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Unified admission test for all univs from next year

Staff Correspondent | Updated at 12:39am on March 21, 2023



The University Grants Commission holds a meeting at its office on Monday over introducing a unified test for admission for all public and private universities from the next academic session. — Press release

A unified test for admission will be introduced in next academic session in all public and private universities, authorities said on Monday.

Following the combined test, a national score will be prepared by a proposed National Testing Authority under the education ministry, said officials of the University Grants Commission after a meeting held at its office.

The decision was taken when the cluster-based admission system for public universities was in tatters four years after its introduction, as some universities wished to leave the process, citing major difficulties in the admission procedure.

At the UGC meeting, a decision was also made that this year in 2022-2023 academic session all 22 universities under the cluster for general and science and technology public universities would take a combined admission test.

The authorities of the Islamic University in Kushtia decided on Sunday at the 125th academic council meeting not to participate in the test.

UGC chairman Kazi Shahidullah chaired the meeting on Monday, where its members Dil Afroza Begum, Muhammed Alamgir, Biswajit Chanda, and Md Abu Taher, were present. UGC secretary Ferdous Zaman and vice-chancellors of 17 universities in different clusters were also present.

UGC member Alamgir told New Age that the decision regarding the unified admission test at all universities was taken at a meeting held by the education ministry on February 27.

Abu Taher said that a law would be enacted to form a National Testing Authority under the ministry to implement the decision.

The authorities would hold the combined admission test for all admission seekers to all public and private universities, including general and professional ones, like medical and engineering, he said.

The commission would make a model for the overall procedure for the unified test, including the law and the authority, he added.

Dhaka University vice-chancellor Md Akhtaruzzaman told New Age on Monday that they would decide the matter at the academic council at an appropriate time.

In 2010, the education ministry decided in principle to lower the number of admission tests by taking one test for a cluster of universities to help cut down on the spending of admission seekers, reduce the burden on students, and put a curb on the coaching centre business.

On February 26, 2020, the UGC declared that 34 public universities would hold admission tests in clusters as the five major public universities — Dhaka University, Chittagong University, Rajshahi University, Jahangirnagar University, and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology —decided not to join the process.

Currently, 32 universities are taking admission tests in three clusters – one for 22 general and science and technology universities, another for seven agricultural universities, and three engineering universities.

Seven agricultural universities held admission tests under the cluster system for the first time in the 2019-20 academic year.

In the 2020–21 and 2021–22 sessions, the universities in all three clusters held admission tests under the unified system.

This year, in the 2022–23 session, all three clusters will hold the unified test, said UGC member Alamgir.

Currently, out of a total of 53 public universities, academic activities are going on in 47 of them, according to the commission.



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