



Much Ado about Pass Rate

This year's SSC results have come as a pleasant surprise to most. One reason certainly has been the refreshing break from the past records. The ever-deteriorating pass rate in the last five or six years which sank to 26% last year makes a dramatic recovery. So, many felt relieved seeing this year's reasonably healthy pass rate of almost 50%, one of the best in the last 30 years. The feel-good factor has been, to a great extent, created and fanned by the government, and the pass rate has promptly been interpreted as a great achievement. But, we must not forget that our education system is badly battered and in need of a complete overhaul. If we fail to address the issues that ail this sector immediately, we would not be able to effect any lasting, qualitative improvement to our unhealthy, poor, and almost dysfunctional education system of the country.

Cover Photo: SK Enamul Haq
Cover Design: Manan Murshed

Letters	2
Voicebox	4
Chintito	5
Newsnote	6
Impressions	13
'Til the Pages Go Blank...	
A Roman Column	14
The Sonneteer of Padova	
Perspective	16
The Land of the Not So Free	
Event	19
Against Addiction	
Musings	20
B for Bangladeshi?	
Perceptions	22
"Baba/Ma, the World is a Horrible Place"	
Endeavour	23
The Stomach's trip to Japan	
Photo Story	24
Tampering with the Law of Nature	
Tribute	26
The Delightful Uncle: A Tribute to Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury	
Slice of Life	28
Dirty Dancing	
Time Out	29
The sailor returns	
Travel	30
Conquering Keokaradong	
Perception of Life among Urban Youths: Career Builders in their 20s	32
Exhibition	34
Everest Calling	
Vantage Point	36
Eternal Fascism	
Sci-tech	38
Dhaka Diary	41
Health	42
Jokes	43
Books	44
Book Review	44
New Flicks	46
Globetrotter	48