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HSC pass rate marks decline

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THE pass percentage and the number of GPA 5 scorers in the Higher Secondary Certificate and equivalent examinations this year have marked a significant decrease, according to the results published on Saturday.

The combined pass percentage is 74.30 which is 4.37 percentage point lower than the figure of 78.67 in the past year, held under the

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10 education boards.

The pass percentage in 2011 was 75.08; in 2010, the figure was 74.28; in 2009, the figure was 72.78 and in 2008, the figure was 74.85.

The number of students who scored the grade point average of 5 this year is 58,197, down by 2,965 compared with the figure of 61,162 in the past year.

The pass percentage for girl students also decreased significantly as 70.29 per cent passed the exams which is 8.9 percentage point lower than the previous year's figure of 79.19. Of the boys, 74.32 per cent passed the exams.

A total of 10,02,496 students took the HSC and equivalent examinations under eight general education boards, the Technical Education Board and the Madrassah Education Board. A total of 7,44,891 students have passed the examinations.

The pass rate for eight general boards declined as 71.13 per cent of the students have passed the exams while the percentage was 76.50 in the past year. Results of the madrassah board marked a slight decline with the percentage reaching 91.46, which was 91.77 in the past year.

Results of the technical education board marked a slight improvement with the pass rate being 85.03, which was 84.32 in the past year.

As it happened in the past, madrassah students have done well than general students in terms of pass percentage. The pass rate under the madrassah board is 91.46, the technical education board 85.03 and 87.00 in diploma in business studies under the technical education board.

The education minister, Nurul Islam Nahid, announced the combined results at a press briefing at the education ministry at 1:00pm.

The education minister and the chairmen of all the boards handed over the copies of results to the prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, in her office.

Hasina and Nahid both put the decline in success rate in the HSC and equivalent examinations down to the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami as they had enforced general strikes when the examinations were taking place. They both said that the frequent rescheduling of exams caused a psychological pressure on the examinees.

The education secretary, Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, high officials of the ministry and the chairman of the all education boards, among others, attended the press conference.

Results were also available on the web site of the Dhaka education board (www.educationboardresults.gov.bd). Students could also get to know the results by sending text messages to mobile operators.

The Sylhet education board has the highest pass rate of 79.13, followed by Rajshahi with 77.69, Dhaka with 74.04, Dinajpur with 71.94, Barisal with 71.69, Jessore with 67.49, Comilla with 61.29 and Chittagong with 61.22.

Of the total 61,162 GPA 5 scorers, 22,347 students are under the Dhaka board, 7,666 under Rajshahi, 2,390 under Comilla, 4,740 under Jessore, 2,772 under Chittagong, 1,853 under Barisal, 15,35 under Sylhet, 3,433 under Dinajpur, 6,009 under the madrassah education board, 4,658 in HSC (vocational) and 794 in diploma in business studies under the technical education board.

The success rate of the business studies students is 77.32 while it is 72.53 in science and 66.30 in humanities.

All the examinees passed from 849 educational institutions, 187 less than past year's figure of 1036.

According to the results, no student passed from 25 institutions. The board-wise number of such institutions is: 4 each under the Dhaka and the Rajshahi board, 3 under the Jessore board, 7 under the Dinajpur board and 6 under the madrassah board.

Rajuk Uttara Model College has topped the Dhaka board results, Faujdarhat Cadet College in the Chittagong board results, Rajshahi College the Rajshahiboard results, Feni Girls' Cadet College the Comilla board results, Sylhet Cadet College the Sylhet board results, Rangpur Cadet College the Dinajpur board results, Barisal Cadet College the Barisal board results, Jhenaidah Cadet College the Jessore board results, Jhalakathi NS Kamil Madrassah the madrassah board results and the Parbatipur Adarsha Degree college the technical board results.

The board chairmen said that poor performance in English examinations, subjects which have creative questions, were behind the comparatively poor results.

The chairman of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka, Taslima Begum, told New Age, 'Students performed poorly in subjects which have creative questions.'

She said that exams of seven papers — Bangla second paper, two papers of each chemistry, civics and principles of business were held using creative questions.

This year's results show that 68.32 per cent students passed the chemistry examinations while 80.32 students pass the physics exams in the Dinajpur board. In the Barisal board, 71.54 per cent of students passed the chemistry exams and 85.32 per cent passed the physics examinations. In the Dhaka board, 80.95 per cent of students passed the chemistry examinations while 87.04 per cent of students passed the physics exams.

Officials said that creative question were introduced to help students to develop their intellectual ability and creative thinking in place of the traditional system which encourages students to memorise only.

The Comilla education chairman, Oliur Rahman, told New Age that most of the students had failed in English and elective subjects of sciences, humanities and business studies as they had to face creative questions in the subjects.

The results show that 82.30 per cent of students passed the English exams in the Dhaka board, 75.06 per cent in the Rajshahi board and 74.98 in the Jessore board.

The board chairmen also blamed political unrest for the poor performance of the students in the exams.