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THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER

তারিখ ... 12 MAY 1997 ...  
 পৃষ্ঠা ৭ ... কলাম ৬ ...

## HSC pass percentage low

# 30,000 seats at degree level to remain vacant

Shariful Islam

About 30 thousand seats in different degree level educational institutions will remain vacant this year due to low percentage of pass in the HSC examinations of 1996.

The number of successful candidates in the HSC examinations held under all the five education boards in the country last year was 1,27,504. But as per data available from the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS), the total enrolment capacity of all the government and private degree level institutions was 1,56,500 in 1995.

This statistics show that at least

28,995 seats may remain vacant. Besides, a large number of students go abroad every year for degree level studies, an official of the Ministry of Education said. He, however, failed to give the exact number of such students going abroad every year.

According to the BANBEIS, there are 221 government and 391 non-government degree colleges in the country with an enrolment capacity of 1,35,000.

The nine government-run universities and the private universities have a total of 18,000 seats and the thirteen government-run medical col-

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## HSC

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leges together with some private ones accommodate a total number of 2000 students.

Besides, Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Institute of Glass and Ceramics, Institute of Leather Technology, Institute of Textile, Institute of Marine Engineering and all the agricultural colleges have a total intake capacity of 1500.

On the other hand, all the government-run universities including Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), medical colleges, BIT, agriculture colleges and all the honours level colleges have a total of 36,000 seats. Only 25,857 students secured first division in the last year's HSC examinations so the students who obtained second division, might get chance in the above mentioned institutions which was just a dream for the last few years.

This year the non-government and private degree level educational institutions are likely to face terrible problems due to the low percentage of pass in the HSC examinations of 1996. The government-run and autonomous institutions have enough intake capacity for the students who passed HSC examinations last year. The government passed the Private University Bill in 1992. Since then many private universities and medical colleges have been set up keeping pace with the high percentage of pass in the SSC and HSC examinations for the last few years. It may be mentioned that the private universities and medical colleges are fully dependent on the tuition fees of the students.

In 1995 a record number of 2,17,546 students came out successful from the five education boards and about 63,000 students failed to qualify for admission in the degree level educational institutions of the country.