

29 PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Admission in a shambles

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Aspirations for higher education, it seems, are not going to be realised any time soon.

Thanks to the ongoing political unrest and back-to-back hartals and blockades, 15 of the 33 public universities could not hold admission tests for the 2013-14 academic session.

Twelve of them held the tests, but could not complete the post-test admission procedures.

Students aspiring for admission to Bangladesh Agriculture University, Mymensingh, have been the lucky ones since the admission process there has been completed. Their classes will start on January 8.

The Chittagong University authorities have completed the tests for six out of eight units. The exams for the other two, after being rescheduled four times, are now scheduled for today, according to the university website. However, the subject nomination stage is yet to be completed for some of the units.

The other four universities, one of which has held the tests, are yet to finish the admission process.

Thousands of other aspirants who have taken the admission test at one or more universities, and the ones who have applied but are yet to take the tests, are suffering from a great deal of anxiety.

The public universities, which can

accommodate around 50,000 new faces, usually hold admission tests between November and December and start taking classes in January. But the current political situation has forced some universities to leave the tests for next January.

The authorities fear that if the situation does not change, it would plunge into a severe crisis many universities that are already troubled with varying levels of session jams.

Admission seekers say they are very uncertain about the tests and utterly frustrated. They would be in a serious problem if the admission tests are held in quick succession.

"We usually get a few days between

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the tests at two universities at some distance from each other," said Mohammad Mohiuddin, an admission seeker who bought forms for four universities.

Dhaka University has already completed admission tests for five units in November, but the viva could not be finished due to the blockades.

Jagannath University held the admission tests, but could not start interviewing the successful students.

The Rajshahi University authorities had changed the date for its admission tests four times. The tests for different units will now be held on January 10-14.

Jahangirnagar University has postponed admission tests for the honours programmes indefinitely, the reasons for which were political unrest and teachers' movement. The tests were rescheduled for December 17-29.

Barisal University held the admission tests on the public holiday yesterday.

Admission tests in Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University in Dhaka were suspended twice. The authorities are yet to announce a fresh date.

Khulna University, Comilla University, Islamic University, Begum Rokeya

University and Sylhet Agricultural University had to postpone the exams due to "unavoidable reasons", as cited on their websites.

Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Noakhali Science and Technology University, Pabna University of Science and Technology, and Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University could not hold the tests either.

Admission tests in Jessore Science and Technology University and Shahjalal University of Science and Technology are yet to be held together under a cluster system.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh Textile University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University and Iatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University have completed the tests. But the entire admission process is yet to be finished.