

SSC results out in time *Stress on quality rather than quantity*

THE ministry of education must be complimented for publishing the results of the SSC examination in less than two months. We also congratulate the successful candidates and high achievers. Although nearly 87 percent pass percentage is not a bad performance at all, when compared to the previous two years, this year's SSC results are slightly poorer. And much of it could be attributed to the political situation prevailing during the exams, and rescheduling of the dates must have been upsetting for the candidates. We would hope that in future students would not be subjected to such trauma by any political party.

However, given that the pass number is still high we would like to emphasise more on the schools, the system of teaching and the system of exam to ensure quality rather than only quantity. Regrettably, that does not seem to be the case. And we cannot but take cognizance of the education minister's rather rueful comments that in future the ministry would be doing away with announcing the list of top schools and colleges. Instead of creating a healthy competition, this has led some of the schools to resort to unfair means just to feature in that list. We are shocked to see names of reputed institutions in the list of errant schools. We would hope that punitive actions would be taken against those schools that have resorted to malpractices.

While quality is one aspect that the education ministry should attend to immediately, it should also address the huge urban-rural gap in the quality of education which continues alarmingly.