

Rakhi festivity lights up the border

STAR REPORT

Border guards of Bangladesh and India celebrated Rakhi Bandhan, a celebration of the sacred relationship between brothers and sisters, at different points of the zero line along Bangladesh-India border yesterday.

Female members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in Hili camp tied rakhis (one kind of wristband) around the wrists of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) troops of Hakimpur camp in Dinajpur, reports our correspondent there.

They also exchanged greetings with the BGB men and distributed sweets among them. The BGB members gave the female BSF men flowers and gifts and vowed to protect them.

Male BGB and BSF members hugged each other.

"We forgot the restrictions of our jobs for a while," said Jamil Badsha, commander of BSF Hili camp.

Every day, the BSF and BGB men performed their duties in the same area, but they hardly got chances to exchange greetings, he said.

"Sometimes, we are locked in altercations for the security purpose of our country. But such programme will help us forget the bad days," he said.

Hundreds of people along the borders of the two countries witnessed the programme.

"We want that the border guards of both the countries celebrate such programme every year," said Sushanta Roy, who returned home from India yesterday and witnessed the programme.

Hakimpur BGB camp commander Subedar Sirajul Islam said such celebration would help strengthen brotherly relations between the border guards of Bangladesh and India.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent adds, female members of Phulbari BSF camp in Siliguri tied Rakhi on the wrists of BGB men of Banglabandha camp in Tentulia upazila of Panchagarh.

A colourful programme was held on the Phulbari BSF camp premises organised by Dabgram Phulbari Trinomul Jubo Congress Committee.

James Kujur, minister of tribal development of West Bengal government, attended the programme as the chief guest, while Lt Col Al Hakim Md Nawshad, commanding officer of BGB Battalion-18 in Panchagarh, and RP Singh, staff officer of North Bengal frontier of BSF, were present at the programme as guests.



An Indian Border Security Force member tying a rakhi on the wrist of a Border Guard Bangladesh member while another BSF member standing nearby with sweetmeats at the zero line of Bangladesh-India border near Hakimpur upazila in Dinajpur yesterday. Rakhi Bandhan (the bond of protection) or Rakhi Utsav is a festival which celebrates the sacred relationship between brothers and sisters.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Cheers riding on English

FROM PAGE 1

Point Average)-5 under the boards, show the results published yesterday. The number was 34,721 last year.

The combined pass rate under all the 10 education boards, including madrasa and technical boards, also increased to 74.70 percent from last year's 69.60 percent.

A total of 58,276 students secured GPA-5 under the boards this year, rising by 15,382 from last year's number. Only 20 students had scored GPA-5 when the grading system was introduced in 2003.

Boards' officials have attributed the overall success to students' better performance in English and a startling jump in the pass rate in Jessore board.

Last year, poor performance by students in English ultimately put a negative impact on the overall results.

"English has always been considered to be the major factor in the result chart and students' performance in this subject has been better this year," said Prof Mahabubur Rahman, chairman of Dhaka Education Board.

Yesterday's results show that the average pass rate in English has risen significantly in all boards.

In Dhaka board, the pass rate in the subject rose to 86.46 percent from last year's 79.10 percent.

Jessore board saw a phenomenal rise of 38.96 percent as around 90 percent of its examinees passed in English this year. This has also pushed the board's pass rate to 83.42 percent from 46.45 percent of last year.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid has attributed the overall success to the combined efforts of the teachers, students and guardians.

Announcing the overall results at a crowded press conference at his ministry at 1:00pm, he said, "After the results, we can say that we are gradually improving in all indicators of the standard of education."

The results, published within 57 days of the exams, were available in colleges, on the websites of the education boards and on mobile phones through text after 2:00pm yesterday.

PASS RATE (YEAR-WISE)	
2016	72.47
2015	65.84
2014	75.74
2013	71.13
2012	76.50
2011	72.36
2010	71.82
2009	70.43
2008	74.85

of the 10 education boards in terms of pass rate for the 11th consecutive year.

However, the rate has dropped by two percentage point to 88.19 percent from that of previous year.

Two hundred and thirty two of the 248 Bangladeshi students, who took the exams from seven centres abroad, have passed. Only 53 of them got GPA-5.

GIRLS DID BETTER
This year, girls have done better than boys as their pass rate is 1.67 percentage points higher than that of the male examinees.

As many as 75.6 percent of the total female students have passed the examinations.

"This is a fundamental change in our society. It shows that girls, like boys, also can do any challenging jobs if they are given equal opportunities," said the education minister.

However, in terms of GPA-5, the female students lagged behind their male counterparts. A total of 32,381 boys secured GPA-5. The number of such female student was 25,895.

SCIENCE STUDENTS LEAD
As usual, students from science group did better than the students from other groups.

The success rate in science group was 83.04 percent while it was 74.43 percent in business studies group and 67.37 percent in humanities group.

MARKS WILL BE GIVEN
HSC examinees this year will get their marks for the first time since the introduction of the grading system 13 years ago.

The students will get their total marks along with the GPA score in their academic transcripts to be provided by the boards, said Prof Mahabubur Rahman, chairman of Dhaka board.

But, they will get their numbers in three sections -- essay type, MCQ and practical -- separately from the website: <http://www.educationboardresults.gov.bd>.

Meanwhile, the success of this year's HSC examinees may lead to a concern for many students as they now would have to face tough competition to get enrolled in good universities.

Colleges across the country wore a festive look. Students and their parents, who looked anxious for some time, erupted into jubilation as soon as they received the results.

Some danced while some showed victory signs. Happiness was writ large upon their faces.

"I am extremely happy; my hard work has paid off," said a jubilant Tasmia, who secured GPA-5 from Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in the capital.

She gave all the credit to her teachers. "I would give equal credit to my parents for their constant support," she added.

Yesterday's results also showed that the number of colleges with zero pass rate has come down to 25 from 35 last year.

However, the number of institutions with cent percent pass rate decreased to 848 from 1,133 in 2015.

More than 12,03,640 students -- 5,57,842 females and 6,45,798 males -- from 8,345 institutions took this year's HSC and its equivalent examinations. Of them 8,99,150 students have passed the tests that began on April 3.

Jessore board (83.42 percent) topped the list of boards with highest pass rate. Comilla board (64.49 percent) was at the bottom.

Dhaka board has the highest number of GPA-5 achievers, with around half of the total GPA-5 scorers are from this board alone.

Around 83 percent of the total GPA-5 achievers are from science group, showed the results.

Madrasa board has topped the list

Dhaka moves 2 notches up

FROM PAGE 1

healthcare, the score is 29.2, culture and environment 43.3, education 41.7 and infrastructure 26.8.

The ranking showed some improvement for Bangladesh over the years after languishing at the bottom of the table in 2012.

Melbourne in Australia remains the most liveable of the 140 cities surveyed, very closely followed by the Austrian capital, Vienna.

Although the top five cities remain unchanged, the past year has seen increasing instability across the world, causing volatility in the scores of many cities. Sydney, for example, has fallen by four places, to move out of the 10

most liveable cities, owing to a heightened perceived threat of terrorism.

But "violent acts of terrorism" have affected many countries and while not a new phenomenon, the "frequency and spread have increased noticeably and become even more prominent in the past year," said the Global Liveability Report.

Jon Copetake, editor of the report, told The Independent: "The latest rankings paint a very sombre picture."

"The fact that one in five cities has seen its liveability score decline reflects a worrying backdrop and one that is depressingly familiar given that similar declines were reported last year."

"What is interesting is that it is not

just the threat of terrorism that is lowering stability. The last few years have seen an intensification of protests, and border disputes as well as the ongoing armed conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa."

There have been more than 1,000 terrorist attacks in 2016 so far -- with incidents in France, Turkey, the US and Belgium among the most high profile.

Violent acts of terrorism have been reported in many countries, including Turkey, Australia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, France, Belgium and the US.

"This has been a year undoubtedly marked by terrorism," said the report.

Greatness calling Bolt

FROM PAGE 1

Thompson, who sprinted to gold in the women's 100m on Saturday, stunned Dutch world champion Dafne Schippers to win the 200m in 21.78sec.

Schippers, who stumbled as she crossed the line, took silver in 21.88. Tori Bowie of the United States won bronze.

Thompson, 24, dedicated her victory to the trailblazing Jamaican stars who have won Olympic gold in past years.

"It is very special for me to win," she said. "I spent my childhood growing up watching Veronica Campbell-Brown and then Shelley-Ann Fraser-Pryce."

Thompson is the first woman to complete the double since late American world record holder Florence Griffith Joyner's performance at the 1988 Seoul Games.

In the final event, 2013 world champion Brianna Rollins led a majestic American sweep of the top three in the women's 100m hurdles.

Rollins produced a flawless display to clock 12.48sec ahead of compatriot Nia Ali in 12.59sec and Kristi Castlin in 12.61sec.

"It's like a sisterhood," said Rollins.

"I've known these girls for years. I'm so grateful and blessed that we were able to accomplish this together."

Tianna Bartoletta of the United States upset defending champion and team-mate Britney Reese to take the long jump gold.

Bartoletta, a 2005 world champion who gave up the sport as she struggled with injuries, secured victory with her penultimate leap of 7.17m to knock Reese out of the gold medal standings. Reese could only manage 7.15 on her final jump.

But it was a disappointing long jump for Darya Klishina.

The only Russian athlete allowed to compete in the track and field competition following her country's doping scandal bowed out midway through the final.

"Ten or 15 years ago I couldn't imagine that my first Olympic Games would be like this," said a disappointed Klishina who won a world sports tribunal appeal against a late IAAF doping ban on her competing in Rio.

In the day's other final, Conselus Kipruto of Kenya won gold in the men's 3,000m steeplechase.

Brazil, who are not keeping up with medal expectations, had a day of hope

and crushing disappointment.

Neymar scored twice -- including the fastest goal at an Olympics in 15 seconds -- as Brazil beat Honduras in the Games football semi-final.

They now face Germany, triumphant 2-0 over Nigeria, in Saturday's final. This will be a repeat of their Maracana stadium clash in the World Cup final two years ago which the Germans won 7-1.

Barcelona star Neymar stole the ball from Honduras defender Johnny Palacios on the edge of the box and goalkeeper Luis Lopez's attempt to save ricocheted off Neymar's midriff and into an empty goal.

For a moment, Neymar's bravery looked foolhardy. He was stretched off after being wounded in the challenge but came back and scored a late penalty to complete the rout.

Germany inflicted another famous victory over Brazil in the women's beach volleyball final, however under a full moon on Copacabana beach. Laura Ludwig and Kira Walkenhorst scored an emphatic 21-18, 21-14 win over Brazil's world champions Agatha Bednarczuk and Barbara Seixas in front of a raucous crowd.

From a world of mirth to murk

FROM PAGE 1

She stopped taking part in cultural functions and started wearing burka and hijab, he said.

Talking to The Daily Star over the phone yesterday, Oishee's father Dr Biswas said his daughter always followed religious dictates and donated money to the needy.

But they could not even imagine that she would get involved in militancy, he added.

According to Rab, Oishee has been involved in militancy for around four years. Inspired by one of her friends abroad, she joined a militant network

using "codename Marfat" on Facebook around four years back.

Later, she joined the JMB through a friend in Dhaka.

To maintain a secure communication and avoid detection by law enforcement agencies, she used Telegram and Threema apps, Rab said.

Oishee joined different Facebook groups that support militancy. She shared provocative photographs and video clips of militant activities to inspire people to join militancy, said the elite force.

Seeking anonymity, a Rab official said Aklima Rahman Moni, a pharmacy

student at Manarat International University in the capital, encouraged Oishee to join the JMB.

Aklima, arrested along with Oishee and two others on Tuesday, was given the responsibility by JMB leader Mahmudul Hasan for forming a female JMB unit.

Rab arrested Mahmudul, JMB ameer of the southern region, from Gazipur on July 21.

"Oishee used to attend group discussions in Dhanmondi area where she met Aklima around a year ago. Aklima convinced her that they needed an organisation to propagate their ideology. Oishee

was then recruited by the JMB," he added.

She got more active in militant activities and eventually became an important member of the female JMB unit. Oishee and Aklima used to take crucial decisions for the unit, said Rab officials quoting the four arrestees.

The two other arrestees are Khadija Parveen Meghla and Ishrat Jahan Mou.

The four were allegedly spreading extremist ideologies among young women in the name of teaching Arabic language. Their initial objective was to strengthen the female unit and collect funds for terror activities, added the Rab officials.

take action against the offenders upon investigation.

According to the SC verdict, "No person can pronounce fatwa which violates or affects the rights or reputation or dignity of any person which is covered by the laws of the land. No punishment, including physical violence and/or mental torture in any form, can be imposed or inflicted on anybody in pursuance of fatwa."

Woman caned 101 times

FROM PAGE 1

locals before handing down the punishment. The UP member also fined Saidul Tk 10,000 to be paid to the woman.

Contacted, Aktar said it was an incident of "extramarital affair". "Villagers asked me to be the headman of the arbitration team."

The woman's version of the event was not immediately available.

During the caning, some 400 villagers were present, according to witnesses.

The UP member forced the woman's husband to beat his wife while the member himself caned Saidul.

The woman fell sick following the beating, but she was sent home without treatment, witnesses said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Barrister Sara Hossain said: "It is a clear violation of the Supreme Court's judgment. No one can take the law into his own hands or impose any extrajudicial or cruel, degrading punishment on any other person."

Saying that there is no scope for imposing any punishment in the name of so-called fatwas in the Bangladeshi legal system, she said fatwa was nearly an opinion.

Last night, police went to the woman's house to investigate the incident.

Ziaur Rahman Sabuj, chairman of the Chaitrakol UP, said he learned about the incident and that he would