

MADRASA BOARD

Pass rate, GPA-5 lowest in 5 years

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The pass rate in this year's Dakhil examinations under the Madrasa Education Board is 74.70 percent, which is the lowest in the past five years.

This year, around 2.12 lakh out of 2.85 lakh examinees passed the Dakhil exam. Of them, the number of girls is higher, at 77.02 percent, while 72.29 percent are boys.

According to inter-education board documents, the pass rate under this board was 82.22 percent last year and 93.22 percent in 2021.

The lowest pass rate in this exam is 70.89 percent, which was recorded in 2018.

Not only did the pass rate decrease this year, but there was also a significant decline in the number of students achieving GPA 5, with only 6,213 students achieving the feat, also the

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OF LAUGHTER AND RELIEF... Friends share a moment of joy together, grinning ear-to-ear upon achieving the coveted GPA-5 in SSC examinations. Their hard work and dedication had paid off, as the achievement marked a proud milestone in their academic journey. This photo was taken in Rajuk Uttara Model School and College yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BNP leader dies after falling ill on way to rally
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Narayanganj BNP leader died after falling ill on his way to the party's rally at the capital's Nayapaltan yesterday afternoon.

The deceased, identified as 62-year-old Mahmudur Rahman, was a member of the convening committee of Narayanganj city unit BNP. He along with leaders and activists from the district came to Dhaka to attend the rally.

As they were marching to Nayapaltan venue around 12:45pm, Mahmudur fell ill at Dainik Bangla intersection.

He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead around 1:15pm, the deceased's elder brother Masud Rana told reporters at the hospital.

Mahmudur had been suffering from heart diseases for long, he said.

PRAYER TIMING
JULY 29
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:20 12:45 5:00 6:50 8:15
JAMAAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:55 8:45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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STREET CHILDREN Forgotten amid dengue outbreak

AHMAD ISTIAK

Sakib, an 11-year-old homeless child in Dhaka's Farmgate area, calls the sidewalks his home. Begging for food and money for his grandmother, he sleeps adjacent to Ananda cinema hall every night.

Like around 20 other street children this correspondent talked to, Sakib remains unaware of dengue fever. With no access to mosquito nets, they spend nights on sidewalks, railway platforms or the Sadarghat launch terminal.

Finding shelter under a polythene sheet or in a slum is their best-case scenario.

Sakib recalls feeling feverish recently but recovered without medical aid. "For street children like us, treatment is not an option," he said.

According to public health experts, street children, particularly those who are involved in waste collection and management, are extremely vulnerable to dengue infection.

Prof Be-Nazir Ahmed, former director, Disease Control, Directorate General of Health Services, told The Daily Star, "The places where street children spend most of their time have been designated as dengue hotspots. Naturally, these children have comparatively low immunity. They are also not aware of the infection."

"These children cannot even



With no access to mosquito nets, many street children spend nights on sidewalks and footbridges in the capital, exposing themselves to dengue.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

realise when they have been infected by the virus," he added.

Prof Iffat Ara Shamsad, head of the paediatric department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said, "Dengue infection can be most dangerous for children. Again, street children are more vulnerable as they are unaware of this disease. We can see that many are being infected without showing any symptoms. They (street children) often do not care about the mild fever that they are suffering from."

"They are taken to the hospital only when their condition

deteriorates to a dangerous degree," added Iffat.

There is no comprehensive data about the number of street children in Dhaka. However, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics conducted a survey in 2022 with the help of Unicef titled "Survey on Street Children, 2022", where it has been estimated that the number of street children might be over one million.

According to that survey, 48.5 percent of all the street children of the country live in Dhaka division. Besides, 41 percent live in the city

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WB approves \$300m to improve gas distribution
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Bank has approved US\$ 300 million to help Bangladesh improve the efficiency of gas distribution and usage through pre-paid metering systems for residential and industrial consumers. The initiative will also help reduce methane emissions along the natural gas value chain.

The Gas Sector Efficiency Improvement and Carbon Abatement Project will address natural gas leakage and losses along the gas transmission and distribution network, reduce wastage from residential and industrial users, and strengthen network monitoring capabilities according to the global lender's press release issued on Thursday.

The initiative will install over 1.2 million pre-paid gas meters - 1.1 million will be deployed in Dhaka, covering 54 percent of residential customers of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited, and 128,000 in Rajshahi division covering the entire residential customer base of Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL), the release added.

A pilot project, involving 50 smart meters for larger

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DHAKA BOARD Math, English drag results down

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The pass rate for students under Dhaka board in this year's SSC examinations was 77.55 percent, lowest in the last 13 years.

The reason behind such decline is the low pass rate of humanities students, and poor results in English and mathematics by many students across all disciplines, analysis of the published results show.

According to the education board's data, 4,16,426 students took the exams under Dhaka board.

Among the 15 districts under the board, Faridpur witnessed the lowest pass rate (64.07 percent) while Dhaka city saw the highest (87.43 percent). The rates were 64.69 percent in Shariatpur and 65.45 percent in Manikganj.

Pass rate for science students was 93.42 percent, while that of students in humanities and business studies were 63.54 percent and 80.37 percent respectively.

Number of examinees with the highest-grade point average also decreased this year compared to last year, as only 11.12 percent (46,303) of the examinees scored GPA 5.

Dhaka Education Board Chairman Tapan Kumar Sarkar said students did not perform well in mathematics, which led to the overall poor grades.

Besides, students had to sit for exams in all subjects this time. This might also be the reason behind the poor grades, he added.

Around 80.56 percent of Dhaka board students passed in mathematics, and 90.83 percent of them passed in English exams. The numbers are lowest among the nine general boards, said board officials.

Rajshahi board students had the highest pass rates in

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People have confidence in the judiciary

Says PM, inaugurates 'Smriti Chironjib' memorial at SC



BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said people have confidence of getting justice due to her government's initiatives for the overall development of the judiciary.

She said this while inaugurating "Smriti Chironjib" memorial monument on the Supreme Court premises as the chief guest. The event was organised by the apex court commemorating the golden jubilee of its founding.

The memorial monument was built to preserve the place from where Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered a speech after inaugurating the journey of the country's apex court on December 18, 1972.

The names of 69 lawyers martyred during the country's Liberation War are inscribed in the monument.

The premier said the apex court has already digitised its activities and keeping the cause lists, verdicts and case details online through which one can easily know the current situation of his or her case even while staying abroad.

She said her government has set a target to transform Bangladesh into a smart country by 2041. As part of the move, she said, they have taken measures to turn the legal system into a smart judiciary.

She said her government has set up virtual courts that help decrease the huge backlog of the cases.

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Clockwise from right, Dhaka transformed into a city of rallies yesterday. Prior to that, law enforcers set up checkpoints at the capital's entry points on Thursday night, which remained in place till the afternoon. The three associate bodies of the ruling Awami League held a "peace rally" near the south gate of Baitul Mukarram. BNP organised its "grand rally" at Nayapaltan around the same time.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS, RASHED SHUMON, AMRAN HOSSAIN

