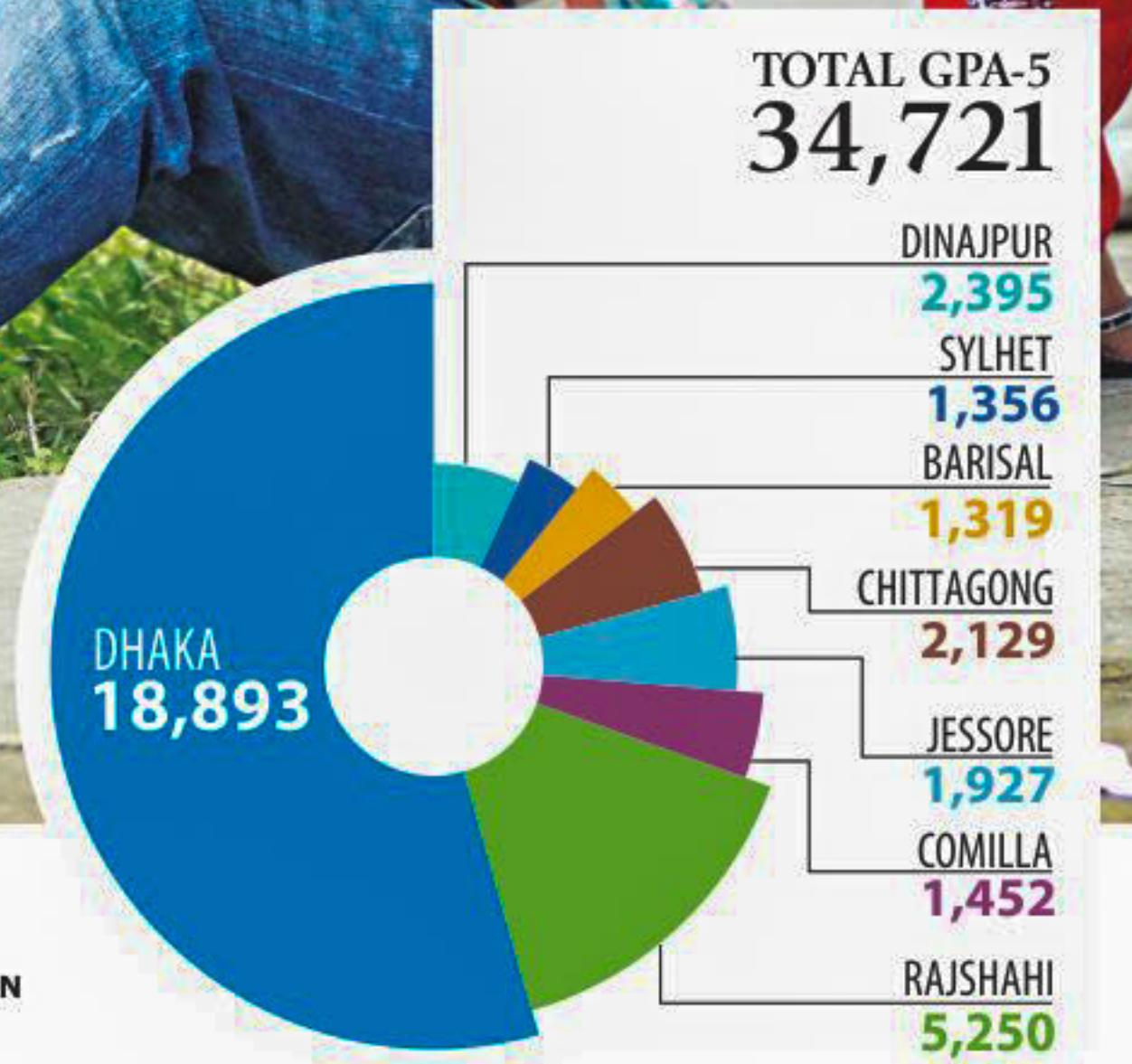




PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Two students of Rajuk Uttara Model College sit dejected after narrowly missing out on GPA-5 in their HSC exams. The results of the test were out yesterday.



Tech, madrasa students fare better in HSC
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Technical Education Board was different from the general and madrasa boards in the results of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent exams.

The pass rate and the number of GPA-5 achievers have declined in other nine education boards but had increased in case of technical education board.

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HSC pass rate 8-year low

Drops to 65.84pc; number of GPA-5 also declines to 34,721 from 57,789 last year; Nahid blames political violence

WASIM BIN HABIB

The success rate in this year's HSC examinations has hit an eight-year low mainly due to students' poor performance in English and political unrest.

It fell around 10 percentage points to 65.84 percent from last year's 75.74 percent in all the eight general education boards.

The results of Higher Secondary Certificate exams, published yesterday, show a decline in the number of GPA-5 scorers and also in other indicators.

A total of 34,721 students got GPA-5 (Grade Point Average), compared to last year's 57,789. The number of unsuccessful students and institutions with zero pass rate rose while that of colleges with 100 percent pass rate came down.

Chairmen of the education boards, officials and teachers have cited several reasons behind the students' poor performance this year.

They said the students performed badly in English, which impacted on the overall results.

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YEAR-WISE PASS RATE In percent

Year	Pass Rate (%)
2008	74.85
2009	70.43
2010	71.82
2011	72.36
2012	76.5
2013	71.13
2014	75.74
2015	65.84

**'GUNFIGHT' WITH COPS
6 'poachers' shot dead in Sundarbans**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Six alleged tiger poachers were killed in a "gunfight" with police in the Sundarbans yesterday afternoon.

The dead are Siddiq Sana, 44, Ansar Ali Sana, 55, and Rafiqul Islam, 38, of South Betkashi village, Mamun Gazi, 28, and Bappi Dhali, 22, of Charamukh village, and Majid Gazi, 35, of Bayarsingh village in Koyra upazila of Satkhira.

This is the second highest number of deaths in a "shootout" in the Sundarbans after 13 people were killed in a "shootout" on October 5 last year. Police claimed that all the six are "tiger poachers" and members of a Sundarbans-based robber gang, led by one Elias. Acting on a tip-off that some "tiger poachers" were in Alki Mandarbaria area of the West Sundarbans in Koyra upazila, a police team raided the area around 3:45pm, said Harendranath Sarkar, officer-in-charge of Koyra Police Station.

When the team reached near the spot, the "poachers" opened fire on police, forcing them to fire back that resulted in the "gunfight", said the police official.

After the gun battle, six bullet-hit bodies of the "poachers" were found at the spot, he claimed.

Five firearms, 17 bullets and three tiger hides were also recovered from the spot, the OC claimed.

The police official also claimed that he along with three other policemen was

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 Deakin University Mr. Pawan Solanki	 The University of Sydney Mr. Vikash Naidoo
 Edith Cowan University (ECU) with PIBT Ms. Anita Chauhan	 The University of Western Australia Ms. Manisha Aggarwal
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