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COLLEGE ADMISSION

Students in for tough competition

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MANY students scoring the highest grade point average of 5 in this year's secondary school certificate and equivalent examinations and willing to take admission to renowned colleges in the capital Dhaka would not get seats in the institutions because of seat limitations.

The process for admission to higher secondary colleges, which began on Saturday, will enrol students based on their secondary exams results. Colleges with more than 500 seats will need to complete the admission process online.

The Notre Dame College principal, Hemanta Peus Rosario, told New Age that admission to colleges with an increase in the number of top grade scorers will be difficult. 'Good' students usually try to take admission to renowned colleges and it results in pressure on the institutions.'

The education minister, Nurul Islam Nahid, said that there would be no shortage of seats but the students would face a tough competition for enrolment on renowned institutions.

'There will be no shortage of seat in colleges for students who passed the SSC this year. More than one lakh seats will rather remain vacant in colleges across the country. But this is also reality that all students will not

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get a place in renowned colleges,' he said.

Results of the Secondary School Certificate and equivalent examinations published on May 9 with the combined pass percentage of 89.03 marked a significant improvement on the results of past years.

A total of 11, 54,778 students passed out of 12,97,034 students who took the SSC and equivalent examinations under eight general education boards, the Technical Education Board and the Madrassah Education Board.

The number of students who scored the highest grade point average of 5 this year is 91,226. Another 2,20,334 students passed with their scores in the range of GPA 4 this year.

A total of 77,381 students scored GPA 5 under the eight general boards — 26,390 students under the Dhaka board, 12,203 under the Rajshahi board, 9,086 under the Jessore board, 8,186 under the Dinajpur board, 7,855 under the Comilla board, 7,358 under the Chittagong board, 3,514 under the Barisal board, 2,789 under the Sylhet board.

Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education officials said that there were about 20,000 seats in the 20 renowned colleges in the capital Dhaka.

Of the renowned institutions, Rajuk Uttara Model College has 1,200 seats, Notre Dame College 2,400 seats, Dhaka City college 2,550 seats, Dhaka College 1,100 seats, Viqarunnisa Noon School and College 1,250 seats, Ideal School and College 1,550 seats, Holy Cross College 1,000 seats, Dhaka Commerce College 2,400 seats, Dhaka Residential Model College 700 seats and National Ideal School and College 600 seats.

Students will also hunt for seats in the Government Science College, Badrunnesa College, Lalmatia Girls' College, BAF Shaheen College and Rifles Public School and College.

The Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics said that there are 210 public and private colleges in the Dhaka district, having 81,078 students in Class XI and XII.

Students having good secondary exams results and their guardians are passing their days in anxiety about admission to colleges of their choice.

'I am worried about my daughter's admission. As city colleges have a limited number of seats, I am certain she will find it hard,' Mohammad Jahangir Hossain, father of an admission seeker, said.

Along with Dhaka-based students having GPA 5, many other meritorious students from outside the capital are expected to come to study higher secondary courses in the capital.

Students of science group will, moreover, face tougher competition for admission as most of the GPA 5 scorers are from this group. Of the 77,381 students who scored GPA 5 under the eight general boards, 61,275 are science students; the figure is 13,648 in business studies and 24,58 in humanities.

Saurabh Ahmed, a GPA 5 scorer from with science group, from Mohammapur, said that he was anxious about taking admission to any of Notre Dame College and Dhaka College which are institutions of his choice. 'It is frustrating if we do not have scopes for enrolment on reputed colleges even after scoring the highest grade point average,' he said.

Against this backdrop, the process for admission to higher secondary colleges began on Saturday.

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education director general, Fahima Khatun, told New Age that distribution of admission forms began a major portion of the colleges were following online admission process, she added.

Students will be allowed to submit the forms till June 6. The colleges will publish the list of the selected candidates on June 17. The students can enrol on colleges by June 30 and classes of Class XI students will begin on July 1.

The price of the admission form is set at Tk 120. According to the admission guideline, 90 per cent of the seats in colleges in divisional and district headquarters will remain open for all eligible students.

Of the remaining 10 per cent seats, 3 per cent would be reserved for students from outside the division and the district, 5 per cent for freedom fighter's children or grand-children and 2 per cent for children of officials and employees of the education ministry and institutions under the mini

The guideline said regardless of the policy, dents of any institution fering both the secon y and higher secondary education would get priority in admission to their own institution. Coeducation colleges in backward areas will be allowed to reserve 10 per cent of the seats for girls.

Fahima said that there would be a tough competition among admission seekers with good results. 'We are trying to increase the number of quality educational institutions,' she said. 'There are many institutes outside Dhaka where students who obtained GPA 5 can enrol.'