

Confusion over enrolment capacity in colleges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Confusion over the enrolment capacity of colleges in the country reigns as the education ministry and other research institutes gave different figures of the capacity.

The issue of enrolment capacity came to a head after a record number of students passed SSC examinations this year. As a result, many of them may not get admitted to the colleges of their choice because of shortage of seats.

According to the education ministry, around 16 lakh seats are available in colleges while Bangladesh Bureau of Education and Information and Statistics (Banbeis) and other research bodies said less than six lakh students can enrol in colleges, although around 7.26 lakh students became successful this year.

The ministry gave the figure at a press conference yesterday.

However, Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman said a meeting with the officials of the education ministry, Banbeis, education boards and others organisations concerned will be held within next few days to remove the confusion.

All the data on enrolment capacity in colleges will be scrutinised in the meeting, he added.

He also said that every successful SSC candidates will enrol in colleges but many students having GPA 5 may not get admitted in colleges of their first choice as seats in renowned colleges is limited.

The adviser also said that the ministry has requested the 'Class-A' colleges to introduce double shifts or increase seats if they have sufficient facilities.

"We just held a meeting with the principals of renowned colleges. At the meeting, we requested them to increase seats or introduce double shifts if they can. We are ready to provide all facilities to this end," Zillur told reporters.

He, however, said the ministry would not create any pressure on colleges to introduce double shifts.

The education adviser pointed out that there are a total of 3,192 general colleges, 2,842 madrasas and 1,453 vocational colleges in the country.

Among the successful SSC candidates, a total of 52,500 secured GPA-5 and around 1.90 lakh students got GPA-4 or above.