

## 23000 seats to remain vacant in degree colleges this year

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Over 23 thousand seats in different degree and honours level educational institutions of the country will remain vacant this year creating enormous enrolment trouble for the non-government degree colleges.

The latest statistics available from different sources show, the total enrolment capacity of all the government and non-government degree and honours level educational institutions is 2,43,000 but the number of candidates passed the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination held under all the five

education boards is 2,20,748. So at least 23,052 seats at these institutions will remain vacant because the students passed the HSC examination this year are 23 thousand less than the actual enrolment capacity of the degree and honours level educational institutions.

According to the government rules a non-government degree college with complete intermediate must have 450 students in both urban and rural areas and with incomplete intermediate 350 in urban and 300 in rural areas. But due to lack of

students the inferior degree colleges will not be able to fulfil this criterion as the students will pursue their education in the better institutions. Education Ministry sources said.

"The colleges dependent on the tuition fees of the students for income will face financial crisis," the sources said and added if a proper academic supervision is conducted many colleges will lose their permission to teach degree level education.

"The condition of some of the private universities and medical col-

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DND's threat

## 23000 seats

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leges would be worse because their total income is fully dependent on the tuition fees of the students," it observed.

According to the latest statistics of Bangladesh Bureau of Education Information and Statistics (BAN-BEIS), there are 224 government and 543 non-government degree and honours colleges across the country having a total intake capacity of 2,23,500 students in a session. The statistics of University Grants Commission (UGC) shows that the enrolment capacity of all the public and private universities including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Agri-University, is 16,000.

Besides, 13 government medical colleges together with a number of private ones can accommodate 2,500 students while Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Institute of Glass and Ceramics, Institute of Leather Technology, Institute of Textile, Institute of Marine Engineering and all the agriculture colleges have 1800 seats.

An official at the Ministry of education told the Bangladesh observer that the number of vacant seat may go high because a large number of students go abroad every year to take higher education. He, however, failed to give the exact number of such students going abroad every year.

On the other hand, about 10 thousand students who secured first division will be deprived of getting chance in the quality educational institutions. All the government-run universities, medical colleges, BITs, agriculture colleges and all the honours level colleges have a total of 37,000 seats. But the students secured first division in this year's HSC examination under all the five education boards are 46,999.