Jessore board with only 60.58 percent had the lowest pass rate, which is strikingly low compared to other boards. The education minister said he would look into the matter and try to identify the reasons behind it.

## SCIENCE STUDENTS LEAD

As usual, students from the science group fared the best with a pass rate of 82.93 percent, trailed closely by 81.24 percent in business studies group and 69.76 percent in humanities group.

Girls outshone boys in terms of pass rates in all boards. The pass percentage of female examinees is 78.86 against 77.86 percent of male examinees. Boys, however, fared better in achieving GPA-5. A total of

38,787 boys achieved the distinction against 31,815 girls.

Of the 211 Bangladeshi students who took the exams in six foreign centres, 153 passed making the pass rate 72.51. Only 19 of them earned GPA-5.

Just like the previous year, Rajuk Uttara Model College topped the list of 20 most successful institutions in Dhaka board. Abdul Kadir Mollah City College in Narsingdi became second and Adamjee Cantonment College in Dhaka third.

Rajshahi College secured the top position in Rajshahi board and Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College stood first in Dinajpur board.

Faujdarhat Cadet College in Chittagong board, Jalalabad Cantonment Public School and College in Sylhet board, Comilla Cadet College in Comilla board, Jhenaidah Cadet College in Jessore board and Barisal Cadet College in Barisal board topped the list of the most successful institutions.

# No progress in truce talks

FROM PAGE 16  
Palestinian official said.

By the time the deadline passes, the two sides must have either agreed on a permanent ceasefire, accepted an extension or risk a resumption of more than a month of bloody fighting.

Meanwhile, an Italian cameraman working for international news agency Associated Press was among at least five people killed in northern Gaza yesterday as sappers were dismantling an Israeli missile.

Gaza's interior ministry said all five had been killed in a blast which occurred as explosives experts were trying to dismantle an unexploded Israeli missile in Beit Lahiya.

Another six people were seriously wounded, medics said.

The AP confirmed that one of its journalists and a freelance Palestinian translator had been killed, identifying them as Simone Camilli, a 35-year-old cameraman from Italy, and Ali Shehda Abu Afash, 36.

Camilli had worked for The Associated Press since 2005. He is the first foreign journalist to be killed in more than a month of bloodshed between Israel and Hamas militants which began on July 8.

Egypt brokered the 72-hour truce which took effect at 00:01 on Monday, and has urged the Israelis and Hamas, the de facto rulers of Gaza, to make every effort to reach a permanent ceasefire.

Mediators have proposed that talks on key Palestinian demands of a seaport and an airport in Gaza be delayed until a

month after a permanent ceasefire takes effect, according to the Egyptian proposal contained in documents seen by AFP yesterday.

Negotiations on proposals for the handover of the bodies of two slain Israeli soldiers held by Palestinian militants in exchange for the release of prisoners in Israeli jails would also be postponed, according to the document.

Under the proposal, the buffer zone along Gaza's border with Israel would be gradually reduced and guarded by Palestinian Authority president Mahmud Abbas's security teams.

The negotiations "are in a very sensitive stage and we hope to reach an agreement" before midnight (2100 GMT), said Palestinian delegation head Azzam al-Ahmed.

Hamas is understood to be demanding clear commitments to opening the ports in Gaza, even if they are to be established at a later date.

The Palestinians, included Hamas, are also demanding an end to the eight-year blockade of Gaza.

The document was vague on the blockade, saying the crossings would be opened according to agreements reached between the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

Palestinian officials had said Israel proposed easing restrictions at two of the six border crossings it shares with the small coastal enclave.

The Palestinians, for their part, have rejected an Israeli demand for Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza to disarm.

# Vote-centric politics a big concern

Says Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said vote-centric politics is a major problem in the country.

"In the name of politics for election, illegal occupations are going on and roadside kitchen markets are being set up unlawfully," he said while speaking at programme to launch a study report at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

The report titled "Road Safety in Bangladesh: Realities and Challenges" was published jointly by Brac and PPRC.

Public representatives sometimes do not allow the administration to do their job if they go against their financial or political interests, he added.

Even police do not take any action sometimes, said the minister.

"I myself am being obstructed from doing several things. But I can't say everything. I am involved in politics and I am a minister of the government," Quader said.

When he goes to evict illegal occupation and seize unauthorised vehicles on the road, he faces obstruction, the minister said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

# Explore Asian markets

## APPAREL: SHARE OF COUNTRY-WISE IMPORT TO JAPAN

YEAR	AMOUNT OF IMPORT (BILLION JPY)	SHARE (%)				
		China	Vietnam	Indonesia	Myanmar	Bangladesh
2000	1,014	78.7	4.1	1.3	0	0.1
2005	1,142	81.1	4	0.6	0.5	0.2
2010	1,007	80.5	5.9	0.9	1.6	1.1
2011	1,153	77.5	7.4	1.4	2.3	1.3
2012	1,190	74.4	8.2	2.2	2.6	1.9
2013	1,402	71.5	8.6	3	3.2	2.2

SOURCE: FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS BY JAPAN FINANCE MINISTRY

FROM PAGE 1

"If Bangladesh can export successfully to the EU and the USA, why can't it grab the Asian market too? It is better positioned to enter there.

"Unfortunately, there has been little effort to achieve that goal. It is high time for Bangladesh to pursue this vision very sincerely," Sadoshima said, as he spoke about a Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean synergy that could drastically change economies of countries like Bangladesh.

The ambassador was talking to journalists at The Daily Star during a courtesy call yesterday.

He praised the country's achievement in garment sector and said the same model could be emulated for assembling and manufacturing small parts of products in the value chain.

For example, Japan has sourced out many automobile component manufacturing to the Asean countries and

similarly the same can be sourced out to Bangladesh for better products at cheaper prices.

"You have to hook up with the east, restructure tariff structure and put in place proper incentives to attract Japanese, Korean and Chinese investments," the ambassador said.

He gave an example of how Japanese companies are relocating for cheaper and better solutions. After the tsunami and earth quakes, Japan faced serious energy crisis and found out that its millions of vending machines are using up too much energy.

A Japanese company then set up a factory in Chittagong to fit energy saving LED lamps in vending machines to produce efficient products.

He also pointed out the pharmaceutical success of Bangladesh and with proper policy initiation the same can

be done in other sectors.

"This country has the right kind of skilled manpower in engineering and banking to do this turnaround, Japan is ready to cooperate."

Bangladesh can produce many kinds of miniature components which Japan is now producing because of its engineering skills and craftsmanship.

Sadoshima said in the last five years, Japanese development assistance commitment was a third of what it could be.

"If the country can work efficiently with us, we are ready to raise our commitment much higher," the ambassador said.

As a first step to hook up with the East and South East Asian nations, he advised that Bangladesh should get involved in regional trade blocs like Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

He, however, pointed out a few areas where the country has to work harder for better integration.

Speedy development of energy resources is one of them. Smoothening the transport sector is another.

Change in local investors and policy makers' mindset to open up to foreign competition and investment is another major area to work on.

Efficiency of policymakers is also vital, and for this he stressed the need for a group of committed people who have vision and who can translate the vision into reality.

# Remove shady

FROM PAGE 16  
constructors on their own and they will not get any compensation," he said while visiting the highway near Mirzapur upazila of Tangail.

Quader made the visit just a day after The Daily Star ran a report on the issue.

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) has taken up a work named Joydevpur-Chandra-Tangail-Elenga highway project in April 2013 to widen the existing 70-kilometre stretch of the road into a four-lane highway primarily to improve communication between Tangail and Gazipur districts and the rest of the country.

Under the project, the government will acquire 35,433 hectares of land from Mirzapur upazila in Tangail and Kaliakair upazila in Gazipur.

As the land acquisition process for the project has got underway, a section of landowners and brokers have recently

taken to building many redundant tinsheds along the highway to get financial benefits.

The tender of the project which would cost some Tk 3066 crore would be floated within December and the work would begin by January next year, Quader added.

Project manager Jikrul Islam said five flyovers, six underpasses, 26 bridges and 60 culverts would also be constructed on the highway under the road widening project.

The highway will also be part of SAARC Highway Corridor-4, Asian Highway-2 and Asian Highway-41. The foreign-aided project is expected to end by March 2018.

Local lawmaker Ekabbar Hossain, Tangail DC Mahbub Hossain, SP Saleh Mohammed Tanvir were among others who accompanied the minister during the visit yesterday.

FROM PAGE 1

Chittagong city around 3:30am.

He was produced before the media at Rab headquarters where he said it was the responsibility of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) as it controlled launch operations in the ten days prior to and after Eid.

The Pinak-6, which was on its way to Mawa from Kawrakandi, was carrying more than 200 passengers against a capacity of 85. It sank in the choppy waters of the Padma amid strong winds around 11:00am on August 4.

After an eight-day search, the rescuers on Monday packed up and left, declaring the search operation abandoned.

Bodies of 48 passengers were recovered from several rivers while 62 are still missing, police said. Three more unidentified bodies were buried yesterday at Shibchar Municipality Graveyard.

Siddique bought the vessel four years

ago but had not transferred the vessel to his name. His eldest son Limon and nephew Ratul had been maintaining it.

He claimed that Yeakub Bepary, who had leased the Kanthalbari terminal between Mawa and Kawrakandi terminals, used to force all launches to take 60 to 70 extra passengers with the help of his men at the terminal.

He claimed that Yeakub was affiliated with the BNP but had joined the Awami League after the party assumed power.

He said Yeakub and his men gave the launch owners a very small amount of money in return for carrying the passengers. They even beat up launch staff if they refused to take the passengers, he said.

The Daily Star could not reach Yeakub for his comments.

Siddique is one of the accused in the case filed soon after the tragedy.

Soon after the capsizing, Siddique went

into hiding. Mufti Mahmud Khan, director of the legal and media wing of Rab, told reporters at a press briefing yesterday.

He said there had been inadequate safety and security measures in the launch. Even the captain did not have a licence.

According to sources at the Department of Shipping, the fitness (survey) certificate of the Pinak-6 expired on April 30. It secured 45-day provisional fitness tokens three times after that date.

Replying to a query about the arrest of BIWTA officials, the Rab official said they would go for action based on the findings and recommendations of the probe committee.

BIWTA Chairman Shamsuddoha Khandaker yesterday said launch owners, drivers, BIWTA officials concerned and passengers were all responsible for the accident.

"We have suspended Mawa Terminal traffic Inspector Jahangir Alam Bhuiyan for negligence in duty," he said.

## LEGAL NOTICE

Ashish Kumar Dey, chief editor of an online news portal and convener of Nou, Sarak and Railpath Jatiya Rakkha Committee (Water, Roads and Railways National Protection Committee), and Tushar Rehman, secretary general of Citizens Rights Movement, sent the legal notice to the government asking it to remove eight BIWTA officials from their posts within 72 hours.

The eight officials are: BIWTA chairman, its director (water protection and direction department), director (waterways safety and traffic department), director (port department), Mawa riverport official, engineer and shipping surveyor of Mawa area, and inspector and traffic inspector of Mawa-Kawrakandi waterways under BIWTA.