

PRIMARY SCHOOLS Dropouts up after 14 years of decline

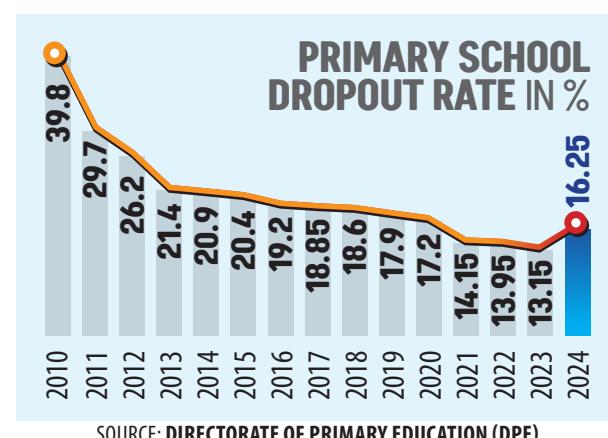
WASIM BIN HABIB

In a setback for the country's primary education system, the school dropout rate saw a sudden rise last year after a steady decline over 14 years, according to a government report.

The dropout rate increased to 16.25 percent in 2024 from 13.15 percent in 2023, shows the Annual Primary School Statistics (APSS) 2024, released by the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) late last month.

The report attributed the sudden rise in dropouts to multiple factors, including inflation-induced financial strain and early entry into the labour market -- all of which push families to prioritise immediate survival over continued schooling.

Boys made up a larger proportion of school dropouts than girls, with their rate surging to 19.02 percent in 2024, up from 14.12 percent in 2023. The rate for girls rose



slightly to 13.36 percent from 12.32 percent, it said.

More than 1.6 crore children are studying at 118,607 primary schools across the country.

The report observed that dropout rates jump as students move into upper grades, indicating that they face growing challenges while progressing through the primary education cycle.

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An effigy of Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader, along with papers and leaflets, was set ablaze as the party's central office in the capital's Kakrail was vandalised yesterday evening.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF PROTHOM ALO

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY 'Being forced to rush the trials'

ICT chief prosecutor fears next govt
may not continue trials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal's Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam yesterday said they are being forced to rush the trials of crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising, as well as enforced disappearances perpetrated under the

Awami League regime.

And this is happening amid fears that the next government may not continue the trials, he added.

Tajul also expressed his apprehension that the next government, which is expected to be formed after the February election, and left the office premises.

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Yunus to
meet BNP,
Jamaat, NCP
leaders today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will hold separate meetings today with the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and National Citizen Party to discuss the current political situation and the upcoming election.

The meeting with the BNP is scheduled for 3:00pm, followed by Jamaat at 4:30pm and NCP

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ATTACK ON NUR

There will be a judicial probe

Says govt; Gono Odhikar chief in
ICU; CA talks to him over phone;
protests spread countrywide

STAR REPORT

The government has pledged a judicial inquiry into the attack on Gono Odhikar Parishad President Nurul Haque Nur.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam made the announcement while speaking to reporters on the premises of State Guest House Jamuna, the CA's official residence, yesterday.



Nur and five others suffered critical injuries after being beaten by police and army personnel in front of their office at the capital's Bijoy Nagar on Friday evening. The assault followed clashes between Gono Odhikar Parishad and Jatiya Party activists near the latter's Kakrail office.

Until the filing of this report around 11:00am, Nur remained in intensive care at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Shafiqul said Nur would receive all necessary treatment; he would be sent abroad if required. Others injured will also be given the best possible medical care, he added.

Earlier in the morning, in a statement issued by the Chief Adviser's Press Wing, the government strongly condemned the assault on Nur, calling it "an attack on the democratic spirit of the July uprising" and on "the nation's struggle for justice and accountability".

It promised a "thorough and impartial investigation" to ensure that no individual, regardless of position or influence, escapes accountability. "Justice will be delivered transparently and swiftly," it said, while urging unity among political and social forces to safeguard democratic gains.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus spoke with Nur over the phone, assuring him of full government support. He enquired about his treatment and also conveyed sympathy to Nur's family and urged them to remain strong, the press wing said.

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Parts of JP HQ set on fire Party offices in several dists attacked

STAR REPORT

The central office of Jatiya Party in the capital's Kakrail came under arson attack last night. Party offices in several other districts were also vandalised.

Speaking to The Daily Star, JP Joint Secretary General Khandaker Delowar Jalali, said the Kakrail incident occurred shortly after party leaders and activists had concluded a scheduled programme and left the office premises.

"A group of 20 to 30 individuals defied police barricades and launched the arson attack on the party headquarters.

Police responded with truncheons, water cannons, and sound

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The government's pilot programme to install semi-automatic traffic signals at seven intersections in Dhaka began yesterday. This photo, taken on the capital's Minto Road near Hotel Intercontinental, shows commuters ignoring the red signal and passing through.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

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To know more,
Keep an eye on tomorrow's business page

DUCSU POLLS BGCS pledges to end 'gono rooms' at dormitories

Panel unveils
manifesto

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Boishommo Birodh Shikkharthi Sangsad panel, of Bangladesh Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad (BGCS), yesterday announced its manifesto for the upcoming DUCSU election, vowing to transform Dhaka University into a research-based institution and to prioritise political freedom on campus.

BGCS was formed after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government on August 5 last year. Many of its members were directly involved in the July uprising that paved the way for political change.

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STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Want to free DUCSU
from political
interference

VP candidate Shameem tells Star

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Shameem Hossen, an independent candidate for the vice-president (VP) post, said he has entered the DUCSU election race to transform it into a platform for students, free from the control and interference of political parties.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Shameem, a master's student in the Department of English, said, "Since independence, what we have seen in the name of student politics is bloodshed. After 1990, DUCSU was sent to the museum, deliberately, to silence students' voices. This was because DUCSU always challenged the government."



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I'm running to
resist anti-state
forces

GS candidate Onoy tells Star

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Anamul Hasan Onoy, general secretary (GS) candidate from the "Aparajeyo 71-Odomomo 24" panel in the upcoming DUCSU election, said he is contesting the polls to resist anti-state and anti-liberation forces.



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