



LEARNING LOSS FOR COVID Class-V students suffered most for school closure

Shows study by NCTB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

School closure due to Covid-19 has caused a significant learning loss to primary students and class-V students were the worst affected, says a study.

According to Learning Loss Study 2022, revealed at a city hotel yesterday, class-II students suffered the least learning loss.

The study, done by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board, said 16.43 percent class-V students suffered learning loss in Bangladesh and Global Studies and 12.49 percent in English.

Average marks were compared between Learning Loss Study 2022 and Curriculum Effectiveness Study 2019, the study mentioned.

Before the school closure due to the pandemic, the average rate of learning in English for the class-V students was about 49 percent and it stood at 36 percent after the closure.

The average learning rate of students of the same class was 68.03 percent in Bangladesh and Global Studies in 2019 and it dropped to 51.60 percent in 2022.

Speaking at the event, Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of Campaign for Popular Education, said all came to know about the great loss for students from a government study and it is a good move. "But we need measures to recover the losses."

The NCTB, with support from the European Union, carried out the study to identify the learning loss of primary school students and to prepare an action plan to recover the loss.

For the study, 18,838 students from 240 primary schools took part in a test on Bangla, mathematics, English, science and Bangladesh and Global Studies.

The study said about 48 percent of class-V students have a severe and moderate learning gap in Bangla, 61 percent in English and 59 percent in mathematics, 54 percent in science and 60 percent in Bangladesh and Global Studies.

It added that around 60 percent of class-IV students experienced the same learning gap in Bangla, 62 percent in English, 59 percent in mathematics, 56 percent in science and 64.14 percent in Bangladesh and Global Studies.

About 64 percent of class-III students went through severe and moderate gaps in Bangla, 63 percent in English and mathematics and 58 percent in science and Bangladesh and Global Studies, according to the study.

The study recommended having a need-based "Remedial Education Package". Teacher training on the teaching-learning techniques for implementing the remedial learning packages is essential.

School Based Assessment should be re-designed as part of remedial education to help students with severe learning gaps.

Zakir Hossain, state minister for primary and mass education, however, disagreed with the study findings. "We have over 65,000 government primary schools and the sample size of the study covered only 240 schools. The study said students cannot read Bangla properly. I don't agree with this."

At the programme, Charles Whiteley, EU ambassador to Bangladesh, said the report admitted and recognised the learning gap. "I believe it is already halfway into solving it."

Education Minister Dipu Moni said Covid-19 created a learning loss, but students got an opportunity to learn new things like online classes. She also said that they will take measures to recover the learning loss.

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Locals of Bosila and Chandrima Housing in Mohammadpur regularly build such bamboo bridges to cross the Ramchandrapur Canal, located between the two areas. While it is risky for them to cross it, they claimed the authorities concerned have never taken the initiative to build a concrete bridge there.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SUPREME COURT BAR ASSOCIATION

Pro-BNP, AL lawyers get into brawl

Around two dozen hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP and Awami League-leaning lawyers yesterday scuffled with each other during holding separate programmes on the Supreme Court Bar Association office premises over its recent annual polls.

The incident left around two dozen lawyers injured.

The SCBA secretary's office room was also ransacked and its door and windows were vandalised in the afternoon.

Leaders of the two organisations blamed each other for the incident.

Abdun Nur Dulal, SCBA secretary and Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad leader, told reporters at his office that pro-BNP lawyers, led by AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon, Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, Kayser Kamal, Gazi Kamrul Islam Sajal, Abdul Zabbar Bhuiyan and Morshed Al Mamun, attacked the pro-AL lawyers and vandalised and ransacked his office room in a planned manner.

"At least 30 lawyers, including some female ones of Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad, were

injured in the attack," he said.

Dulal said the pro-AL lawyers were holding a "peace meeting" in front of the office rooms of the SCBA president and secretary like other days protesting the anarchy by pro-BNP lawyers.

Appropriate legal action must be taken against them, he added.

However, Kayser Kamal, secretary general of Bangladesh

The SCBA secretary's office room was also ransacked and its door and windows were vandalised in the afternoon.

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, the platform of pro-BNP lawyers, alleged that the pro-AL lawyers scuffled among themselves and vandalised the office room of the SCBA secretary to cover up their occupation of offices of the SCBA president and secretary through holding a farcical election on March 15-16.

Some pro-BNP lawyers were tortured and injured by the pro-AL lawyers during the incident, he told The Daily Star.

Kayser urged the chief justice to take necessary steps to address the crisis in the SCBA.

Pro-BNP lawyers are demonstrating on the SCBA office premises, demanding a date be fixed for holding fresh polls to the SCBA under an acceptable election conducting subcommittee.

In a counter move, AL-backed lawyers are staging "peace meeting" in front of the SCBA president's office room in protest of snatching ballots and vandalising furniture by "pro-BNP lawyers" on March 15 on the SCBA office premises during the polls.

They also formed a human chain on the premises yesterday and brought out a procession, protesting "the anarchy created by pro-BNP lawyers and the outsiders".

In the election, pro-AL lawyers won all 14 SCBA posts, including president and secretary.

SIX AMBASSADORS Withdrawal of addl security won't hurt ties

Says foreign secy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen said he did not believe the withdrawal of additional police escort for envoys of the US, UK and several other countries would affect the bilateral ties between Bangladesh and those countries.

Talking to reporters after an event at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday, Masud Bin Momen said the additional escort was mainly used for clearing the way for the envoys' vehicles, reports UNB.

About the withdrawal, State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel in Washington DC said as per the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the host country must uphold its obligations to ensure the protection of all diplomatic mission premises and personnel, and take all appropriate steps to prevent any attack on those.

"The safety and security of our diplomatic personnel and facilities are of the utmost importance."

In a statement, the UK high commission in Dhaka yesterday also said the security of its staffers and diplomatic facilities is of the highest importance.

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SOLAR SUPERSTORMS

AI gives advance warning before they strike Earth

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa has built an artificial intelligence model to predict where on Earth an impending solar storm would strike, a new system that scientists said can provide "30 minutes of advance warning".

The AI model analyses Nasa satellite data to raise the alarm on dangerous space weather, said researchers from the American space agency's Goddard Space Center.

The warning may provide just enough time for countries to prevent severe impacts of these storms on power grids and other critical infrastructure, according to the new study published recently in the journal Space Weather.

Solar storms are caused when the Sun emits a burst of electrically charged plasma in what is called a coronal mass ejection.

These charged particles create so-called geomagnetic storms that may cause blackouts and technological malfunctions of instruments on Earth as they interfere with the protective magnetic field around the planet.

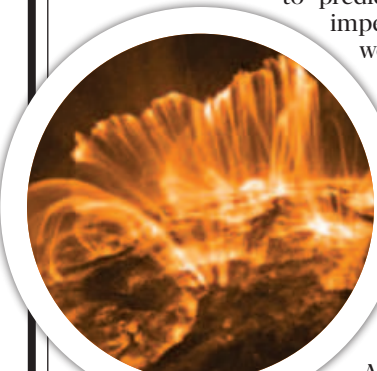


PHOTO: NASA

CYCLONE MOCHA

Death toll rises to 81 in Myanmar

Over a hundred people missing

AFP, Bu Ma

The death toll in cyclone-hit Myanmar rose to at least 81 yesterday, according to local leaders, officials and state media, as villagers tried to piece together ruined homes and waited for aid and support.

Mocha made landfall on Sunday with winds of up to 195 kilometres per hour, downing power pylons and smashing wooden fishing boats to splinters.

At least 46 people died in the Rakhine state villages of Bu Ma and nearby Khaung Doka Kar, inhabited by the persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority, local leaders told AFP reporters at the scene.

Thirteen people were killed when a monastery collapsed in a village in Rathedaung township north of Rakhine's capital Sittwe, and a woman died when a building collapsed in a neighbouring village, according to Myanmar state broadcaster MRTV.

"There will be more deaths, as more than a hundred people are missing," said Karlo, the head of Bu Ma village near Sittwe.

Nearby, Aa Bul Hu Son, 66, said prayers at the grave of his daughter, whose body was recovered yesterday morning.

"I wasn't in good health before the cyclone, so we were delayed in moving to another place," he told AFP. "While we were thinking about moving, the waves came immediately and took us."

"I just found her body in the lake in the village and buried her right away. I can't find any words to express my loss."

Other residents walked the seashore searching for family members swept away by a storm surge that accompanied the cyclone, AFP correspondents said.

Nine people died in Dapaing camp for displaced Rohingya near Sittwe, its leader told AFP, adding the camp was cut off and lacked supplies.

"People cannot come to our camp because bridges are broken... we need help," he said.

One person was killed in Ohn Taw Chay village and six in Ohn Taw Gyi, local leaders and officials told AFP. State media had reported five deaths on Monday, without offering details.

Photos released by the state media showed Rakhine-bound aid being loaded onto a ship in the commercial hub Yangon. Rohingya villagers told AFP they were yet to receive any assistance.



A passenger shed, previously being misused as a plant nursery, at a bus stop near the Golf Club Gate in the capital, is now being cleaned up and prepared for bus passengers' use. DNCC workers said the initiative was taken by the authorities concerned three days ago, after The Daily Star ran a photo (inset) of the shed's previous state on May 9. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN