

Irrational regulation for HSC admission seekers

Staff Correspondent

Admission seekers having Golden GPA or GPA 5 in their Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations are facing a peculiar problem in getting enrolled into "better" colleges in the city as the government has directed the college authorities to admit students on the basis of age factor.

This is not wise on the part of the government to impose such an irrational regulation for admission

into the HSC level on the basis of age factor, lamented the guardians while waiting to know about the fates of their wards at St. Joseph School & College compound on Friday morning.

"Even after obtaining Golden GPA, my son has been disqualified for the admission into Notre Dame College for being junior to his competitors in terms of age. This is very sad!" lamented an ag-

grieved government official to The Bangladesh Observer.

On condition of anonymity, the Principal of a leading college in the city told this correspondent that they had nothing to do but to comply with the government's directives, whether they liked those or not.

"Say for example, we have been directed to enroll only 10 percent (See page 15 Col. 6)

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of the students from outside Dhaka and 90 percent from the city, which is a sheer discriminatory approach of the government towards the rural or semi-rural students and violation of human rights. We have not liked this, but we have nothing to do," the Principal said.

This year (2006), 61.35 percent students passed the SSC examinations under Dhaka Education Board, which was 52.85 percent in 2005, 43.30 percent in 2004, 40.04 percent in 2003 and 43.80 percent in 2002.

This high pass rate under Dhaka Board and only 10 percent admission quota for the students from periphery imply that a good number of "mufassil" students would not be able to enroll into better colleges in the city this year.

At the overwhelming pass records in this year's SSC examinations, some guardians remarked that it was nothing but a stunt of the government ahead of the national elections. "We never heard about politics implicating education!" a guardian wondered.

Asked how this could happen, they quoted examiners saying that the government had "verbally" directed the school authorities to give 15 grace marks for each subject in the SSC exams, which caused such a high pass rate this year (average 62.22 percent of nine education boards).

And the government asked the school authorities to do so with an objective to show the nation the "differences" between "cheating" and "cheating-free" public examinations.