

SSC, HSC grading modified

Higher studies shut to F-graders

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The Ministry of Education has upgraded the existing grading system to more accurately measure the aptitude of students in both the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations this year, a key ministry official said.

A notification to this end is expected on Saturday, sources said.

Introduced in the 2001 SSC exams, the grading system is likely to be introduced in the HSC Examinations this year.

The new grading system will have an additional letter grade of A- (minus). Unlike in the existing system, a student with an F (below pass mark) in any subject cannot enrol in higher studies. The highest grade point average (GPA) remained the same at 5.

He said the new system will have a difference of 20 marks from 80 to 100, putting students at A+. There will be a 10 marks difference in every letter grade after the A+ grade. Students will get letter grade A by securing marks between 79 and 70. A new category of A- will be introduced for stu-

dents obtaining marks between 69 and 60.

Grade B means a student has received marks between 59 and 51. Grade C between 50 and 41. Grade D between 40 and 33 and Grade F means below 32.

Students and guardians alike were confused about the modification of the grading system after erroneous reports by a section of newspapers.

The upgraded version aims at striking a symmetry by reducing the class difference of the present alphabetical grading system.

It may suggest inclusion of marks

for the fourth subject to determine the GPA. Currently, the result does not reflect the fourth subject marks, a competent source said.

The existing system has disheartened brilliant students and their parents who say it does not measure merits.

The ministry decided to upgrade the erroneous system following a set of recommendations including lowering of the difference between grades, application of different methods for different papers to assign marks and separate marking for two-paper subjects, sources in the ministry said.