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This year's HSC results make an interesting reading in a number of ways. The percentage of pass, in all four boards taken together, had slumped to a record low in 1983 at 37.87 but it improved remarkably the following year averaging 54.96. The trend has deteriorated slightly this year, with 51.42 per cent of candidates having been successful out of 1,80,227 who had appeared at the HSC examinations. Even so, having regard to the large pass figure of 1985 one can imagine the load that is passing on to the institutions of higher learning to take. Their total intake capacity is extremely limited, even though for a couple of years now have witnessed the practice of running more than one shift in a good number of degree colleges. We share the parents' concern about a very large number of students who did not fare all too well to gain any easy access to some reasonably good colleges, not to speak of being admitted into the highly coveted medical, engineering and agricultural institutions and the major universities.

With this unhappy prospect in mind we have a few suggestions to make in order that many of those who have passed do not fade into oblivion joining the growing ranks of frustrated young people. First, the institutions that usually have admission rushes need to find out if they have any leeway to accommodate more students by running extra shifts. This should not however mean undermining the criterion of selectivity. Second, the admission procedures have to be simple, direct and straightforward so that boys and girls can quickly get to know the results of their application. Time is of the essence here; no candidate for admission can afford to cling to a choice for too long without jeopardising his other alternative preferences. Just as the admission test dates of different institutions must not clash with one another, so should the timings of announcing decisions not work at a cross-purpose. Certainly this chaotic situation is never intended but this sometimes does happen—rather unwittingly. Be it remembered that the HSC level education was a good deal subsidised and it will be a sheer waste of public money to let any number of the boys and girls end up in a gutter.

Inevitably, therefore, we are led to echo the views of Mr. Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Minister for Education, Culture, Science and Technology. He said on Friday at the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research, Joydevpur, that the government wanted to make education science and technology oriented and planned to have technical and vocational schools along the line.

A new dimension to educational policy is underlined by the growing share of female incumbents for various positions. The current year's HSC results shed light on the fact that female candidates did well by accounting for a better percentage of pass compared with their male counterparts. Even though the number of girls who had appeared at the examinations was far smaller than that of boys (so that there is a variable in the evaluation), still their performance deserves praise. The male candidates had, however, done better at the SSC examination than the female ones. The HSC results therefore showed that girls have a propensity to doing better as they go along.