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British HC launches new system for student visa

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British High Commission has launched a new visa system titled electronic documents checking service (E. DoCS) to help genuine students to get visas easily and speedily.

In the new system any interested student could submit his or her application with a fee of only seven pounds for certifying the documents as the British Education Councillor who would sit at his British Council office would give a decision within four days of seeking visa.

Disclosing this to a group of journalists at a Press briefing on Wednesday, First Secretary, immigration of the British High Commission Michael John Holloway said once the documents are certified by E. DoCS, a student would be eligible to apply for visa via 'student fast track service' offered by the British High Commission.

The new package system has been launched in view of the growing demand for students visas which represented the biggest increase in 2002, he said adding that visa applications for students rose by 85 per cent in comparison with the previous year.

Michael John Holloway who is also the head of the immigration section said, 4,660 Bangladeshi students applied for studying in British Colleges and Universities last year. Of them 50 per cent were granted visas. He said fifty to sixty per cent visa applicants were getting visa everyday from the immigration section.

Kristian Shapless, head of the Press and Public Affairs section of the High Commission was present during the Press briefing.

The head of the immigration section noted with dissatisfaction that most of the Bangladeshi students were found less proficient in English and incapable of adjusting themselves with the courses in the UK.

While the journalists visiting the visa section, a visa Councillor said they detected one visa applicant who submitted educational certificates, which were found fake.