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The edu

NEWS IN brief

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THOSE who have done well in the higher secondary exam results on Thursday (August 18, 2016) have earned the right to show their exuberance as depicted in the media. It is the culmination of 12 years of schooling and that marks the beginning of a new phase in education, career development and a stepping stone into adulthood.

The Minister of Education Nurul Islam Nahid named an Advisory Committee on the quality of secondary education, and hosted its first meeting on Thursday. "We have succeeded in expanding the opportunities, girls are out-performing boys, but we need to do better in quality and need the advice of the experts and practitioners about what can be done," the Minister said.

Of some 1.2 million students from 8,345 institutions under 10 education boards, including Technical and Madrasa education, three quarters - 74.7 percent to be precise - emerged successful. About 6.4 percent or 58,276 students achieved the highest Grade Point Average (GPA) of 5.

There was a significant improvement than 2015 in total pass rate and GPA 5 score - for the eight general education boards, the pass rate was 6.6 percent higher and for GPA 5, 15 percent higher than last year. The Jessore Board recorded a whopping 39 percent improvement over 2015, interesting because it was the lowest performer last year with only 46.45 percent pass rate.

These numbers beg a few questions. Major change in the quality of education and outcome do not usually happen from one year to the next. What changes have been made in teaching, learning and educational provisions to produce the large difference? If the Jessore Board, and the schools and colleges under it, have found a way to bring about a dramatic change in quality in just one year, this demands a research project to identify the steps and lessons from Jessore, so that these could be applied throughout the education system.

The variation among the eight general education board - a difference of 23 percentage points between the lowest for Comilla at 64.49 percent and the highest for Jessore at 83.42 percent - raises questions about what education institutions in Comilla have done wrong and what those in Jessore have done right. For education measurement

specialists, this variation is a threat to pull out of UN

AFP, Manila

The academics and Education Ministry aides to Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday multiple choice questions sought to backtrack on his threat to leave the United Nations, saying he only gave undue attention to express frustration

The opinions were at UN criticism of his deadly because a serious answer on crime. "It was a way of stating that the nation is sovereign. Okay? It was not a statement of fact that we are leaving," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella told reporters.

Sarkozy announces new presidential bid

AFP, Paris

Former French leader Nicolas Sarkozy yesterday announced he will seek his party's nomination to stand in next year's presidential election. "I have decided to be a candidate in the 2017 presidential election," Sarkozy, who was president between 2007 and 2012, wrote in a foreword to a new book to be released Wednesday.

Rapper remanded for 'insulting Islam'

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

A Malaysian court yesterday remanded a rap artist in custody for a music video entitled "Oh my God" which allegedly insults Islam because it was partly filmed in a mosque.

Namewee, whose real name is Wee Meng Chee, will be held for four days, a Penang district police chief said. The meeting showed that Namewee, whose real name is Wee Meng Chee, will be held for four days, a Penang district police chief said.

Protesters attack Pak TV station, one dead

AFP, Karachi

Activists of a key political party clashed with police and ransacked ARY television station in the southern



IS USES CHILD BOMBER IN HORRIFYING TACTIC

Irqi security forces placed an explosive device in a military operation.

Eye on security, meets Suu Kyi in

HINDUSTAN TIMES ONLINE

India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj held talks with Myanmar's de facto ruler Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday, the first high-level contact between the two countries since the National League for Democracy came to power last year.

Swaraj also met President Htin Kyaw. Her day-long trip comes close on the heels of Suu Kyi's visit to China, where she was given a welcome fit for a head of state and held talks with President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Keqiang.

The visit has been projected by the external affairs minister as part of the "Act East" policy.

