

# The Daily Star Newspaper Analysis in Sync with BCS Written Syllabus!

**14<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**



## The Daily Star—Front page

### PRIMARY-HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION

#### **Major reforms on the horizon**

The government will do an overhaul of the education system which, among other changes, will scrap any public exams before class 10 and also ensure no exams of any kind for students up to class 3.

**The new curriculum will reduce emphasis on memorisation and prioritise experiment- and activity-based learning.**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday approved the outline of the new curriculum, which is set to be implemented in phases from January 2023, and will be fully implemented by 2025.

**The government is also going to introduce streams -- science, humanities and business studies -- from class 11. In the existing curriculum, students had to choose the streams in class 9.**

After getting the PM's approval, Education Minister Dipu Moni said the government wants to change the current education system.

**“We do not want that students go through the pressure of education. We want to give students education amid fanfare, replace the memorisation-based system with experiment- activity-based education,”** she said during a press conference at the Secretariat.

#### **EVALUATION PROCESS**

She said students would be evaluated based on continuous assessment until class 3 at schools.

Currently, these students need to sit for half-yearly and final exams every year.

## The Daily Star—Front page

### PRIMARY-HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION

### Major reforms on the horizon



- No public exam before grade X
- No exam till grade III
- Science, business, humanities streams from class XI
- SSC exam on five subjects
- Public exams after XI and XII
- HSC result combining results of XI and XII
- New curriculum implementation to begin January 2023

## The Daily Star—Front page

PRIMARY-HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION

### Major reforms on the horizon contd.

Dipu Moni said for students of classes 4 to 8, 60 percent of evaluation in Bangla, English, mathematics, social sciences and science will be done through continuous assessment, and the rest through **“overall evaluation.”**

**For other subjects, students of these classes will be evaluated based on continuous assessment.**

Contacted, National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) Member (Curriculum) Prof Md Moshiuzzaman explained that **“overall evaluation”** means exams and continuous assessment means evaluation of regular school work.

Half the evaluation of Bangla, English, mathematics, social science and science of students of classes 9 and 10 will be done through continuous assessment, and the rest will be done through exams.

Dipu Moni said students will need to take public exams after class 10, based on the curriculum of that grade only.

**“The SSC exams will be held on Bangla, English, mathematics, social science and science subjects,”** said an NCTB official.

**NCTB officials**

**said that would mean that there will be no more Primary Education Completion Exam after class 5 and no Junior School Certificate exams for class 8.**

**The PECE was introduced in 2009 and the JSC exams a year later. Many educationists frequently termed the exams unnecessary and slammed those for stressing out the students.**

**“There was nothing about PECE and JSC exams in the existing curriculum. But the government decided to hold the exams,”** an NCTB member said.

**The curriculum was last revised in 2012.**

PRIMARY-HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION

**Major reforms on the horizon contd.**

“We did not propose any public exams before class 10 [in the outline of the new curriculum],” Moshiuzzaman told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon following the press conference at the Secretariat.

**Students of grades 9 and 10 will study 10 subjects -- Bangla, English, mathematics, science, social science, ICT, religion, health studies, life and livelihood education, and art and culture studies.**

**HSC EXAMS IN TWO PHASES**

Dipu Moni said students would need to sit for public exams after classes XI and XII based on the curriculum of the respective classes. The HSC exams will take place in two phases, and the final result will be determined by combining results of both phases.

NCTB officials said 30 percent evaluation of compulsory subjects -- Bangla, English, mathematics and ICT -- of classes 11 and 12 will be done through continuous assessment, and the remaining 70 percent will be done through public exams.

**For optional subjects, students will be evaluated based on a combination of continuous assessment and exams. But details are yet to be finalised, NCTB officials said.**

Under the existing system, students of classes 9 and 10 take the SSC exam on 10 papers after studying a syllabus for two years. They sit for the HSC exams on 12 papers after studying a two-year syllabus in classes 11 and 12.

## The Daily Star—Front page

### PRIMARY-HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION Major reforms on the horizon contd.

#### NO STREAM BEFORE CLASS 11

Dipu Moni yesterday also said the government is going to introduce streams -- science, humanities and business studies -- from class 11.

**She said since the period of Ayub Khan, secondary schools have been requiring students to choose among science, humanities and business studies when they are in class 9. Officials said most countries around the world do not have science, humanities and business disciplines at the school level. All school-level students should have similar knowledge, they said.**

Students of classes 11 and 12 will study the compulsory Bangla, English and ICT. And they will be able to choose three other subjects from any of three disciplines of science, humanities and business. They will pick another subject from vocational courses.

#### NEW BOOKS TO ALL BY 2025

The education minister said the government will begin implementation of the new curriculum from 2023 in phases. She said they will start piloting of the new curriculum for class 1 students at 100 primary schools and at 100 secondary schools from January 2022.

Students of classes 1, 2, 6 and 7 will get new books based on the new curriculum, in January 2023. Students of classes 3, 4, 8 and 9 will get books in 2024.

Students of grade 5 and 10 will get new books in January 2025.

The NCTB started the process of revising the current curriculum in 2018. NCTB was supposed to begin phase-wise implementation of the new curriculum from January 2021. But the introduction of new curriculum was delayed by two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Taliban breaking promises

Says UN rights chief on women's rights in Afghanistan

The Taliban are breaking their promises on women's rights and inclusivity in Afghanistan, the UN rights chief said yesterday, as she also criticised violence against protesters and alleged reprisal killings.

Michelle Bachelet said there were **“credible allegations”** former members of the security forces had been killed, and some people who worked for previous administrations had been detained and later **“found dead”**.

She also highlighted allegations of house-to-house searches of former officials, raids on civil society groups and **“increasing violence against protesters and journalists”**.

She told the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva she was **“dismayed by the lack of inclusivity of the so-called caretaker cabinet, which includes no women and few non-Pashtuns”**. The announcement of the government of male loyalists last week was a key step in the Taliban's consolidation of power over Afghanistan, following a military victory that saw them oust the US-backed administration on August 15.

Notorious for their brutal and oppressive rule from 1996 to 2001, the Taliban had promised a more inclusive government this time.

However, all the top positions were handed to key leaders from the movement and the Haqqani network -- the most violent faction of the Taliban known for devastating attacks.

Law Opinion

## LDC graduation: Evaluating the implications of implementing the TRIPS agreement

Graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category is a key milestone in the sustainable development progress of a country. Bangladesh has been recommended for graduation over the next five years, i.e. 2026, by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), a subsidiary advisory body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). During this transition period, Bangladesh will be fully entitled to all benefits associated with the category.

**BCS Bangladesh Affairs**

**Topic Serail-9. Foreign Policy and External Relations of Bangladesh:**

**,,,,,,Foreign Aid,**

**,,,,,,International Trade.**



Law Opinion

## **LDC graduation: Evaluating the implications of implementing the TRIPS agreement contd.**

After graduation, LDCs will lose all the flexibilities enjoyed under WTO Rules and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). However, if the flexibilities in implementing the provisions of the TRIPS agreement are revoked, the challenges that graduated LDCs may face are not so discussed in detail.

The LDCs currently enjoy benefits from two types of transition periods under the TRIPS Agreement which include— a general transition period and a special transition period for the pharmaceutical industry. The general transition period has been extended till July 1, 2034 and special transition period for the pharmaceutical industry shall remain valid until 1 January 2033. However, LDCs will lose benefits provided under the transition periods once they cease to have their LDC membership.

**During the general transition period, LDCs have been exempted from implementing the TRIPS Agreement other than those containing the core non-discrimination principles. In addition, developed country WTO members were**

**instructed to provide technical and financial assistance to enterprises and institutions of LDCs to enable them to create a sound and viable technological base.**

With graduation on 2026, Bangladesh will have to ensure compliance with the TRIPS agreement as well as other international treaties related to IPR except protecting patents and undisclosed information for pharmaceutical products as waived under special transition period. The Government will be required to update the existing IP laws or enact new laws as envisaged under the TRIPS Agreement – which will be subject to review by the TRIPS Council annually. The adoption of new laws by LDCs shall include laws for protection of undisclosed information – known as trade secrets – and for Layout-Designs (Topographies) of Integrated Circuits – design of electronic circuits (chips).

Ensuring compliance with these requirements will require more engagement of workforce and technical experts which will undoubtedly involve huge financial budget of the government concerned. The government would no longer receive incentive from developed country to foster technology transfer and thus ensuring the compliance with TRIPS agreement would be expensive.

## **LDC graduation: Evaluating the implications of implementing the TRIPS agreement contd.**

During the specific transition period, LDCs have been exempted from protecting patents and undisclosed information for pharmaceutical products. Thanks to the waiver, pharmaceutical manufacturers in LDCs may export patented drugs to other LDCs or countries where the patent of the drugs being exported has expired or is absent. The generic manufacturers of on-patent drugs do not have to pay royalty or operate in a level-playing field along with innovators.

**Among the LDCs, Bangladesh, utilising the patent waiver, has gained self-sufficiency in the pharmaceutical sector and now supplies almost 97% of medicines for the local market and exports to hundred countries including the United States.**

**After graduation, the pharmaceutical industry of the countries would stop enjoying patent waiver seven years before the expiry of the stipulated transition period which may negatively affect their ability to produce and import generic versions of patented medicines. Graduated LDCs will have to introduce provisions for patents to pharmaceutical products and processes.**

**In addition to the specific transition period for pharmaceutical products, LDCs were also exempted by the General Council from the application of – mailbox requirements and exclusive marketing rights – for the same time period (i.e. 2033). In accordance with the mailbox provisions, countries concerned had to establish a “mailbox” system for receiving and filing patent applications from the beginning of the transitional period.**

The mailbox provision allows the patent application to remain fresh even if many years pass after the patent applications are put in the mailbox, waiting for the concerned patent office to start examining pending applications after graduation. The requirement of mailbox obligation may require considerable administrative efforts that would burden the country's health budget.

Law Opinion

### **LDC graduation: Evaluating the implications of implementing the TRIPS agreement contd.**

LDCs were also exempted from notification requirements for issuing compulsory licenses for exports of pharmaceutical products to LDCs or other countries with insufficient manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector. After graduation, LDCs pharmaceutical companies would have to notify the intention to use the system and, in their notifications concerning needed pharmaceuticals, they would need to address the existence of insufficient or no manufacturing capacity.

To mitigate these challenges, the government would need to map out which incentives have proven to be the most useful and need to give emphasis on effective bilateral and multilateral negotiation with the developed country members granting those incentives so that preferential market access can be explored. Graduating LDCs may also place proposals to TRIPS council for further extensions of the transition periods for implementation of the TRIPS Agreement even after their graduation until a reasonable period. In today's knowledge-based economy, the importance of intellectual property is increasing day by day and knowledge-based resources are considered as a sustainable primary source.

Therefore, to make the graduation sustainable, the graduating LDC governments should put in place appropriate regulatory and institutional forces to make the most effective and strategic use of the relevant TRIPS provisions that include increasing efficiency, transparency, improving service quality of intellectual property institutions, reorganisation and strengthening of IP offices.

**The writer is a Corporate Legal Practitioner and works to promote IP rights.**

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## If Accord is doing more harm than good, why are we not speaking up?

Whenever there is any news on the Accord, we can almost sense the fierce debate between owners and workers about to follow. Yet, despite being the bridge between the two sides, mid-level executives like me are always left out of such conversations. It is a wonder that our opinions don't seem to matter; even if they do, not many of us are willing to come forward and share them.

**There is a common conception that all the good, compliant and green factories in Bangladesh exist because of the Accord.** The usual narrative is that, without such a pact, many factories would collapse or catch fire on a regular basis. **Although it is somewhat true, the opinion of the managerial people directly involved in implementing the “corrective action plans” wouldn't just vary—it would be the polar opposite.**

Hence it almost felt like a triumph when two years ago I read about a conference where the BGMEA's former president Rubana Huq clearly said the **conditions being imposed by the Accord were harming the apparel industry. I remember feeling delighted to see that someone was finally protesting publicly!**

**ACCORD**  
on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh

## If Accord is doing more harm than good, why are we not speaking up? Contd.

Among our small and scattered community of executives, it seemed almost too good to be true, given the Accord's extension earlier. It is evident that every factory, having the most skin in the game, is too wary of such one-sided regulations to support its stay any longer. So, how come none of them criticise its shortcomings openly? And, if the Accord was so unjustified, why did only one factory go to the court (Smart Jeans Ltd in Chattogram), while the rest did not?

**The prime reason has to be the reaction (or punishment?) from the brands. As I was reading numerous news on the new Accord formation, I couldn't help but notice that all the responses in opposition were "anonymous."**

I recall a piece where Mostafiz Uddin, managing director of Denim Expert Ltd, frankly admitted to being blacklisted by buyers for revealing their names after they didn't pay for orders in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. As the founder of Denim Expo as well as one of the most internationally acclaimed faces when it comes to sustainability, Mostafiz is surely not an easy target; yet, his business has taken the heat. Not many of the hundreds of his counterparts can claim to have similar or even remotely close footing in this trade.

**Since one's entire business falls at risk for objecting to the vile crime of non-payment with no protection whatsoever, criticising the Accord will not only hamper business, but also result in factories being tagged as "anti-compliance."**

The Accord did a lot of good. It stirred us in ways that we needed decades ago. Still, there were—and most certainly are—so many better and more thoughtful alternatives to achieve the same outcome. Accord is a legally binding agreement between trade unions and brands, but not us. Even its new form, the International Accord on Health and Safety in the Textile and Garment Industry, completely disregards the factories' involvement in policy making. So, if a garment manufacturer fails to comply with its requirements, however impractical or illogical they might be, the brand either cuts business ties with it or faces legal repercussions from the workers' unions. Our country's laws and local jurisdiction have not been taken into account. It is as if the buyers would play the role of a referee in a match where workers and the factory management fight each other,

## If Accord is doing more harm than good, why are we not speaking up? Contd.

This “policing” comes with unchecked power that giant brands have already been exerting over supply chains. We are not China, who can simply wipe off a brand (H&M) from its map for nonconformity. In Bangladesh, equal and opposite reaction doesn’t occur. So, unless you have nothing else to lose (like the factory who went to court), the best way to deal with it is to keep quiet.

It’s only understandable that questioning the Accord angers the workers’ representatives, who got a much needed but long forgotten role to play at the policy-making level through this. We all want safety at workplace, but not with the strings attached with the Accord. My father had joined the garment sector before I was born. I started working in a factory while I was still an undergraduate student. I survived Rana Plaza and its aftermath. As I have seen during my time in this trade, the fundamental issue that stops ensuring safer working environment is the absolute imbalance of power—not a few noncompliant owners at the helm.

We must first address that elephant in the room, and establish the buyers’ financial involvement in the production process. As for the safety and compliance concerns, international pressure, intense competition among suppliers, and authorities like the RMG Sustainability Council (RSC) will do more than just fine to address those issues.

Nurul Muktadir Bappy is chief operating officer at Panna Traders. He has nearly 10 years of experience in the textile and garment industry.

**This “policing” comes with unchecked power that giant brands have already been exerting over supply chains.**

## Podgorny calls for ‘speediest political settlement’

### YAHYA IN TEHRAN

Pakistan President Yahya Khan flew to Tehran today for a two-day visit, and was met at the Airport by the Shah of Iran. Informed sources said the two leaders were expected to discuss the Bangladesh crisis.

The Tehran Journal said the forthcoming 2500th anniversary celebrations of the Persian empire in October 1971 could provide a favourable opportunity to arrange a meeting between Yahya Khan and Indian leaders attending the celebration.

### PODGORNY-ZAHIR SHAH MEETING

Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny today called for the “speediest political settlement” in Bangladesh as a condition for preservation of peace in South Asia.

He was speaking at a kremlin banquet in honour of the visiting Afghan King, Muhammed Zahir Shah.

The Soviet president said, “An aggravation of the situation in the Asian subcontinent has taken place lately.” The problem of refugees, he observed, rose in connection with known events in Bangladesh.

King Zahir Shah in his reply to the Soviet president’s banquet speech, said, “In our opinion any use of military pressure for the solution of disputes leads to dangerous consequences. All differences should be resolved politically with due regard for the inalienable rights of people and nations...”



**Thank you !!**

