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21 lakh kids sit for exams

Guardians still worried about further disruption by hartals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Outside the compound of Motijheel Government Boys High School, a large crowd of parents were waiting for their children to finish the first day's JSC exams test yesterday.

Anxiety was writ large on their faces. They were worried about how their children were faring in the exam. However, they were more concerned about the fate of the upcoming exams: whether those too will be postponed due to hartals enforced by Jamaat-e-Islami.

Amid such apprehensions, Class-VIII terminal tests of Junior School Certificate (JSC) and its madrasa equivalent Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations began yesterday at 2,525 centres under eight general education boards and one madrasa board. The JSC candidates appeared for the Bangla first paper while JDC examinees for Quran Mazid and Tazbid tests.

A total of 20,90,692 students -- 11,05,509 boys and 9,85,183 girls -- from 27,925 schools and madrasas have registered for the JSC and JDC tests that were scheduled to begin on November 2.

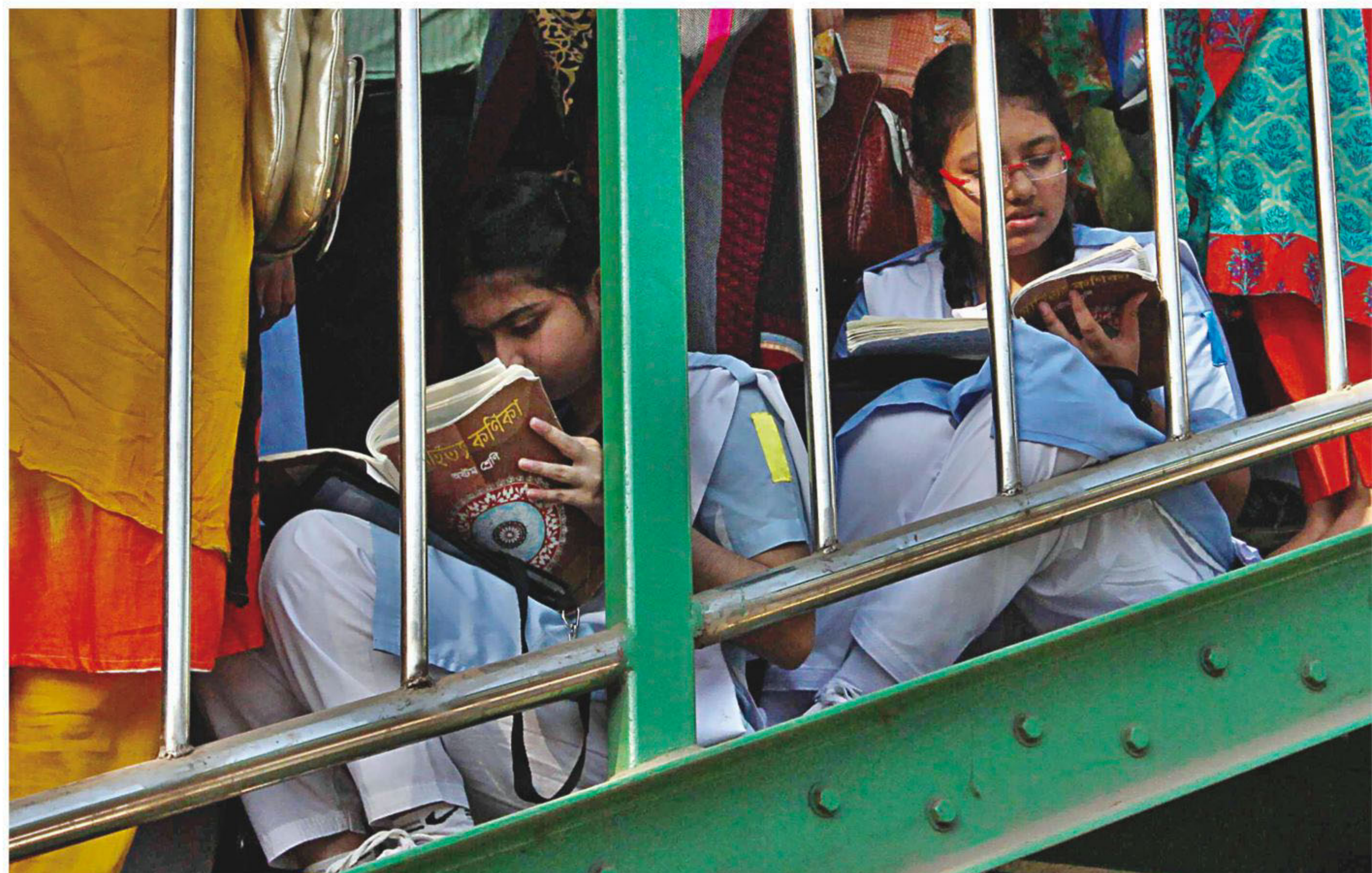
The authorities had to reschedule the tests because of two spells of shutdowns called to protest the verdicts on Jamaat leaders for their crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The examinees said they did well in the tests. However, the mental pressure caused by hartals sank their spirits, they added.

"After completing full preparation for a subject, I came to know suddenly that the exam will be deferred because of hartals. It just demoralised us," said Ankit, a JSC examinee.

Parents were anxious that more hartals would be enforced next week as Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, a war crimes convict, might be executed.

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JSC examinees doing last-minutes panicky revision right on the stairs of a footbridge near the exam centre of Motijheel Govt Boys' High School & College around 7:30am yesterday. The examination would begin at 9:00am.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Man killed in blast at city hotel

Explosion occurs while repairing AC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mechanic was killed and his two assistants were critically injured as the chiller of an air conditioner exploded at a Gulshan hotel yesterday afternoon.

The dead was identified as Anwar Hossain, 25.

The injured -- Sohel Rana and Kartik -- were admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Officer-in-Charge Rafiqul Islam of Gulshan Police Station said the blast had occurred while the mechanics were working with the chiller system at Hotel Six Seasons in the capital's Gulshan-2.

"We have detained five people -- three management-level staff and two others -- in this connection. But no case has been

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Fish output rises 5 times in 30 yrs

Bangladesh 4th top fish producing country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is now the fourth major fish producing country in the world as it has raised production from 7.5 lakh metric tonnes to 35 lakh metric tonnes in last three decades.

Steady growth in inland fish production from aquaculture helped Bangladesh achieve the feat, said a report of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

According to the study titled "The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2014", Bangladesh currently produces around 34.9 lakh MT of fish a year following China, India and Myanmar.

Out of the total production, around 20 lakh MT comes from aquaculture.

Fish meets 56 percent of the total animal protein consumption in Bangladesh, added the report.

The annual per capita consumption of fish and fish products in Bangladesh is 11.9 kg which is around 11.1 percent of total protein consumption.

The total annual consumption is highest in Chittagong area (17.2 kg per person), while the lowest in Rangpur area (7.5 kg per person). The species most commonly consumed are freshwater fish, including tilapia, catfish

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Execution only thru' due process

Say 2 UN experts about verdict in Kamaruzzaman case

STAR REPORT

Two human rights experts of the United Nations have called on the government to stay the execution of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman who has been awarded death penalty for crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

Christof Heyns, the UN special rapporteur on summary executions, and Gabriela Knaul, another UN special rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, said a person sentenced to death must have the right to seek pardon or commutation

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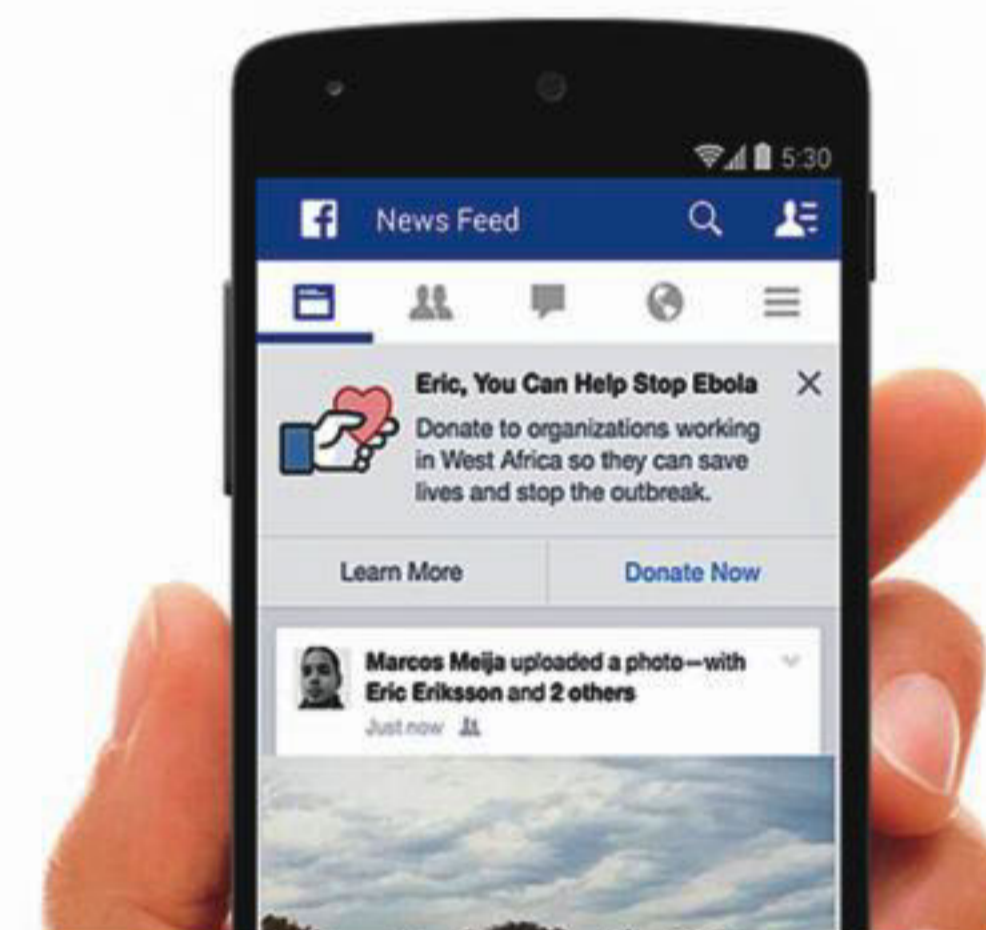
Facebook in fight against Ebola

THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

Facebook has announced it is joining the fight against Ebola with the launch of a new 'donate now' button that allows people to give money to Ebola charities directly through the social network.

Over the next week, Facebook users will see a message appear at the top of their News Feed with an

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The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with a TIB survey that the health sector of the country is being affected by corruption of doctors, concerned officials and employees?

Yes (94%)
No (6%)

TOTAL VOTES: 135

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam of DU that students fail to learn English because of the introduction of communicative English at secondary level?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING November 8

Fazr	Azan	Jamaat
5-00	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-25	5-30
Esha	7-00	7-30



A firefighter inspects the wreckage of a Gulshan hotel where an air conditioner exploded yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

In search of fortune

Bangladeshis eke out a living in Rome

AL JAZEERA, Rome, Italy

"Tourists in groups never buy anything." Ignoring the large group of American tourists sauntering back towards his stall, Faisal pulls out a photo of a boy from his wallet. "This is Sifat, my son. I send him to an English school and he's at the top of his class," the 30-year-old migrant from

Bangladesh and a school dropout said.

At 3pm the autumn sun in Rome is still harsh and the crowds near the Trevi fountain are thinner than usual. Walking past his stall, a few stragglers in the American group slow down to look at Faisal's shining "Chanel" and "Prada" handbags arranged in neat rows on the ground, then shuffle on hurriedly.

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কালকের পৃথিবীটা আমাদের হবে

সেদিন খুব দুরে নয়, যেদিন পৃথিবীও দেখবে বাংলাদেশের স্বপ্ন। সেই স্বপ্ন পূরণের পথে প্রথম আলো ছড়িয়ে পড়েছে সারা বিশ্বে। দেশের সীমানার বাইরেও বাঙালির হাতে এখন প্রথম আলো। সবাই মিলে বাংলাদেশকে ছড়িয়ে দেব পৃথিবীর প্রতি কোণে কোণে।

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