



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

STAR WEEKEND

DEFYING THE ODDS

9 overcome physical challenges to do well in SSC this year

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FIZZ CONFIDENT

Mustafizur Rahman sure of his abilities despite underwhelming IPL campaign

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SSC RESULTS

Big fall in pass rate

Nahid says new evaluation system getting 'standard right'

Students of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College rejoice after the SSC results were published yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

WASIM BIN HABIB



HEFAJAT HORROR

Probes stop for silence from top

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Police probe into 58 cases filed over the May 5-6, 2013 Hefajat mayhem remain stalled as the investigators await further instructions from the government on the next course of action.

A total of 83 cases were lodged in connection with the incident. Of them, 53 were filed in the capital against more than 50,000 people after members of Hefajat-e Islam, a Qawmi madrasa-based Islamist organisation, got involved in deadly clashes with law enforcers and the ruling Awami League men, turning Motijheel and Paltan areas into a battlefield.

Hefajat men set fire to hundreds of shops, vehicles and police checkpoints and looted shops, including those having Islamic books.

Some 30 more cases were filed in Narayanganj, Dhaka, Bagerhat, Barisal and Chittagong on May 6

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On this day in 2013, Hefajat-e Islam men engaged in a fierce clash with law enforcers and ruling Awami League men, turning Motijheel and its surrounding areas into a battlefield.

The success rate in this year's SSC examinations has suffered a significant fall thanks to the introduction of a new method of evaluating answer scripts and students' poor performance in English and Mathematics in Comilla board.

The pass percentage of the Secondary School Certificate exams under the eight education boards has come down to 81.21 percent, dipping 7.49 percentage points from last year, show the results published yesterday.

In a year-on-year comparison, this year has seen the deepest drop in the pass rate since the grading system was introduced for the tests in 2001. In the last 16 years, the rate slipped four times from the previous years.

However, the number of students achieving the highest grade -- GPA (Grade Point Average)-5 -- has slightly increased to 97,964 this year from 96,769 last year.

Girls have fared better than boys in terms of success rate.

The combined pass rate of all the 10 education boards, including Dakhil examinations under the madrasa board and SSC vocational examinations under the technical board, has also declined to 80.35 percent from 88.29 percent last year.

Similarly, the total number of GPA-5 achievers in the 10 boards has fallen to 1,04,761 from 1,09,761 last year.

"The results might surprise you as it may seem that a huge number of students have failed and that students are not studying properly. But, things are not like that," Education

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Struggling still Noise not needed

Small traders around Baitul Mukarram want punishment of culprits

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

Hefajat-e Islam did not need to take to the streets in the last four years following its biggest show of strength in the capital on May 5, 2013 as the Islamist group got much of whatever it wanted through negotiations, mostly away from the public eye.

The Qawmi madrasa-based organisation also did not need to turn itself into a political party. At least seven members of its high command already lead different Islamist political parties and they have been playing a key role in running the group since its inception in 2009.

Hefajat leaders reject the speculation that it might emerge as an alternative to Jamaat-e-Islam and as a pro-BNP Islamist party to contest the next general elections.

However, the organisation's activities have spread countrywide in the last eight years and its committees have been formed in some 115 upazilas in the last two months, according to Maulana Zafrullah Khan, its joint secretary.

Ashraf Ali Nizampuri, another central leader of Hefajat, says that after the May 5 Shapla Chattar incident, they started paying attention to strengthening the organisational capacity across the country.

The formation of committees in rest of the upazilas will begin after Ramadan, said Nizampuri, one of the Hefajat leaders who talked to The Daily Star over the last few days about the group's organisational activities, demands and future plans.

This year, major changes in school textbooks done reportedly in line with Hefajat's demands and recognition of Qawmi madrasa's higher

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16th Bangladesh Business Awards

DHL The Daily Star

AWARDING EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS

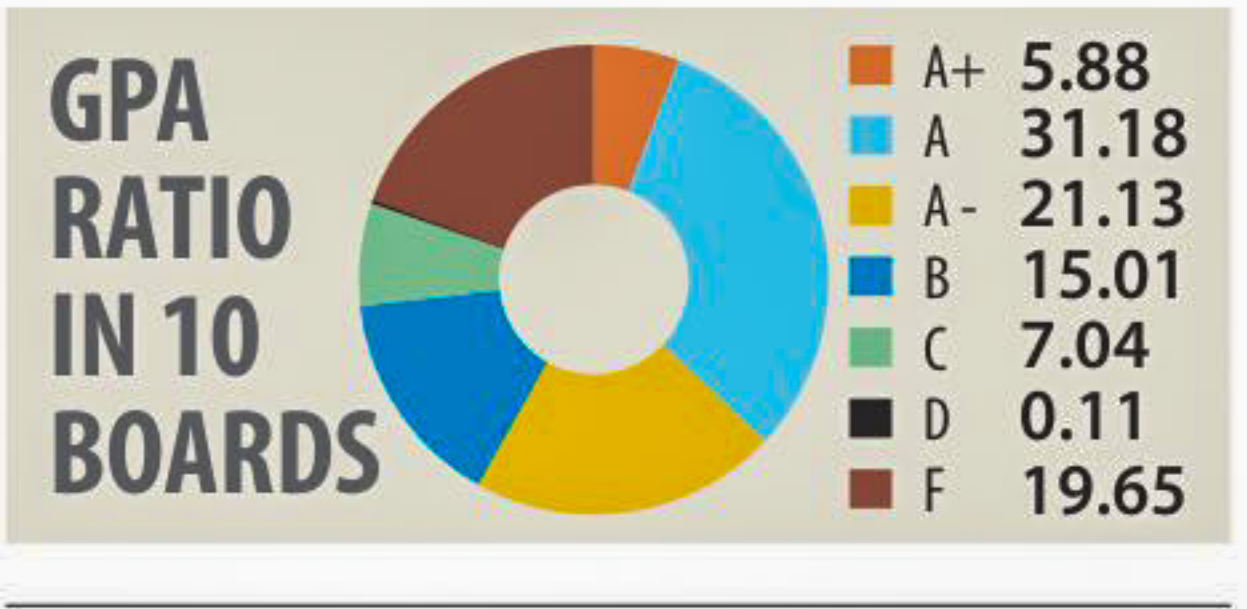
16th edition of Business Awards today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 16th edition of Bangladesh Business Awards will be held in the capital today.

Two companies and three individuals will be felicitated at a ceremony at Radisson hotel

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HAVOC IN HAORS Duck farmers apprehensive

Ducks swimming in Jainkar Kandi Haor in Sylhet Sadar upazila yesterday. Recent flashfloods and subsequent death of fish, cattle and ducks in haor region left many duck farmers worried. Many of them don't let their ducks swim in deep haor waters while many are rearing ducks in canals of nearby villages.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

The death of a few thousand ducks at the beginning of the breeding season has led to fear and apprehension among the farmers in Sylhet division.

The cause of the deaths is unknown.

At least 3,902 ducks have died since April 15 affecting almost 102 farmers in the area, according to livestock department officials.

Rubel Miah, a duck farmer in Sunamganj sadar upazila, has 2500 ducks

he raises on the banks of Dekhar Haor in the district.

His ducks have so far survived the "unknown threat" but Miah lives in fear each day of what might yet happen.

"I am frightened as ducks are dying for unknown reasons after flash floods hit the haor areas. I tried to prevent my ducks from swimming in the deep haor water," Rubel Miah told The Daily Star recently.

Miah breeds two farms of ducks which are his only earning source throughout the year.

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Saturday, 06 May 2017 from 11am to 4pm

Venue: Ball Room 1, Westin, Gulshan, Dhaka

Registration link: <http://bit.ly/studyukopendaydhaka2017>

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British Council IELTS representatives will be present throughout the event and will conduct IELTS Consultation Programmes (ICP) at 4:00 pm.

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