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Reform proposals include July quota

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The proposed reforms to the guideline for the current year's college admission that the education boards have submitted to the education ministry contain quotas for the July uprising victims.

The proposed reforms also recommend that colleges should start calling for applications for admission on July 26 or July 30, and should start classes from September 30.



A draft of the guideline was submitted to the education ministry on Sunday, said officials concerned.

Earlier on July 10, the results of this year's Secondary School Certificate and its equivalent examinations were published.

The combined pass rate, 68.45 per cent, has recorded its lowest in 16 years. The number of students securing the grade point average of 5 has also dropped.

According to the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka, each year the nine general, one madrassah and one technical boards jointly prepare a common guideline for admission in Class XI.

Board officials said that usually the guidelines remained mostly unchanged.

The guideline generally have provisions, including on eligibility for admission, selecting the groups, quota, online admission, admission advertisement, procedure and fees, publishing results, starting of classes, changing college and ban on admission on some certain educational institutions without approvals.

As per the 2024 guideline, in cases of admission 93 per cent seats will open for all.

The 2024 guideline keeps 1 per cent quota reserved for the children of the officers and employees of the education ministry and another 1 percent for the children of the officers and employees of different departments or agencies under the ministry at the educational institutions in metropolitan, divisional and district sadars.

Furthermore, it keeps 5 per cent quota reversed for the children of the freedom fighters or children of the children of the freedom fighters.

One of the college inspectors of Dhaka Board, seeking anonymity, said that proposals were given for calling applications by the colleges on July 26 or July 30 and starting classes from September 30.

‘We kept a common column for quota where we have proposed that the ministry can take decision on quota for the victims of the July mass uprising,’ he said, adding, ‘We cannot give clear opinion on sensitive issues like this.’

He further said that they had sent the draft to the ministry on Sunday.

The July mass uprising that ousted the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League regime on August 5, 2024, initiated by an anti-quota movement where the students demanded rational reform of the quota system in the government jobs.

Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee chief Professor Khondokar Ehsanul Kabir, also the chairman of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka, however, said that they did not give any proposal on any quota.

‘We have proposed reforms for the guidelines this year,’ he said, adding, ‘the policy level will take decision which quota will remain and which not.’

This year, 19,04,086 students appeared in the SSC and equivalent examinations from 30,088 institutions under 11 education boards, while 13,03,426 examinees passed.

The available seats for the students of Class XI in different educational institutions under the 11 education boards was 26,58,731 in the 2024–25 academic year.

Professor Md Rezaul Haque, inspector of colleges under the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka, said that this year around 13.55 lakh seats in the colleges and equivalents institutions would remain vacant.

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