

DINAJPUR BOARD Number of JSC GPA-5 achievers ups

Girls outdo boys in
merit race

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

The number of Grade Point Average (GPA)-5 achievers increased by 7,946 in this year's Junior School Certificate (JSC) examinations under Dinajpur Education Board.

Female students did comparatively better than their male counterparts, said Tofazzur Rahman, examination controller of the board.

As many as 27,089 students secured GPA-5 this year while it was 19,143 in 2015.

Of them, 12,535 males and 14,554 female students secured GPA-5.

Besides, the percentage of pass has gone up slightly this year. Pass percentage is 92.99 while it was 91.52 percent last year.

Pass percentages of male and female students are 92.54 and 93.41 respectively.

Defeated candidate's house attacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pirojpur

A group of youths attacked the house of defeated Zila Parishad chairman candidate Md Shah Alam at Shohagdal village in Nesarabad upazila of the district yesterday.

Police arrested one Tapu and Tuhin for their alleged involvement in the attack.

Shah Alam, former ruling party lawmaker, got nomination in the zila parishad polls from Awami League.

Shah Alam alleged that a group of youths numbering 20-25 attacked his house around 1:30pm and vandalised two motorbikes parked in front of the house when he was talking with some of his men inside the house.

He further said the attackers had worked for winning chairman candidate Mohiuddin Maharaj.

Fog disrupts ferry services on two Padma routes

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Ferry service on Paturia-Daulatdia and Shimulia-Kawrakandi routes remained suspended for hours due to dense fog yesterday.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) stopped ferry service from 4:50am to avoid any accident, said Salauddin, manager (commerce) of BIWTC Paturia office.

Four ferries with passengers and vehicles were halted in mid-river, while six ferries at Paturia ferry terminal and six ferries at Daulatdia ferry terminal remained anchored at the terminals for five hours.



A large number of vehicles lie stranded in a long tailback in Paturia terminal area on the Padma in Manikganj as ferry services on Paturia-Daulatdia route remained suspended for several hours due to dense fog yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED



PHOTO: STAR

A farmer holds a perforated plastic bottle, used to measure requirement of water for plants, at his paddy field in Sutipara village under Nilphamari Sadar upazila. Inset, developer of the cheap and user-friendly way to save irrigation cost, BADC Assistant Engineer Hossain Mohammad Khaleduzzaman explains the use of the method to farmers at Digholdangi village in Sadar upazila a few days ago.



EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Farmers in the district are growing rice with reduced irrigation cost, thanks to a water-saving system developed by local experts.

The method known as Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) requires only 1,500 litres of water to grow a kg of rice whereas traditional irrigation method uses 2,500 to 3,000 litres for the purpose, said agriculturists and farmers.

In addition, the method can increase rice production by 0.35 to 0.80 tonnes per hectare.

The innovative method using thrown away plastic bottles was introduced in 2009, after two years of experiment by the officials of International Rice Research Institute, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute and Rural Development

Academy. However, the method became popular only this year, thanks to its cost effective and user-friendly modification by Hossain Mohammad Khaleduzzaman, assistant engineer of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) of Nilphamari Sadar upazila.

The original device requires a PVC plastic pipe or a hollow bamboo around 30cm long and 10cm in diameter.

The pipes, two-thirds of which should be perforated, are set in the paddy field with the perforated part under the surface ten days after transplantation of paddy saplings, said agriculturists.

After the water level goes below the surface and reaches the bottom of the pipe, the farmers should

prepare for irrigation.

Unlike in traditional methods, farmers using AWD don't need to keep the whole field wet, and so, it saves both water and consequent cost of fuel for irrigation, agriculturists said, adding that the method can increase rice production by 0.35 to 0.80 tonnes per hectare.

Despite such benefits, the system did not earlier become popular among farmers as PVC pipe is a bit costly and it is difficult to make holes in it.

Against such a backdrop, Hossain Mohammad Khaleduzzaman modified the method at his own initiative.

"In Nilphamari, we experimentally used the method, using thrown away plastic bottles with both ends cut and round holes

made on them with thin hot iron rod. Finding positive results, I distributed around 1000 such tools free of cost to farmers and arranged 'farmers' irrigation school' in 30 villages," said Khaleduzzaman.

BADC and BRRI have approved the local method, said BADC officials in Rangpur.

BADC officials in Nilphamari said six to seven thousand farmers of Nilphamari Sadar upazila have adopted this technology.

Farmer Asimuddin of Sutipara village said AWD helped him reduce irrigation cost by Tk 800-Tk 1000 per bigha.

Prodip Roy of Kundapukur village said he got additional two maunds of rice from a bigha of land in this aman season by using the newly introduced method.

Tk 6cr Indian betel leaves seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Benapole

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized Indian betel leaves worth Tk 6 crore from 20 trucks in Amrakhal area under Benapole of Jessor yesterday.

Lt Col Jahangir Hossain, commanding officer of BGB-26 Battalion, said Tipped off, the border guards raided the area and seized 1.04 lakh kilogram of betel leaves when the trucks were entering the country through Benapole border point after dodging customs duty.

The seized betel leaves were deposited at Jessor Customs House.

Under trial prisoner dies

A CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

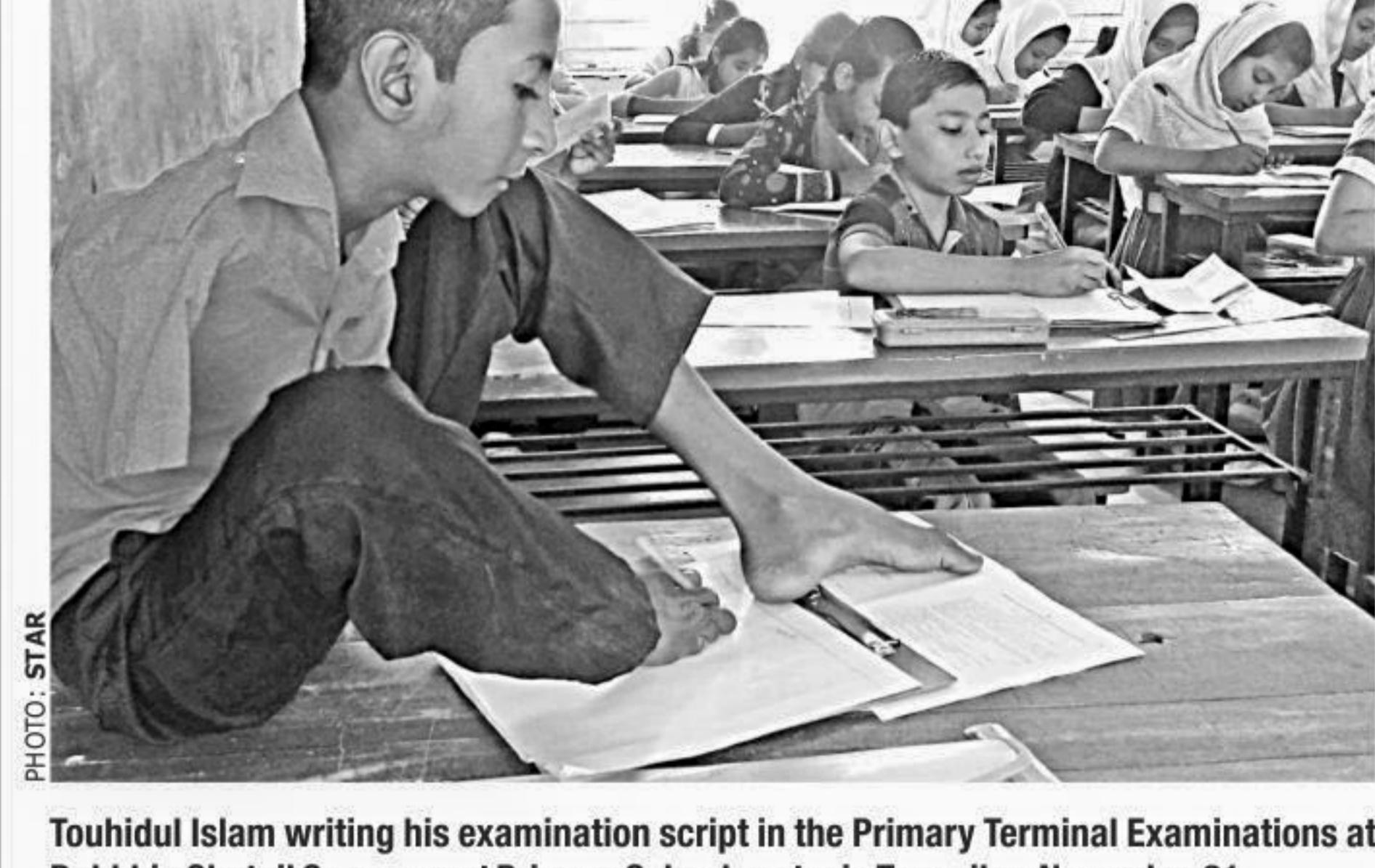
An under trial prisoner of the district jail died at Faridpur Medical College Hospital early yesterday.

The deceased was Abdul Hannan, 50, of Chator village in Boilmari upazila, and president of Chandpur union unit, Juba League.

On November 12 last year, a district court sent him to jail in a murder case, said police.

Hannan fell sick in jail around 11:00pm. He was rushed to the hospital where he died around 12:00am.

He died of brain stroke, said Jail Superintendent Abdul Kalam Azad quoting doctors.



Touhidul Islam writing his examination script in the Primary Terminal Examinations at Dakkhin Ghatail Government Primary School centre in Tangail on November 21.

Disability is not inability Handless Touhid proves it, achieving GPA-4.25 in Primary Terminal Exams

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Disability is no barrier to success, and 12-year-old Touhidul Islam alias Chand Miah has proved it by achieving Grade Point Average (GPA)-4.25 in this year's Primary Terminal Examinations.

Born without hands, Touhid, a student of Protibondhi Bidyalaya in Ghatail of Tangail, took part in the examinations at Dakkhin Ghatail Government Primary School centre, writing answer scripts with his legs.

Bhajan Chandra Nath, headmaster of Protibondhi Bidyalaya, expressed happiness over Touhidul's success.

"As many as four disabled students took part in this year's Primary Terminal Examinations from the institution. Of them, Touhid got A grade and the rest achieved B grade," he said.

Expressing pleasure, Touhid's mother Ratna Khatun and her Dubai expatriate husband Fazlul Haque said they are trying

to make their son educated so that he can live in the society with honour.

Regarding the success, Touhid said he wants to be a proud schoolteacher in future.

When Touhid was only four, his father went to Dubai for earning. He is the second of the two children of Fazlul and Ratna of Garotto village in Tangail's Ghatail upazila.

Later, his mother helped him to write letters with his legs at the age of seven. Touhid was admitted to a school for children with challenges at Chandus in Ghatail, eight kilometres from his home.

Ratna accompanies her son to school daily, walking one kilometre to the nearby Kadomtali bus stand and then taking a seven-kilometre ride by bus or three-wheeler.

Despite physical challenge, Touhid loves playing and often plays with other boys in the field, said Ratna.

Youth held for 'killing' wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police yesterday arrested a young man allegedly for killing his wife at Hossainpur village in Ishwarganj upazila of the district earlier in the day.

The arrestee is Rakib Mondol, 21, son of Mustafa Mondol of the village.

Quoting locals and family members, police said following a love affair Rakib married Shimu Akhter, 19, daughter of Mustafizur Rahman of the village, about one and a half month ago.

Since the marriage Rakib often tortured Shimu and locked in altercation for dowry, said Officer-in-Charge Badrul Alam Khan of Ishwarganj Police Station.

Yesterday Rakib took ailing Shimu to Ishwarganj Upazila Health Complex around 3:00am where she died an hour later.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

The law enforcers also detained Rakib for his alleged involvement in the murder, the OC added.

Deceased's father Mustafizur Rahman lodged a murder case with Iswarganj Police Station accusing Rakib yesterday noon.

JOYPURHAT SCHOOLGIRL RAPE

2 arrestees remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police arrested the alleged rapists of a schoolgirl in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat yesterday morning.

They are Mahbub Hossain, 40, son of late Sabir Uddin, and Ezabul Hossain, 27, son of Feraz Mia of Bandighi village.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided their homes in the early hours and arrested them.

Police produced them before the judge of the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court Mohammad Iqbal Bahar yesterday afternoon with a prayer for seven days' remand, but the court granted three days' remand, said Nuruzzaman Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Kalai Police Station.

A gang of criminals entered the house of the Class IX student in the early hours of last Friday and raped her after locking the doors of her parents' room. They also stabbed the girl.

She was taken to Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital on Sunday night, where the doctors referred her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The girl was taken to DMCH on Monday, where she is now under treatment at the one-stop crisis centre.

"She suffered a stroke and is yet to regain consciousness," said her father quoting doctors.

Train kills schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A schoolgirl was crushed to death under the wheels of a train at Burimari railway station in Kaliganj upazila of the district on Wednesday.

The deceased was Juthi Akhter, 14, daughter of Jahangir Hossain of Kagjiti village, and a Class VIII student of Bhotmari SC High School.

Police said when the girl was crossing the rail line, a Lalmonirhat-bound train hit her, leaving her dead on the spot.

The body was sent to a hospital morgue for autopsy, said Sazzad Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kaliganj Police Station.