



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



REGD. No. DA 781 | Vol. XXIX No. 111 | BAISHAKH 24, 1426 BS | **Your Right to Know** | RAMADAN 1, 1440 HJRI | 20 PAGES PLUS LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 12.00



"Biman Bangladesh Airlines' management will be overhauled within two months, and the national carrier will no longer remain a losing concern."
CIVIL AVIATION SECRETARY MOHIBUL HAQUE (PAGE 3)



"If the media broadcasts the heinous acts of terrorists, then they may become heroes to a certain quarter of people."
DMP COMMISSIONER ASADUZZAMAN MIA (PAGE 3)



"We call on the Americans, and all those supporting them, to abandon their irresponsible plans..."
RUSSIAN FM SERGEI LAVROV ON OUSTING VENEZUELA'S MADURO (PAGE 8)

SSC EXAMINATIONS

Girls shine as pass rate rises again

82pc come out successful, number of GPA 5 achievers declines

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

After two consecutive years of downtrend, pass rates in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations bounced back this year with 82.80 percent students of general education boards becoming successful.

The pass rate of Dhaka board decreased than that of last year but the other seven boards witnessed significant increases.

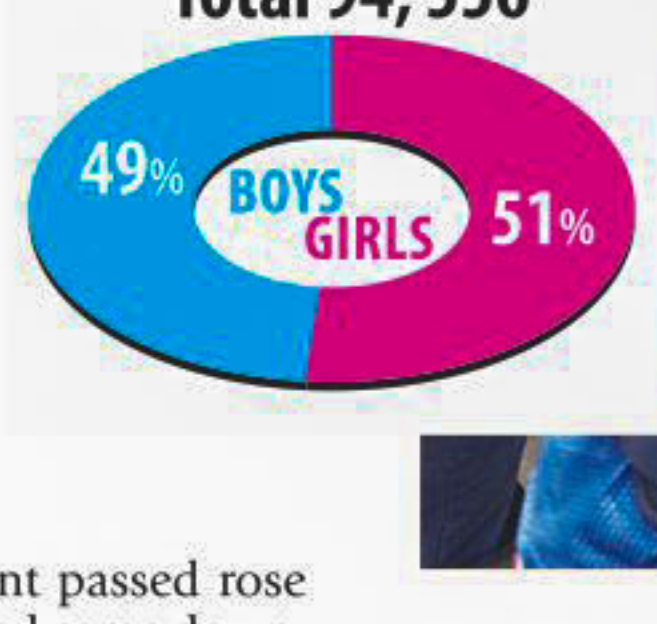
According to the results published yesterday, girls did better than boys for the third year in a row. In terms of getting the much-sought after GPA 5 (Grade Point Average), girls did better than boys for the second consecutive year.

However, the number of GPA 5 achievers in the eight boards were fewer than that of last year (94,556 against 1,02,845), which is also a four-year low.

Other indicators showed improvements as well.

The number of schools with cent percent passed rose while the number of schools with zero passed came down. If Dakhil exams under the madrasa board and SSC

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Gleeful students flash the victory sign to photographers who flocked to Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in the capital after the SSC results were published yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Holy Ramadan begins today

UNB, Dhaka

The Holy Ramadan, the lunar month of self-purification through fasting and abstinence, begins in the country today as the new crescent moon was sighted in Bangladesh sky yesterday.

Lailatul Qadr, the night of divine blessing and benediction, will be observed on the night of June 1.

The National Moon Sighting Committee made the decision at a meeting at the Islamic Foundation office at Baitul Mukarram, with State Minister for Religious Affairs Sheikh Md Abdullah in the chair.

Muslims fast from dawn to dusk, a time of restraint and austerity, during the lunar month.

All government, semi-government, autonomous and semi-autonomous organisations will follow new office timings during the holy month as announced by the government.

All these offices will remain open from 9:00am to 3:30pm with a break from 1:15pm to 1:30pm for Zohr prayers during the month.

BJP cuts ties with BNP-led alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jatiya Party Chairman Andaleev Rahman Partha yesterday announced that his party left the BNP-led alliance amid disputes over the BNP's decision to join parliament.

"My party is no longer a part of the alliance," Partha told The Daily Star last night.

Partha's BJP joined the BNP-led alliance in 1999 to strengthen the opposition against the then Awami League government. In 2001 election, the BNP-led alliance won a landslide victory, but lost in 2008. The BNP-led four-party alliance expanded to a 20-party alliance in 2012.

People were surprised when two Gonoforum MPs-elect and four BNP MPs-elect took oath, he said in a statement.

"None of the parties [of the alliance], except the BNP, has any sort of involvement with the decision.... Through this oath-taking, the BNP and Oikyafront lost the moral right to reject the farcical December 30 election," it added.

Since the formation of Jatiya Oikyafront, political activities of the BNP-led alliance became stagnant, he alleged.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Jute mill workers take to streets for arrears

Stage protest, block roads, vandalise vehicles in capital; work stoppage in Khulna, Chattogram

STAR REPORT

The demonstration for arrears by state-owned jute mill workers turned violent once again as agitators vandalised at least 50 vehicles while blocking roads in the capital's Demra yesterday, police said.

The workers, who said their arrears of up to three months were due, however, denied their involvement in any vandalism.

They said they had to take to the streets as their arrears were not paid even 12 days after the end of a deadline promised by the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC).

A joint meeting on April 15 among jute mill leaders, CBA (Collective Bargaining Agent), non-CBA leaders, BJMC chairman, and officials of the labour ministry had decided to clear all arrears of workers within April 25.

Earlier on the last day of a three-day countrywide work stoppage of different state-owned jute mills workers on April 4, police and protesters clashed in Khulna, leaving 16 people injured.



Yesterday, workers of 12 jute mills abstained from work in Dhaka, Chattogram and Khulna, demanding arrears. The move came after workers of another state-owned jute mills -- Platinum Jute Mills -- began an indefinite work stoppage in Khulna on Sunday evening over the same demand.

Around 1,200 workers of Latif Bawany Jute Mills and Karim Jute Mills took to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Five killed in 'gunfights' with law enforcers

2 of them 'drug dealers'

STAR REPORT

Five people, including two suspected Rohingya drug traders, were killed in separate "gunfights" with law enforcers in Cox's Bazar and the Sundarbans yesterday.

In Cox's Bazar, a "gunfight" between the alleged drug traders and police left two Rohingya men dead in Leda camp area of Teknaf around 2:00am.

The dead are Muhammad Alam, 35, of Nayapara refugee camp, and Muhammad Rafiq, 20, of Jadimura refugee camp, in the upazila.

Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, said Alam and Rafiq were detained by police at their respective camps on Sunday evening.

Based on their information, police, along with Alam and Rafiq, conducted a drive to recover yaba and firearms from the area. Sensing their presence, cohorts of the criminals began firing, forcing police to retaliate.

After the alleged gunfight, the criminals fled the scene. Police found Rafiq and Alam with bullet wounds and took them to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex where doctors

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Madrasa girl murdered in Bagerhat

Police suspect she was raped; one held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Police and locals recovered the body of a seven-year-old madrasa student from a pond in Bagerhat Sadar upazila on Sunday night.

The dead, Faria, was a daughter of Omar Ali Sheikh from Patilakhali village and a student of class one at Baru Bibi Cadet Madrasa in the neighbouring Kondla village.

Police arrested one Minhajul Abedin Shoaib, 19, in connection with the incident.

Shoaib is a resident of Namazpur village of Pirojpur district. He is a relative of Omar's family and used to live in their house, said Mahfuz Afzal,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Additional IGP killed in Congo road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An additional inspector general of Bangladesh police was killed in a road crash in Congo on Sunday during her visit to a UN peacekeeping mission there.

Rowshan Ara Begum, 57, died on the spot in a collision between a civilian lorry and the vehicle carrying her and others on the way to a Medal Parade of the Bangladesh Female Police Unit (BANFPU) in Kinshasa, the capital, around 6:30am local time, said Md Sohel Rana, assistant inspector general at police headquarters.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A part of state-run Platinum jute mills in Khulna is nearly empty on Sunday as many workers, frustrated by non-payment of overdue salaries, remain absent. The workers started a work stoppage yesterday to press home a set of demands, including payment of arrears.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

INDIA GENERAL ELECTIONS

Violence mars phase-5 voting

Militants throw grenades at Kashmir booth; BJP alleges booth capturing in Amethi

AGENCIES

Two explosions at polling stations in Pulwama in Kashmir and clashes between TMC and BJP in West Bengal were reported yesterday during the fifth phase of Lok Sabha polls across seven states in which over 62 percent turnout was recorded.

According to the Election Commission, over 57.33 percent of 2.47 crore eligible people cast their vote in 14 seats in Uttar Pradesh, where political heavyweights like Congress' Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Smriti Irani were in the fray, reported Deccan Herald online.

Last week 15 paramilitaries and their driver were killed in an attack by Maoist rebels in Maharashtra state.

India's mammoth electorate of 900 million vote on seven days between April 11 and May 19 with results due on May 23.

At the 2014 election, Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 39 of the 51 constituencies up for grabs yesterday, as he swept to power and the opposition Congress party suffered its worst ever result.

These include 14 seats in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state with 220 million inhabitants, part of the backbone of Modi's support.

But late last year Congress won state elections in three other states in the region, boosting its hopes of unseating

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6