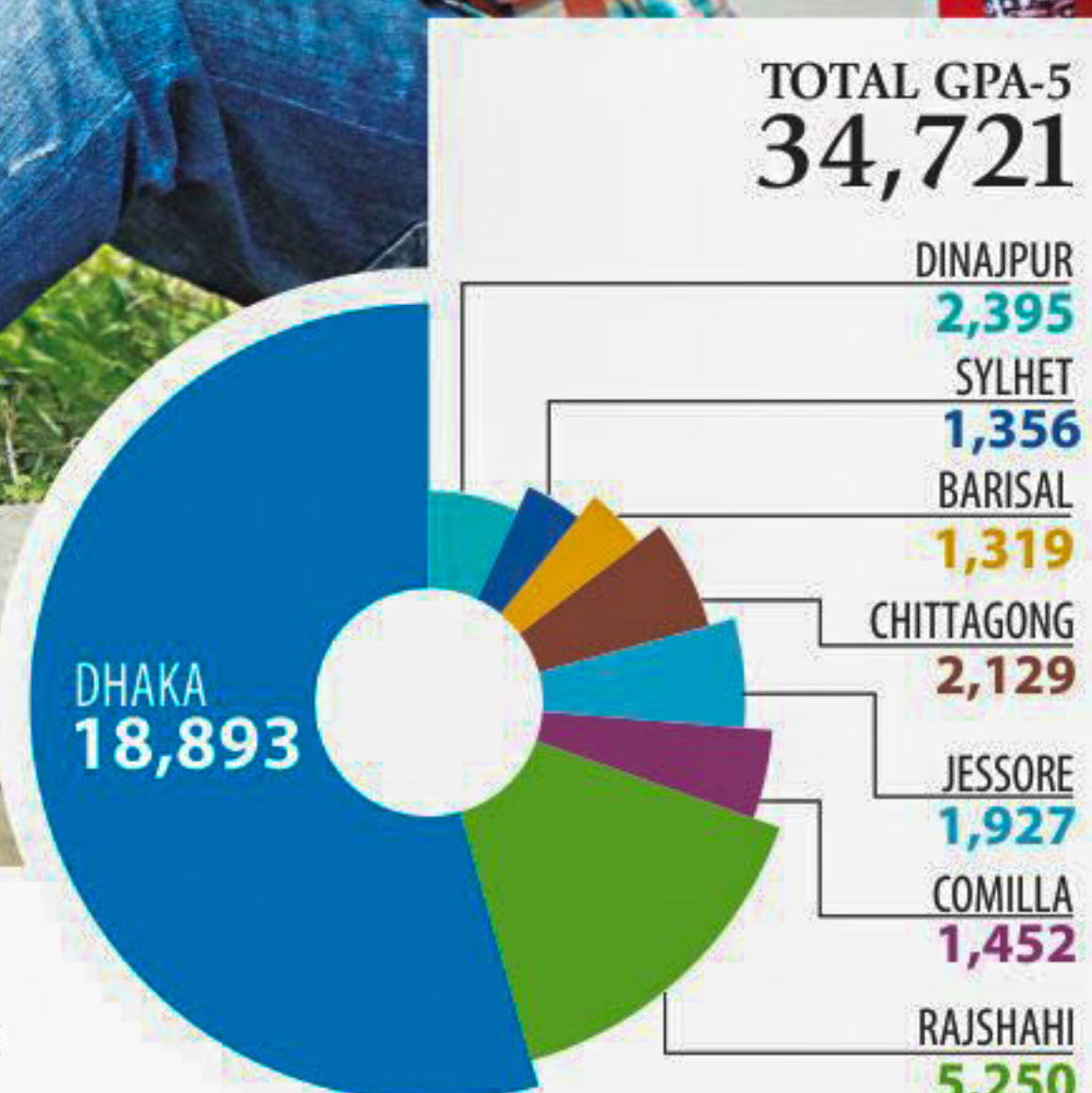




Two students of Rajuk Uttara Model College sit dejected after narrowly missing out on GPA-5 in their HSC exams. The results of the test were out yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



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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**TOP QUOTE**

"If BNP-Jamaat had not carried out suicidal activities and arson attacks, the pass rate [in HSC] would have been better."

PM SHEIKH HASINA  
IN HER REACTION TO THIS YEAR'S HSC RESULTS

## 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



'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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

BLOGGER KILLINGS PROBE

## Police role in question

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The law enforcement agencies are capturing suspected Islamist militants and foiling their alleged missions to kill high-profile personalities and carry out subversive acts. The intelligence of the police, especially that of the Detective Branch and the Rapid Action Battalion, is so accurate that the suspects are arrested well before they could make their move.

By interrogating the arrestees, police in the past got clues about the others involved in plotting the missions, leading to the capture of all gang members. This way the DB and Rab nabbed several hundred militant operatives in the past few years. The cops have also been successful in getting names of the outfits the arrestees belong to.

This success gave them the confidence to say that operatives of the militant groups in Bangladesh are under total control.

This is surely laudable. But the same agencies fail to show the competence when it comes to preventing the murder of bloggers one after another and arresting the culprits.

Four bloggers have been killed in the first seven months of this year, but police have not been able to arrest any single killer. They also could not dig any information from the two murderers caught by the public while trying to flee after killing Oyasirur Rahman Babu in Tejgaon on March 30, a little over a month after the murder of writer-blogger Avijit Roy. There are numerous examples where one arrest led to the arrest of others and eventually cracked the case. But not in the case of Babu.

The law enforcers could have used the same interrogation

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 2

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UN chief, EU delegation condemn Niladri killing

*Ask govt to bring the perpetrators to justice*

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN chief and the European Union (EU) delegation to Bangladesh have condemned the killing of blogger Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy.

Expressing grave concern over the brutal murder, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on the Bangladesh government for bringing the perpetrators to justice.

The UN chief, in a statement yesterday, has also called upon the government to bring those responsible for the murder of Niloy and other bloggers to justice in an expeditious manner and act to ensure that all Bangladeshis can enjoy freedom of expression and other human rights without fear.

Niloy is the fourth blogger to have been hacked to death this year. Avijit Roy

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