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Technical edu board outperforms others

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

While an overall decline in the pass rate and number of GPA-5 holders marked this year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations, the Technical Education Board has emerged as the top-performing board.

The Technical Education Board outperformed all other education boards with a pass rate of 91.25 percent.

However, the rate fell short compared to the previous two times, 94.41 percent in 2022 and 92.85 percent in 2021.

Although the number of examinees under the board increased this year, the number of GPA-5 achievers declined by 127 compared to the previous year.

A total of 1,53,983 students took the examinations from the board this time, of whom 6,977 achieved GPA-5.

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Clockwise from left, girls at Govt College of Commerce in Chattogram rejoice after receiving their HSC results yesterday. Meanwhile, students at Abul Kadir Molla City College in Narsingdi and Chandpur Government College celebrate their achievements in full swing.



PHOTO: STAR, COLLECTED

Girls continue to outshine boys

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

For 14 years in a row, girls have outperformed boys in terms of pass rate in Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) exams.

They have also outshone boys in achieving GPA-5 for the third consecutive year.

The HSC results published yesterday show that the overall pass rate for girls in the nine general education boards is 78.61 percent, while it is 72.91 percent for boys. The overall pass rate is 75.90 percent.

Last year, the overall pass rate was 84.31 percent and for girls, it was 86.34 percent.

According to Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, a greater number of girls have passed the HSC exams than boys since 2010.

And 2009 was the last year that boys outperformed girls in terms of pass rate. In that year, the total pass rate was 74.85 percent, and for girls, it was 74.50 percent.

Yesterday's results shows that a total of 41,804 girls secured GPA-5 compared to 36,717 boys. A total of 78,521 students secured the highest GPA.

A total of 1,59,755 students secured GPA 5 last year; among them, 87,236 were girls. In 2021, 1,78,522 students achieved GPA 5, and 98,403 were girls among them.

Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) Executive Director Rasheda K Choudhury said girls have continued the trend of outperforming boys.

"If girls did not perform well this year, that would be surprising. They have been doing well for many years now," she said.

Rasheda, also former advisor to a caretaker government who oversaw two ministries — primary and mass education

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It's winter but dengue still here

3 die, 971 get hospitalised in a day

HELEMUL ALAM

The severity of dengue infection continues to be high even as winter is here, which is otherwise a lean season for the disease.

The authorities have yet to take necessary steps during lean periods (November-April), which are vital to controlling the spread of dengue in the following season, said experts.

Meanwhile, 3 dengue patients died while 971 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

The death toll thereby rose to 1,598, while the total number of cases rose to 3,08,167.

GM Saifur Rahman, assistant professor of medical and applied entomology at the National University, said the current weather conditions are still favourable for breeding of Aedes mosquitoes, the vector of dengue fever, as the temperature has not come down significantly yet and the country is still experiencing rain.

Mosquito control activities are not being done properly, which is one of the main causes of the persistent rise in the number of dengue cases this year, he said.

It is really tough to control Aedes mosquitoes once they spread everywhere, he also said.

If herd immunity is developed or if the temperature comes down to below 16 degrees Celsius, then the disease

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Mobilise loss, damage fund in COP28

Speakers demand for developing countries; urge for youth inclusion in fight against climate change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday unanimously demanded to mobilise the loss and damage fund for climate-vulnerable developing countries in the upcoming COP28.

To mitigate the effects of climate change, it is crucial to effectively operationalise and disburse the fund, established in the previous COP27, to the most affected countries, they told the discussion titled "Bangladesh in COP28 and Generation Hope Campaign: Youth and Children Voices Shaping Climate Discussion".

Save the Children organised the discussion at The Daily Star Centre. COP28 is scheduled to be held from November 30 till December 12.

The youth who were born into the crisis created by climate change are the worst victims of the situation, said youth climate and environmental activist Aruba



PHOTO: STAR

Speakers at the roundtable at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

Faruque.

"To mitigate the loss and damage in the most affected countries, a fund was created. But it is yet to be made operational," she said.

Aruba urged for inclusion of youths in the negotiation, discussion, and policymaking processes, stressing that leaving children and youths behind in the fight against climate change and justice is unacceptable.

Yudhishtir Chandra Biswas, global coordinator of Youth Net Global, noted that despite being at the forefront as a vulnerable community due to climate change, youths have remained widely neglected.

"All decisions, including project design and implementation in COP28, must take into consideration the greater cause of

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EC serving agenda of one-sided polls: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday said a non-inclusive and one-sided national election will neither uphold democracy nor ensure people's right to vote and earn their trust.

In a statement, TIB said based on different situations before and after the polls schedule announcement, any potential for a free and inclusive election has almost been lost.

The Election Commission has failed to deliver some key objectives of the 12th general election action plan, while the "zero-sum game" of staying in power goes on "intransigently, aggressively, and violently" at the expense of public interest, said the statement.

Escalating political violence and uncertainty can only be beneficial for undemocratic forces, it added.

The EC has not taken any steps to ensure the neutral role of the election-time government and hasn't taken any credible actions to build trust and confidence among all contending parties that a free, fair, and inclusive election could be held, TIB said.

The EC seems content with finishing its duties through some façade of consultations with some political parties but without any concrete agenda on the key issue of the election-time government's

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YUNUS CASE

Defence submits arguments

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The defence yesterday submitted their arguments for the second consecutive day in a labour law violation case filed against Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and three top officials of Grameen Telecom.

Sheikh Merina Sultana, chairman of the Third Labour Court of Dhaka, set November 30 for the next hearing as the defence lawyers could not complete their arguments, said Khaja Tanvir Ahmed, a lawyer for Yunus.

Prof Yunus, also chairman of Grameen Telecom, and its top officials — Ashrafur Hassan, Nurjahan Begum and Mohammad Shahjahan — appeared before the court

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CURBING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Existing laws not that effective

Speakers stress amendments, more funding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The existing laws that are discriminatory to women will be reviewed and updated, Fazilatun Nessa Indira, state minister for women and children affairs, said yesterday. "Changing men's attitudes, stereotypical mindsets, and behaviour are also essential to reduce violence against women," she added.

She made the remarks at the inauguration of "16-Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence", a campaign organised by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs in collaboration with UN Bangladesh and Local Consultative Group on Women Advancement and Gender Equality, at a city hotel.

This year's theme for the campaign is "Invest to prevent violence against women and girls".

The discussion highlighted the essentiality of preventing violence against women and girls, focusing on critical issues like discriminatory laws, workplace violence, and creating safe spaces for women's leadership.

Although the High Court issued guidelines in 2009 to stop sexual harassment in public spaces, workplaces, and educational institutions, laws like the Bangladesh Labour Act of 2006 still have ambiguous provisions in this regard and thus need revision, said speakers.

Gitanjali Singh, country representative of UN Women, stressed the importance of annual monitoring and timely amendments to law, and called upon the government to unlock finances from various sectors and adjust national budget in a gender responsive manner.



Firefighters trying to douse the blaze after miscreants torched a bus of Moumita Paribahan beneath the Mayor Hanif flyover in Kazla area of Jatrabari yesterday evening. Two units of Postogola Fire Service brought the fire under control. Meanwhile, the first day of the new spell of the countrywide blockade saw increased traffic movement in the capital. There were also tailbacks in some places.

PHOTO: COLLECTED