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Your Right to Know

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## PRIMARY, SECONDARY EDUCATION SYSTEM

# Major reform on the cards

*No public exams for class-V, class-VIII students;  
no groups at secondary level*

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

In a sweeping change to primary and secondary schooling, the government may scrap the PECE and the JSC exams and dissolve the science, humanities and business disciplines.

A new outline of a curriculum meant to be put into effect from January 2022 proposes many other changes.

It suggests holding the Secondary School Certificate and its equivalent exams in just five subjects, based on the syllabus of grade-X only. The Higher Secondary Certificate exams will be held in two phases: in grade-XI and XII.

The National Curriculum and Textbook Board's draft does not make any proposals for holding Primary Education Completion Examinations (PECE) in grade-V and Junior School Certificate Examinations in grade-VIII.

### KEY PROPOSALS

- SSC exams on five subjects
- HSC exams in two phases
- No science, business and humanities groups in secondary schools
- Opportunity for technical education after class VIII

"We did not propose any public exams before grade-X. But if the government wants to hold any public exams before that, it can do so," NCTB Member (curriculum) Prof Moshuazzaman told The Daily Star.

NCTB officials said instead of holding the PECE and JSC exams, which put students under a lot of stress, emphasis

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President, PM greet Joe Biden, Kamala Harris

*Hasina hopes ties with US to reach new heights*

AGENCIES

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have greeted US president-elect Joe Biden and vice-president-elect Kamala Harris.

In his message to Joe Biden, President Hamid hoped that the ties between the two countries would reach a new height and expand in various fields, including trade and investment, under the leadership of the newly elected President of the United States.

Hamid wished the newly-elected US President and Vice President a great success, good health and long life.

Meanwhile, in separate messages to

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US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris greet supporters at a post-election rally, after news media announced that Biden has won the 2020 US presidential election, in Wilmington, Delaware, US, on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## 'Time to heal'

*President-elect Biden urges unity in America after a divisive Trump rule*

AGENCIES

President-elect Joe Biden declared it was "time to heal" a deeply divided America in his first speech after winning in a bitter election, even as President Donald Trump refused to concede and pressed ahead with legal fights against the outcome.

Biden's victory on Saturday in Pennsylvania put him over the threshold of 270 Electoral College votes he needed to clinch the presidency, ending four days of nail-biting suspense and sending his supporters into the streets of major cities in celebration. US networks also projected him to win Nevada.

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## Take care of your family

HC in landmark verdict puts convict on conditional probation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a landmark verdict, the High Court yesterday upheld five years' jail sentence of a convict in a narcotics-related case, but allowed him to stay with his family on three conditions.

The court granted probation facilities to convict Moti Matbor so that he can stay with his family without going to jail on the conditions.

According to the conditions, Moti must

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## PHYSIOTHERAPY IN BANGLADESH

# Ailing all along

*Long-run negligence, professional conflict keep the much-needed profession from flourishing*

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

While demand for physiotherapy has been growing rapidly as an allied health profession across the world, it is still struggling in Bangladesh due mainly to the absence of a functional unique body.

With limited employment opportunities at public healthcare institutions for decades and without uniform academic activities and proper recognition, professionals in this sector are facing neglect and discrimination, say experts.

Given the lack of a well-organised physiotherapy service in the country, affluent patients are going abroad for treatment while many others are frequently becoming victims of quacks. And there is no accountability as well, they add.

The government enacted a law to form a separate

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## DEATH FOR RAPE Bill placed in parliament to amend law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Women and Children Repression Prevention (amendment) Bill, 2020 was placed in Parliament last night with an aim to ensure the death penalty as the highest punishment for rape.

State Minister Fazilatun Nessa Indira, of the women and children affairs ministry, placed the bill, which was sent earlier to the respective Parliamentary Standing Committee for scrutiny.

The committee was

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Students of Wiles Little Flower School and College and their guardians congregate at the institution's premises to submit their assignments yesterday morning. Educational institutions have been closed since March due to the pandemic and around 3,000 students took the opportunity to catch up with their classmates. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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