

Much Ado about

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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 percentage rate in the last 5 or 6 years which sank to 26% last year takes a flip this year. So, many felt relieved as they saw this year's reasonably healthy pass rate of almost 50%, the best in the last 30 years. The feel-good factor has been, to a great extent, created and fanned by the government, which promptly been interpreted as a great achievement. Percentage-wise the SSC results are certainly an achievement.

In the last couple of years cheating in the public examinations became the focus of the concerned authorities as well as the media. The education ministry seems to have oriented its efforts solely around this issue. In his desperate attempt to make an impression to change the country's deplorable standard of education, Ehsanul Haque Milon, the state minister of education, declared a jihad of sorts against cheating during examinations. He was somehow convinced that the main obstacles or rather the principal reason for today's declining education standard is cheating. His mission of eradicating cheating resulted in some improvement in the last examinations, the number of expelled cases is a proof of this. The 50 per cent pass rate is being claimed as a direct consequence of stringent

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