

First class galore at DU department

Islamic Studies claims nothing wrong in the feat of 92 out of 107 students

DU CORRESPONDENT

As many as 92 of 107 students have secured first class in the examinations for master's in Islamic studies at Dhaka University, much to the surprise of the DU community.

The examination controller's office on Sunday published the results for batch A in 2005-06 session.

Batch B in the master's programme at the same department in same session too had an unusually high number of first classes. Their results, published last month, showed that 32 out of 36 students have achieved the top honours.

Batch A in four-year honours course previously achieved 64 first classes, the results of

which were published in 2008, said Assistant Prof Sheikh Md Yusuf, chairman of the internal examination committee.

There's no question of irregularities in publishing of the results, he added.

"A trend towards giving high marks has played a role in the success. There are five batches since the CGPA [Cumulative Grade Point Average] system has been introduced in the department, and the teachers usually give good marks in the grading system," he said.

Yusuf pointed out that the department has records where up to 90 percent first classes were given at master's level.

Talking to The Daily Star, DU Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said

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"The exam controller has informed me that they have followed all procedures in publishing the results. Still, I have asked him to look into the matter more closely."

Examination Controller Bahalul Haque Chowdhury said his committee did not find any irregularities in the process.

Earlier in 2006, controversy arose over a high number of first classes obtained by master's students in political science department.

In response to strong criticism, the authorities had an inquiry into the matter and took disciplinary measures against three teachers on the basis of probe findings.