



**"We're now producing 22,000MW and we have a plan to generate more electricity...we'll be able to introduce electric trains in the near future."**  
PM HASINA, WHILE INAUGURATING A TRAIN SERVICE BETWEEN DHAKA AND BENAPOLE (PAGE 2)

**"I request the guardians not to push their children towards unhealthy competition ..."**  
EDUCATION MINISTER DIPU MONI, AS SHE ANNOUNCES HSC RESULTS YESTERDAY

**"I will not answer a Caucasian, asking questions, white man there. You must be stupid."**  
PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE ON HIS TRIAL BY INT'L COURT FOR MASS KILLINGS IN HIS WAR ON DRUGS (PAGE 13)

## CHINA-FUNDED PROJECTS Joint body to probe slow pace

### Only 5pc fund for the \$20b projects released since 2016

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

A joint working group has been formed to probe the slow progress of the 27 projects involving around \$20 billion that China had agreed to provide during President Xi Jinping's Dhaka visit in October 2016.

China has so far disbursed only \$981.36 million -- less than 5 percent of the amount promised -- since the preliminary agreements were signed between the two countries more than two and a half years ago.

During Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to China earlier this month, the two sides signed an agreement to form a working committee to identify the reasons for the delay and eliminate those.

The development can be viewed as one of the important takeaways from the tour. Preliminary agreements for large sums of loans are invariably signed on foreign tours or when heads of state or government visit Bangladesh but most of the projects are not implemented in due time.

A similar working group was formed with India when  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



This aerial photo taken on Tuesday shows an entire village in Bogura's Sariakandi upazila inundated. Inset, an elderly couple takes refuge on a rickety structure as almost all their belongings are under water. They cook, eat, and sleep there. Story on page 16.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## HALDA POLLUTION Ctg power plant fined

### Asked to suspend operations until ETP is set up

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

A peaking power plant in Hathazari has been ordered to suspend operation after officials found that it had been polluting the Halda river.

The Hathazari 100MW Peaking Power Plant can go back in operation when it has a functional effluent treatment plant (ETP), according to the order issued yesterday by the Chattogram Department of Environment.

The DoE also slapped the plant with a Tk20 lakh fine for releasing oil and grease in a canal that flows down to the Halda, a unique ecosystem where carp can breed naturally.

Officials found 3,150 times higher than acceptable levels of oil and grease in water samples collected from the area.

The DoE served the power plant with a notice  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Pass rate up on good show in English

### HSC results show number of GPA-5 achievers also higher this year



Students of Vigarunnisa Noon School & College celebrate on their Siddheswari campus yesterday after HSC results were out. Many of them achieved GPA 5.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

WASIM BIN HABIB

After a big slide in last year's HSC results, college students have performed better this year.

They have done considerably well in English, which pushed the success rates up and increased the number of GPA-5 achievers.

This year, the pass rate in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) exams under the eight general education boards rose to 71.85 percent, up by 7.3 percentage points from that of last year.

The number of GPA (Grade Point Average)-5 achievers stood at 41,807 compared to last year's 25,562, show the results, published yesterday.

With madrasa and technical boards included, the combined pass rate of HSC and equivalent exams under the 10 education boards also jumped to 73.93 percent from last year's 66.64 percent.

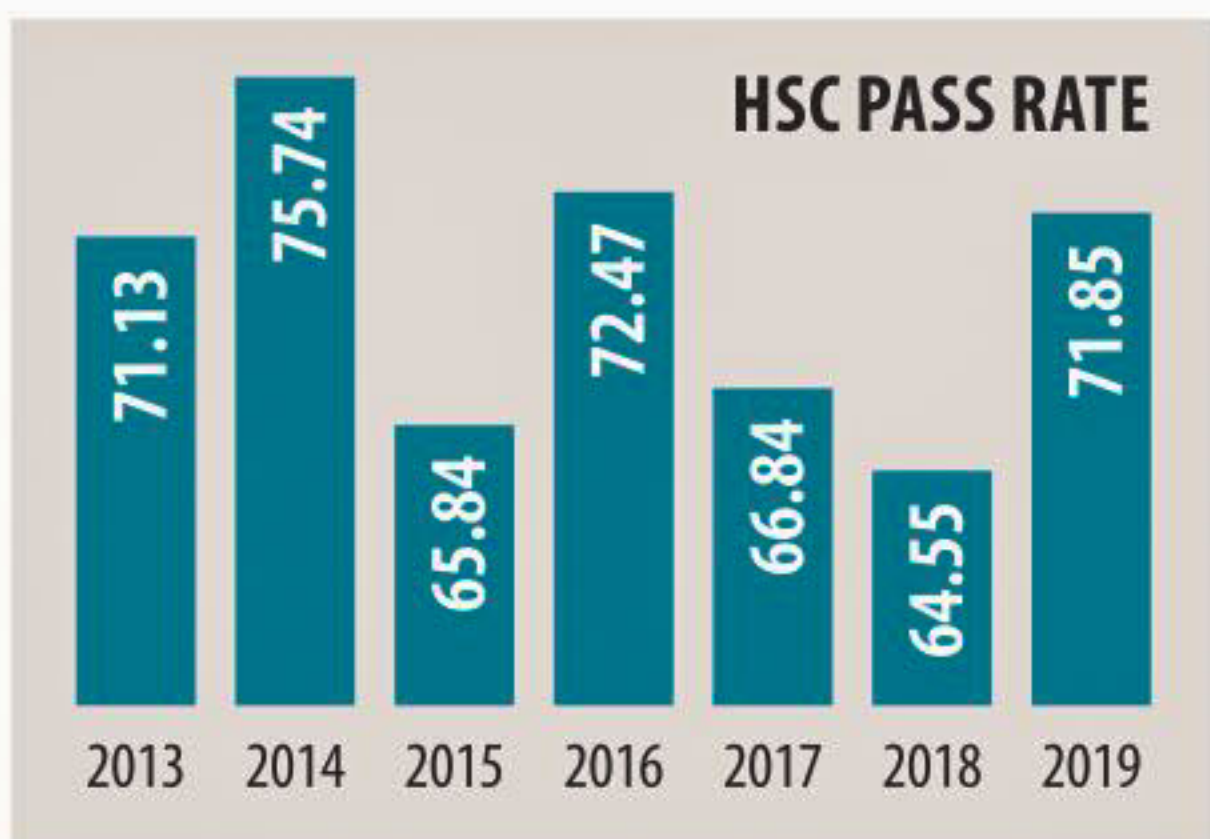
Similarly, the number of GPA-5 achievers in the 10 boards increased to 47,286 from last year's 29,262.

Only 20 students had scored GPA-5 when the grading system was introduced in 2003.

Apart from better results in English, students have fared well in Physics as well, contributing to this year's success, said officials of the education boards.

Last year, examinees had performed badly in English, which had a negative impact on the overall results. But this year, the question paper of the subject was comparatively easier than last year's, they said.

"English has always been considered to be a major factor in the result chart. The students of every board took better preparation this time and did well in this subject,"



said Prof M Ziaul Haque, chairman of Dhaka Education Board.

"Since the students mostly failed in this subject last time, we have put more emphasis on English and asked the colleges to hold frequent tests. These efforts bore fruits," he told The Daily Star.

Besides, the question paper was not hard like last year, he said.

The average pass rate in English rose by 18.75 percentage points in the eight boards. Students of all boards have done well in this subject.

Take Rajshahi board for example. The success rate in this subject rose to 96.86 percent from last year's 72.67 percent.

Jashore and Dinajpur boards saw a phenomenal rise  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## NUSRAT'S VIDEO Court frames charges against Sonagazi OC

### Bail plea rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A tribunal in Dhaka yesterday framed charges against suspended Sonagazi OC Moazzem Hossain over filming Nusrat Jahan Rafi's statement and circulating the footage on social media without her consent.

The court rejected his bail petition and fixed July 31 for starting the trial.

The former officer-in-charge of Sonagazi Police Station pleaded not guilty after Judge Ash Sams Joglul Hossain of Dhaka Cyber Tribunal read out the charges to him.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



## Nothing short of an epidemic

### HC observes on dengue, blasts DCCs for using ineffective insecticide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Slamming the two city corporations in Dhaka for their failure to combat the mosquito menace, the High Court yesterday said the dengue situation in the capital is nothing short of an epidemic.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader said 21 to 22 people, including children, have reportedly died and hundreds fallen victim to dengue fever.

Dhaka North City Corporation and Dhaka South City Corporation could not take necessary steps even after the HC passed orders to that end.

The HC bench made the remarks while hearing a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, a rights organisation.

Without mentioning DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon's name, the bench criticised him for his remark on the issue.

On July 9, Khokon said the insecticide they were using to kill the mosquitoes was "slightly less effective than promised". This was the reason why dengue outbreak was "relatively higher" this time, he added.

About the comment, the court asked, "How can a mayor make such an observation when so many people died and  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

## BUSINESS

### Skills gap worries recruiters

There is a gap between what students learn at universities and what companies look for in jobseekers, top private sector officials said yesterday.

As a result, the companies have to put in additional effort, including arranging skill-training programmes or hiring workers from abroad, to meet their requirements.

The discussants came up with the observations at a roundtable at The Daily Star Centre.

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