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# Demand outstrips seats in schools

By A Staff Reporter

Test for admission into government girls schools and most of the private schools was held on Sunday. According to a decision of the Education Ministry test for admission to city boys schools will be held today (Monday). The number of admission seekers was several times higher than the seats available for admission this year, according to reports from different schools. Due to keen competition in

getting admission into city schools the guardians with their school-aged children were forced to pass their days in anxiety. According to official statistics, there are 70 boys high schools and 35 girls high schools in Dhaka Municipal area with a population of about 40 lakh. The Municipal Corporation runs about 350 government primary schools. With the wider gap between the number of available seats

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in city schools and the number of admission seekers, the school authorities are facing difficulties in selecting candidates through a fair competition. The school authorities are to face pressure from the influential quarters while the guar-

dians with no such influence face uncertainty, according to some guardians. However some private schools followed their own system in selecting candidates bypassing instructions from the Education Department. According to reports, the Holy Cross Schools reserved quota for the Christian girls and the sisters of enrolled students. Less than 50 per cent of the 100 seats in Class one was filled up through lottery on Sunday. When contacted over telephone, the Assistant Headmistress of the school refused to talk to this reporter. She said she was not supposed to speak on official matters from her residence in the night. The authorities of Vigarunisa Noon School conducted a four-day admission test for selecting candidates in the morning shift. They are also conducting another three-day test in groups to select students for class-I in the day shift. About 12 hundred girls are appearing for the test for 300 seats in two shifts. Guardian of a candidate complaint that the school authorities refused her fourth daughter to get admission though three of her daughters were reading in the same school. Talking to this reporter, the District Education Officer said that according to provision, the schools were allowed to admit 40 to 45 students in each section. But the private schools generally overtake the provision. Guardians of the students strongly felt it necessary to increase the number of schools in the city and increase the capacity of the existing schools by creating additional facilities.