

# Higher edn dealt big blow

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of teachers are now on education and other leaves, said UGC officials.

'If you deduct the teachers on leave, the ratio will be higher,' said a UGC official.

Against this backdrop, the admission tests of public universities will be held in between September 14 November 5.

Universities are set to take in 47,000 students this year and public universities are most coveted by the admission seekers, according to UGC officials.

Public university vice-chancellors' association Bangladesh Bishwabidyalay Parishad president Professor Harun -Or-Rashid

said that students were victim of teacher shortage.

'Quality education is compromised at the universities facing shortage of teacher,' said Professor Harun, vice-chancellor of Patuakhali Science and Technology University.

He said that finding qualified teachers was a problem for the comparatively new universities in outlying districts.

He said that many teachers join these universities but they later move to others universities in the cities within a very short time.

The UGC chairman also echoed Harun saying they were putting emphasis on increasing the number of teach-

ers at public universities.

'We have recommended deputation of teachers to the new universities and appointment of retired teachers at universities on a contract basis,' Abdul Mannan said.

Universities with more faculties and staffers per student have a good chance of creating an engaged and interactive teaching environment as well as quality teaching in classrooms, academics say.

The observations have been mirrored in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018. The ranking shows that University of Oxford [of United Kingdom] topped the ranking with student-

to-staff ratio at 1:11.2.

Student-to-staff ratio for the second ranking University of Cambridge [United Kingdom] is 1:10.9 while the third ranking California Institute of Technology [United States] as TSR at 6:5, the forth ranking Stanford University [United States] has it at 1:7.5 and the fifth ranking Massachusetts Institute of Technology [United States] has it at 1:8.7.

Among the Asian Universities, the ratio for University of Tokyo of Japan is 6.7, Seoul National University of South Korea 12.6, University of Science and Technology of China 8.2, Indian Institute of Science 8.4 and University of Malaya of Malaysia 10.9.

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