

## Laudable HSC results

### *Reduce the urban-rural gap*

**T**HE results of this year's HSC examinations published on Thursday are foremost a matter of pride. The success rate of the examinees rose to 72.47 percent this year, a jump of 6.63 points from the previous year. The number of students who obtained GPA 5 has also increased from 34,721 to 48,950. It has been said that the improvement has come about due to better results in English. What is very noticeable is the quantum jump in both the pass rate and the number of GPA obtained in Jessore Board.

However, we should also bear in mind possible room for improvement while lauding the students. While success rates are something to be proud of, our focus should be quality that is turned out each year from these institutions. It has also been observed that female students have done better in the examinations with a 75.60 percent pass rate, compared to the 73.93 for boys. This too needs attention to find out why boys are lagging behind.

Sadly, rural students continue to be outperformed by those from urban areas. This is almost certainly due to the shortage of teachers, lack of quality institutions, and proper library and lab facilities in those regions. This is an area that needs more attention and investment.

This year's decision to publish the marks obtained by the students alongside the letter grades is a laudable step. Now that a large number of candidates have passed out from colleges, the education authorities should address the pressing question of their admission in the next phase of their education. The general rush for public universities is not matched by the existing vacancies.