

Admission seekers will face tough contest

Public varsities seat capacity not raised

A large number of students with brilliant results like GPA-5 in the HSC examinations will be denied admission to their 'first-choice' public universities and medical colleges as their number is much more than the number of seats in those institutions, reports BSS.

Many students with good results do not go for higher

education because seat capacity of quality public universities is limited and new ones are not being set up to accommodate the increasing number of good result achievers in HSC examinations.

Only two new public universities were established in the last four years while HSC pass rate increased by around

13 percent during the period.

Besides, the number of GPA-5 holders rose four times since 2005. The University Grants Commission's (UGC) 20-year (2006-2026) strategic plan for higher education suggested for establishment of at least 28 new universities in the country.

At present, 1,800 colleges (See Back Page Col. 7)

Admission

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affiliated with the National University (NU), especially those in rural areas, do not get sufficient students' because of their poor education quality and outdated curricula, academics pointed out.

A total of 4,42,389 students passed HSC examinations and its equivalent examinations this year with the pass rate being 72.78 and 20,136 getting GPA-5.

A tough competition naturally awaits aspirants for admission to all public universities, especially Dhaka University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), 15 public medical colleges and some other leading public universities.

UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam said the number of seats in universities will have to be increased as the number of HSC passed students is rising.

"No doubt, time has come to take steps for this. But we have to maintain the quality of education. Otherwise, the purpose of higher education will be defeated," he said.

He suggested introducing double shift or evening shift in public universities and renowned private universities to meet the present crisis.

Renowned academic Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury said some reputed colleges should be upgraded into universities

by providing required facilities.

Former DU VC Prof Moniruzzaman Miah, "Students even getting GPA-5 may have to get admitted to second-choice universities as the number of seats in reputed public universities is very limited."

Whereas most of the NU-affiliated colleges in the rural areas will not get sufficient students, because many of them are not willing to study there."

He mentioned that most of the HSC-passed students will not go for higher studies mainly due to their involvement in professional work, financial inability, marriage of girl students, uncertainty about future, taking active part in politics and a host of other factors.

Public universities including DU, BUET, Jahangirnagar University (JU), Chittagong University, Rajshahi University (RU), Khulna University, public medical colleges, Dental colleges, Leather Technology College and Bangladesh Textile Technology College have only 20,000 seats.

Of these, 885 seats are in BUET, around 4,500 in DU, around 1,350 in JU and 2,500 in public medical colleges, sources mentioned.

But, the authorities do not yet have plans to increase the number of seats.