

HSC admission in a shambles

Students suffer as flawed system triggers trouble

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UU Laboratory College, an institution in Uttara's Azampur, took approval from the authorities around six years ago, but never enrolled any student. As a matter of fact, the institution has never initiated its academic activities at all.

That, however, did not deter the authorities to select at least 52 students for admission to this college.

So the students rushed there but to their utter dismay, what they found there was a private university instead.

This is one of the many bizarre steps the Dhaka

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Education Board took this year in selecting colleges for students, leaving them as well as their guardians at the end of their tether.

Then there are those whose names simply have not appeared in the first merit list.

Classes began at colleges across the country yesterday amid this situation with many students suffering from such problems and most of the institutions not being able to complete the admission process yet.

Like on Tuesday, many students gathered before the Dhaka Education Board office in the capital's Bakshibazar yesterday. Accompanied by their parents, they lodged complaints to the board officials who assured them of a solution.

Many of them said they were not sure if they wanted to get admitted into the college as selected by the board.

Some even claimed they were selected for institutions that they did not put in their choices.

"I gave BAF Shaheen College as my first choice. But to my utter surprise, I was selected for Abdul Jabbar College. I came here to complain," said Limon, a student.

Contacted, the board officials said they are trying to solve the problems as soon as possible.

The government for the first time this year initiated online admission to all colleges. It also decided that the boards would publish a list of the students, specifying the colleges where they are to be enrolled.

But due to a lack of preparation on the government's part, the entire system turned out to be nightmare for more than 11 lakh students and their parents.

Finally, the ministry early Monday published the first merit list with names of over 10.93 lakh students for admission into class XI at different colleges.

In the first list, the ministry failed to incorporate over 62,000 students for any college.

Mohammad Jahangir, whose son's name did not appear in the list, rushed to the board office for two consecutive days, but is yet to get any solution.

"The officials said that another merit list would be published on July 6, but they could not assure whether my son's name would be there in that list," he told The Daily Star.

"My son studied at Adamjee Cantonment Public School and we want him to continue his studies there. But his name was not in the list," Jahangir said.

He feared his son might be selected

for a college far away from their house.

With every passing day, new complexities are surfacing prolonging students' sufferings further.

Take, for example, the case of the 200 students of commerce group that the board has selected for Government Science College in Tejgaon, a college which is well-known for science education.

There are no specific teachers for the commerce faculty in this college, said teachers of the college.

The college, however, admitted the commerce students yesterday, complying with the board order.

Contacted, Habibur Rahman, principal of the college, said it would not be a big problem for them.

"Commerce students were enrolled here till 2009. Over the last two or three years, however, none sought admission here in this faculty. The government this time thought commerce students should also study here," he said.

Sources, however, said the college enrolled the students only after its authorities were assured by the board that they would get commerce teachers soon.

Like many other institutions, this college too has started its classes though it is yet to complete the admission process. "We hope to complete the admission process tomorrow [today]," said the principal.