

Kids triumph over all odds

89.71pc pass JSC exams badly disrupted by hartals, blockades; 1.52 lakh get GPA-5

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Despite the disruption in exam schedules due to political instability, class-VIII students have done remarkably well in this year's Junior School Certificate (JSC) exams with the success rate breaking all previous records.

The pass rate hit a record high of 89.71 percent, 3.6 percentage points higher than that of the last year.

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RESULTS COMPARISON

Boards	PassRate		GPA-5	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
Dhaka	87.93	85.02	55,223	17,595
Rajshahi	93.88	85.09	20,523	6,221
Comilla	90.45	91.86	16,095	3,763
Jessore	89.03	85.28	14,704	3,978
Chittagong	86.13	78.35	14,105	3,531
Barisal	96.60	93.82	10,763	3,172
Sylhet	91.15	90.45	5,748	1,364
Dinajpur	88.91	84.88	15,836	4,534
Total	89.71	86.11	1,52,997	44,158

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percentage points higher than that of the last year.

The number of GPA-5 achievers tripled this time. A total of 1,52,997 examinees secured GPA-5, the highest grade point average, which was 44,158 last year.

The results of all education boards simultaneously published at 2:00 pm yesterday showing a significant improvement in other indicators.

The number of total examinees and number of schools with cent percent pass rate rose remarkably while the number of failed pupil and schools with zero pass rate came down.

Education board officials and teachers attributed the incorporation of an optional subject, popularly known as fourth subject, in this examination for first time as the major reason behind the success.

Besides, the students' better performance in English and Mathematics as compared to last year and their awareness of the exams also contributed to the overall success rate, they said.

A total of 13,89,313 students – 6,57,741 boys

and 7,31,572 girls – under eight general education boards came out successful in the JSC exam. The number of failed students came down to 1,59,387.

And 461 out of 475 JSC students, who sat for the test in six overseas centres, came out successful. Of them, 198 obtained GPA-5.

The pass rate in Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations is 91.11 percent, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, while formally announcing the results at a press conference at his ministry around 1:00 pm.

The combined pass rate of JSC and JDC in eight general boards and one madrasa board also beat previous records with 89.94 percent students coming out successful.

The exams were scheduled to begin on November 4 but the authorities had to reschedule the exams for November 7 due to the 18-party opposition alliance's shutdown.

As the frequent changes in exam schedules resulted in a significant fall in the HSC results, the education minister had appealed to keep JSC and

JDC exams beyond the purview of hartal.

But his call was ignored. A total of 17 test dates of JSC and JDC examinations had been changed due to the agitation. The tests ended on November 22.

Yesterday, the minister said, "They [students] were uncertain about their tests and their studies were badly hampered by the frequent changes in the exam schedule caused by hartals. It was a huge psychological stress on them."

Asked how it was that the results had turned out better despite all obstacles, he said, the introduction of the optional subject had made it possible.

The additional marks of the students, who obtained more than 40 marks in the optional subject, were added, resulting in the rise in the pass rate and GPA-5 achievers, he explained.

"Besides, we used our experience of HSC and took steps accordingly," he said.

Dhaka Education Board Chairman Taslima Begum also gave the optional subject the full credit.

"The examinees of SSC and HSC have long been getting this facility. We have introduced the subject in JSC for the first time, which significantly contributed to better results," she told The Daily Star.

Agricultural Studies, Home Economics, Sanskrit, Pali and Arabic are the optional subjects, and students have the option to choose one from any of these.

In 2012, the pass rate in English under Rajshahi Board was 88.62 percent which leapt to 94.38 percent this year. Similarly, the pass rate in Mathematics in the board jumped to 96.49 percent from last year's 92 percent.

All other boards almost have exactly the same situation, board officials said.

The students who took this year's JSC were the first batch of primary terminal examination, they also said.

Despite a panicky situation in the city due to the opposition's "March for Democracy" programme yesterday, the schools wore a festive look following the publication of the results.

Before the announcement of the results, the education minister handed over a copy of the results to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

As in previous years, the highest 96.60 percent examinees passed from Barisal Board. Chittagong Board is at the bottom among the eight boards with 86.13 percent pass rate while Dhaka Board goes down to seventh position with 87.93 percent pass rate.

In Dhaka board, Viqarunnisa Noon School topped the list of 20 best institutions. Ideal School and College, Motijheel and Rajuk Uttara Model High School and College ranked second and third based on five academic standards.

NUMBER HIGHER RESULT POORER

Although the number of girl examinees was higher by around 1 lakh than boys in all boards, they failed to outnumber the boys in the pass rate.

Except Dhaka and Barisal, the pass rate of boys is higher in all other boards. The success rates of boys and girls are 90 and 89.44 percent respectively. However, girls did well in terms of obtaining GPA-5.