

## SSC RESULTS

The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examination is as much crucial in the life of the individual as it is in the collective life of the nation. On the result of the examinations, for which the student spends the major part of his formative years, depends his selection of profession and career planning with profound impact on the nation as a whole. Over half a million take the examination annually and the entire community get directly or indirectly involved.

There are four education boards in the country that conduct the examinations. The boards plan and schedule the examinations simultaneously and the results are also announced by all around the same time. These are routine affairs and we should have long since been able to work out proper system for holding the examinations and managing the subsequent rush of admission-seekers in colleges. But examinations and managing the subsequent rush of admission-seekers in colleges. But experience shows we lag far behind.

The process often suffers setback from leakages of question papers, unfair means adopted at the examination halls, faulty evaluation of the answer scripts and finally from lack of imagination in programming the announcement of the results. The standard of operation should have improved from year to year particularly in view of the availability of new technology, adoption of modern methods and also experience. But the records this year marks a depressing deterioration.

A total number of 692,741 students took the examination held in May this year. Of the four Boards, Dhaka has since announced the results. And that has been the occasion when mismanagement and confusion were at the peak.

It had been in the air that the results were ready and might be announced on Thursday. But a leading local daily reported that day on the authority of the Chairman of the Board that the result would not be published during the week. It also stated that the Chairman hinted that the result might be published sometime next week. The electronic media reported on the day, quoting an official handout, that the results would be announced the following day—Friday—and advised the candidates to get the results from their respective centres.

The results, all the same, were announced on the very evening and perhaps in the haste the inconveniences that the timing and the format could create were altogether ignored. The results were not walled up in the Board office as was the practice in the past. The result books used to be supplied to the newspapers by the noon for facilitating publication. But the press this time had the books quite in the evening and couldn't do justice.

There are quite a few aspects of the result itself that demand serious attention. The pass percentage of 78.36 is all time high, with profusion of stars and letters. The bulk of the successful candidates is in the first division and only a sprinkling in the third. It used to be just the reverse in the past. It is more pronounced in the science group where the pass percentage is as high as 90.21 with 49,081 in the first division and only 213 in the third division. The other remarkable feature is dislodgement of the celebrated institutions from dominating positions in result sheet. Many less known institutions has come up this time.

Whether these—the profusion of stars and performance of less-celebrated institutions—are indicative of any qualitative change in the standard of education needs to be assessed. While congratulating all the successful candidates we stress such confusions are avoided in announcing result of the other boards and the procedure for admission into colleges are streamlined well ahead of time.