

# Higher studies elude thousands of students

3.5 lakh seats available for over 4.42 lakh HSC passed this year

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A large number of successful HSC examinees, even some GPA-5 scorers, would be denied admission at their desired institutions for higher studies as the number of passed students is much higher than vacant seats.

Though the number of GPA-5 scorers dropped this year, the students would face a tough challenge during admission to the quality public universities and medical colleges because of limited seats.

On the other hand, most of the colleges affiliated with the National University, especially those in the rural areas, don't get enough students because of poor quality education and outdated curricula.

The students and their guardians have expressed grave concerns over admission to the desired and quality institutions.

According to the government statistics, around 1,700 educational institutions, including public or private universities and medical colleges, and honours and degree colleges, have the capacity to receive around 3.5 lakh students.

As about 4.42 lakh students passed the HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate) and equivalent exams this year, about 0.92 lakh students are going to be deprived of higher education.

As many as 20,136 students under the 10 education boards secured GPA (Grade Point Average)-5. But the number of seats at 31 public universities is around 20,000, while the public medical colleges can accommodate another 2,500 students.

So, a tough competition awaits the admission seekers willing to enrol at the public universities and medical colleges, especially

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## Higher studies

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Dhaka University (DU), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) and Dhaka Medical College.

The situation of the science group students is relatively worse. This year, 66,815 students from science group passed the exams to vie for only 25,500 seats for science related subjects in the public and private universities.

As a result, a large number of them would be forced to switch over to commerce or humanities groups.

Speaking on the issue, University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam said though four new universities were recently established, seats will have to be increased as the number of HSC passed students is increasing.

He put emphasis on vocational and trade-based education which is also in the recommendation of the National Education Policy Formulation Committee, saying everybody doesn't need to study in the general education.

The public universities including Buet, DU, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Khulna University and Chittagong University, public medical colleges, dental colleges, Leather Technology College and Bangladesh Textile Technology College have around 25,000 seats.

Of these, Buet has 885 seats, DU around 4,500, JU around 1,350 and the public medical colleges have 2,500 seats, sources say.

On the other hand, the private universities may accommodate around 18,000 students.

Taking advantage of this situation, coaching centres have mushroomed in the capital and other divisional headquarters with hollow promises of ensuring high scores in the admission tests.

Due to admission problems at home and various other factors, many of the HSC passed students intend to study in foreign universities, especially in the US, the UK, Canada, Malaysia, India and different countries of the European Union.