



It was a day full of joy and excitement for students all over the country as the results for SSC and equivalent exams were published yesterday. *Clockwise from top*, students in Chattogram, Barishal and Dhaka celebrate their results alongside their friends.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN, PRABIR DAS, TITU DAS

TECHNICAL BOARD

Lowest number of GPA-5 in 12 years

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

After witnessing two consecutive years of record numbers of GPA-5 achievers from the technical board, this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exam saw the lowest number of GPA-5 achievers from the board in 12 years.

This year, only 4,078 students from the technical board have secured the highest grade point average (GPA-5), representing a significant drop compared to 2023.

A total of 18,145 students achieved

GPA-5 in 2023 and 18,655 in 2022, which were marked as the highest in the board's history.

While 1.22 lakh students appeared for SSC this year, with 99,721 achieving passing marks, the number of highest GPA achievers fell dramatically.

The last time the technical board witnessed such a low number of GPA-5 recipients was in 2012, with only 3,524 students achieving the top score.

The following year it saw a slight increase to 4,172, but the numbers have

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Changing curriculum to discourage memorising

Says PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is bringing changes to the curriculum

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SC clears way for GM Quader to act as JP chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order clearing the way for Ghulam Muhammad Quader, known as GM Quader, to perform the responsibilities as Jatiyo Party chairman.

A four-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice M Enayetur Rahim dismissed a leave to appeal petition filed by JP leader Ziaul Haque Mridha challenging the HC order.

There is no legal bar for GM Quader to perform as the JP chairman following the SC order, his lawyer Md Ozi Ullah told The Daily Star.

SHAHBAGH DEMO 12 job seekers get bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to 12 job seekers in a case filed over their Saturday's demonstration in the capital's Shahbagh.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mahub Ahmed passed the order after they filed bail petitions with the court, said a court police.

Earlier in the day, Shahbagh Police Station Sub-inspector Alamin produced the 12 -- Rima Akter, Sharmin Akter Bristy, Manik Das, Mamun Rashid Ratan, Al-Amin, Abdul Hakim, Azam Mohammad, Fatema Akter, Humayun Kabir, Saddam Hossain, Sheikh Farid and Mohammad Rasel -- before the court.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

People use a wooden step-ladder to get over this high divider on the Dhaka-Narayanganj link road. In an ideal world, this divider should have prevented such dangerous actions, but locals opted to keep this step-ladder so that they could cross to the other side faster. The photo was taken near the Bhuighar area yesterday.

'A green, clean Dhaka by 2050'

City corporations announce Climate Action Plans for the capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 70.6 percent, Dhaka north and south city corporations have initiated first-ever Climate Action Plans towards 2050.

The city corporations have also incorporated 100 percent removal of encroachment and restoration of all canals by 2050 in their respective plans.

Within the same period, all public transport in Dhaka will be electric, and all new buildings will be climate resilient, according to their action plans that were unveiled yesterday at a programme at Dhaka University.

The plans also aimed to transform 95 percent of existing private cars into electric vehicles, while turning 80 percent of existing residential buildings and

70 percent of existing commercial buildings into green buildings.

At the event, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury said this

WHAT'S IN THE PLAN

Reducing emissions by up to 70.6pc

100pc restoration of canals

Making all public transport electric

Climate resilient buildings

Transforming 95pc existing private cars electric

Implementing urban afforestation

is the beginning of environment-friendly development.

"It will play an important role in building a clean, green and vibrant

Dhaka. Although Dhaka has two city corporations, this action plan will treat the city as one. It was fitting to declare 'One Dhaka' to reduce climate change impact on the city of 20 million people," he said.

A certain amount of greenery is necessary to keep the environment of Dhaka habitable and the temperature bearable, said the minister.

"We are trying to implement an urban afforestation project. Special satellite image is being developed for Dhaka, which will be used to decide where trees need to be planted," he added.

Currently, the two city corporations emit around 13.31 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, with the energy sector accounting for 56 percent, waste for 32 percent, and transport for 12 percent.

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Discussion to amend labour law ongoing

Says law minister after meeting ILO delegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said discussions are underway with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to amend the Bangladesh Labour Law.

"Discussions are ongoing about 41 points to amend the Labour Law. Among those, 17 points were discussed for about two and a half hours today [Sunday]. The remaining 24 points will be discussed

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Lu's visit to take forward bilateral relationship

Says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu will come to Bangladesh in order to take forward the bilateral relationship between the two countries, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

"He [Lu] will hold talks with the government. Now, BNP may think that a fresh sanction will be imposed.

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Trafficked to India for kidney harvest

MUNTAKIM SAAD

A kidney-trafficking syndicate used to target underprivileged people and take them to India with fake job offers. Upon arriving in Delhi, the gang took these victims hostage and forcibly removed their kidneys.

The gang has trafficked at least 10 people to India and harvested their kidneys, claimed Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday after arresting three members of the gang.

Recently, a man named Robin filed a case with Dhanmondi Police Station under the Human Organ Transplant Act, leading to the arrests.

The arrestees are Raju Hawladar, 32; Shahed Uddin, 22; and Atahar Hossen Bappi, 28.

They were arrested in front of Ibn Sina Diagnostic Center in Dhanmondi and from Bagerhat in separate drives on Saturday and yesterday, said Kh Mahid Uddin, additional commissioner of DMP.

Three of their accomplices -- Masum, 27, Shahin, 35, Sagar alias Mostafa, 37, along with 10-12 others, are now absconding.

In April 2023, behind Shah Ali Market in Mirpur-10, Robin was having tea with a friend at a tea stall. They were discussing how difficult it was to put food on their families' plates amid the rising cost of essentials. At that time, Masum (absconding accused) was also having tea nearby. Upon hearing their conversation, Masum told Robin that he had a business in India and could offer him a job there. Eventually, Robin exchanged phone numbers with Masum. They maintained regular communication for 10-15 days. Later, Robin agreed to work in India.

Masum informed Robin that he would need to undergo some medical examinations before going to India. Then, in September, Masum took him to a hospital in Dhaka. There, they introduced Robin to Raju (arrested accused). They took his passport for visa processing after the health check-up. After confirming the visa, they introduced the victim to the two other arrestees, Shahed and Atahar. Masum informed Robin they were business partners and operated businesses in both Bangladesh and India. Robin was then flown into

The gang has trafficked at least 10 people to India and harvested their kidneys, claimed Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday after arresting three members of the gang.

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