

# Can HSC passouts be absorbed

## Times Report

With the announcement of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination results on October 18, another 148,578 students have qualified for higher education.

The question that one would naturally ask is, does there ex-

ist adequate facilities to accommodate such a big number of HSC passouts every year. Would the annual admission rush to the preferred institutions of higher learning continue to mount?

Its one considers an HSC passout who has at least se-

cured a Second Division to be qualified to prosecute higher studies at the universities, medical and engineering colleges. The number at such candidates this year stands at 96,424 taking the First and Second Division holders together.

The available statistics show

that the six universities, nine medical colleges, four engineering colleges, the "university colleges" and some government colleges which offer Honours courses at the Degree level can together accommodate around 25,000 students in a single session.

The results show that the number of First Division holders stands at 13,508 this year. So the preferred seats of higher education can accommodate another 12,000 students from amongst those who secured Second Division. Even then about 71 thousand Second Division holders would roam about the corridors of the universities and preferred colleges only to find the doors barred for them.

Having been able to correctly foresee the situation, the University Grants Commission (UGC) is urging the government since 1974 to open more universities in the country, keeping in view the growing demand for higher education in an independent country.

Of late the government has taken a number of measures in this direction, but those are yet to yield adequate results. The Government has decided to turn the Sylhet Government College into a university and set up another university in Khulna Division. The Islamic University set up by late Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani is also being expanded gradually to turn it into a full-fledged university. The impact of these measures in reducing pressure of admission seekers has, however, been very meagre. A site is yet to be selected for the proposed university in Khulna Division. The decision to turn the Sylhet Government College into a university is yet to bear fruit. The problem runs the risk of getting aggravated further if the medical colleges fail to admit freshers this year although the turning of the four engineering colleges into autonomous institutes of technology early this year was expected to ease the situation to some extent. These institutes of technology situated at Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi are expected to run smoothly and take in freshers on a regular basis.

Probably it is high time that the authorities concerned give due attention to the problem with a view to solving it with some advance planning. After all the students who are to shoulder the responsibility of running the country cannot be allowed to get frustrated en masse.

One thing that most guardians ask about every year is the logic behind announcement of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations simultaneously by the Ministry of Education. This practice is on since 1983. What is the use of the centralisation of this function of the educa-