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Your Right to Know

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"With injection of more money, we will be able to deal with poverty head on."
PLANNING MINISTER MA MANNAN ON POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMMES.



"Vaccine nationalism might serve short-term political goals. But it's ultimately short-sighted and self-defeating."
WHO CHIEF TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS



"If there is any allegation against him [MP Papul], the BNP has to bear the responsibility."
AL LEADER MAHBUBUL ALAM HANIF IN KUSHTIA



HSC, EQUIVALENT

Stellar results in exams never held

Pandemic brings on GPA-5 glut; pass rate 100pc; grades based on JSC, SSC

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

A record-setting number of students got GPA 5 in last year's HSC, thanks to the lack of actual exams and the results being reflections of each student's grades in public exams held before the pandemic.

The 2020 HSC grades announced yesterday were based on a student's score in JSC and SSC exams.

For the first time in history, everyone who registered for the HSC would be given a certificate.

Over 1,53,610 students have been awarded GPA 5 under nine general education boards. The number was 41,807 in 2019.

The grades announced yesterday are 75 percent reflection of the SSC and 25 percent reflection of the JSC-JDC scores of a student, Education Minister Dipu Moni told a press conference at International Mother Language Institute in the capital.

At least 17,043 students, who did not get GPA 5 in Junior School Certificate and Secondary School Certificate exams, were awarded GPA-5. At least 396 did not get GPA 5 even though they had the coveted

RISE IN GPA-5 ACHIEVERS		
BOARD	GPA 5 2020	GPA 5 2019
Dhaka	57,926	18,187
Rajshahi	26,568	6,729
Cumilla	9364	2,375
Jashore	12,892	5,312
Chattogram	12,143	2,860
Barishal	5,568	1,201
Sylhet	4,242	1,094
Dinajpur	14,871	4,049
Mymensingh	10,040	NA
TOTAL	1,53,614	41,807

score in JSC and SSC.

Dhaka Education Board Chairman Nahel Ahmed and Senior System Analyst Monjurul Kabir said students who achieved GPA 5 in HSC and JSC level because of an additional subject had not been given GPA 5 this time. The additional subjects were not counted, they added.

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Bamboos stolen from a reserved forest in Alikadam, Bandarban, are being rafted to nearby towns using the Matamuhuri river in broad daylight. Thanks to nonchalant authorities, people involved in the illicit trade do not think twice about harming reserved forests. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Refrain from unnecessary criticism

PM on HSC results



UNB, Dhaka

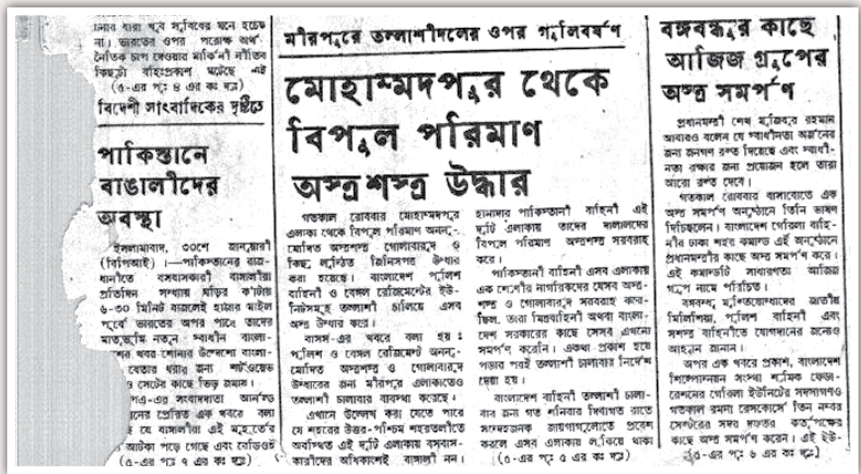
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked people to refrain from unnecessary criticism of the results of the HSC and its equivalents.

She said futile discussions would only mount pressure on the students who were already under huge mental pressure due to the closure of educational institutions for a long time.

"The negative comments regarding the results will put psychological pressure on the students. I request those making such comments to refrain from doing it," she said while announcing the results of last year's HSC and its equivalents.

The results were officially announced at the International Mother

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The Dainik Bangla on January 31, 1972 mentioned the shooting in Mirpur.

THE LAST BATTLEFIELD

The fierce fight to free Mirpur yet to be officially recognised as part of Liberation War

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Across the country, red-green flags were fluttering over buildings -- euphoria was in the air following the end of a nine-month-long bloody war.

But Dhaka's Mirpur was yet not taken by Bangladesh forces -- almost six weeks after the Pakistan military had unconditionally surrendered to the joint command of Bangladesh and Indian forces on December 16, 1971.

The area remained under the control of pro-Pakistan Biharis, the Urdu-speaking Muslim community who migrated from Bihar and West Bengal during and after the Partition.



Zahir Raihan Second Lt Selim

Mirpur was finally freed on January 31, 1972 but at a heavy cost -- over a hundred martyred and dozens of others injured in a fierce battle on the previous day.

'DYING AT THE HANDS OF THIEVES'

It was around 10:45am on January 30,

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13,000 sign up for Covid-19 vaccine shots

Many say they can't register

MOUJIB AHMED SUJAN

Over 13,000 people have registered online for inoculation against Covid-19 as of yesterday noon, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

But many in priority groups, such as frontline workers and those aged over 55, have complained about facing difficulties in online registration.

Since the android app for registration has yet to be available on Google Play Store, people got registered on www.surokkha.gov.bd, which was opened on January 27, officials said, adding that the app will be available in a few days.

The ICT division, which developed the registration process, might later inform how many people have registered from which group, they said.

Officials also said they were working on the technical issues that caused the difficulties for people who are supposed to get the vaccine in the first phase.

Some people reported that they could not find the name of vaccination centres during registration, said an official of the Management Information System (MIS) of the health directorate.

On the "Surokkha" website, the list of vaccination centers appears automatically based on the address used in the National ID card.

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MONGLA-KHULNA RAIL LINK

A project that only gets costlier

Officials seek more time, funds; minister asks them to finish work by this year

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government had approved the Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line Project in December 2010 and the construction of the 64.75km rail line was supposed to be completed within three years.

But the project's physical work began around six years after the approval, due to complications over various issues, including land acquisition and changes in the design. And till December last year, the project witnessed 75 percent progress.

In the meantime, the cost of the project -- being implemented with India's first line of credit -- rose to Tk 3,801 crore, which is 120 percent higher than the original estimates.

Things do not end here.

The project authorities have recently placed a revision proposal to the Bangladesh Railway, seeking another Tk 997.35 crore and one year extension of the project's current deadline, which is June this year. The deadline had already been extended several times.

In this given situation, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan oversaw the project work yesterday and directed the officials concerned to complete the project by next December by any means.

"Whatever the problems are, those should be solved and the work has to be completed within this time [December 2021]. For doing this, you [project authorities] have to engage all necessary manpower," Sujan said while talking to reporters, after visiting the under-construction Rupsha rail bridge in Khulna.

The route is very important. Once the route is opened, different types of goods, brought through the Mongla port, can be transported inside the country using it, he said.

Besides, neighboring countries -- India, Nepal, Bhutan -- would also be able to use the sea port, boosting trade between Bangladesh and these countries, he added.

In an attempt to reduce dependency on the Chattogram port and increase the capacity of the Mongla port, the government has taken several steps.

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ROHINGYA RELOCATION

Life getting better in Bhasan Char

1,466 more reach island

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA from Bhasan Char

Khaleda Begum had little to do other than helping her mother with household chores. The 17-year-old would spend most of her time indoors, back at the Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar.

Being from a conservative family, she had not expected her life to change much but surprisingly it did, and it did for the better.

Khaleda has been learning to tailor dresses and operate sewing machines since her arrival at Bhasan Char. She is

PHOTO: MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

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The light on little ones

Rohingya children receive non-formal education at a building on Bhasan Char island. Some of the refugees, who moved there, said the living quarters and other facilities are far better than the crammed shanties in Cox's Bazar camps. The photo was taken yesterday.

Uttara Finance The Highest Tax Payer

Uttara Finance has been recognized as one of the highest Income Tax payers from the National Board of Revenue (NBR) for the year 2019 - 20. This is the 5th time the company has achieved this honor. This glorious achievement indicates that Uttara Finance has attained:

- Strong Good Governance
- Superior earning record
- Solid financial foundation
- Exceptionally strong capacity to meet its financial commitments

Being one of the largest NBFIs in the country with more than 25 years of experience, Uttara Finance assures the highest financial security to its clients.

Our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Bangladesh Bank, Securities and Exchange Commission and other regulators, our valued clients, hon'ble Shareholders and all other Stakeholders for their continued support and trust on us through which this remarkable achievement has been made possible.

May Allah (SWT) help us to continue such progress in the coming days.



UTTARA FINANCE
AND INVESTMENTS LIMITED