

ADMISSION TO RENOWNED COLLEGES

New rules frustrate brilliants

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Many of the highest grade point GPA-5 achievers were deprived of admission to renowned government colleges this year due to new rules introduced by the education ministry.

The new rules (sub-clause 6 of clause 4 of the HSC admission policy 2006) provide consideration of the students' date of birth during their enrolment in colleges. The senior ones will get priority if the number of admission seekers securing same GPA in SSC examination is higher than the number of seats available in a college.

Out of 61,096 of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinees under Chittagong Education Board, 3,725 got GPA-5 this year. Of them, 2,836 were from science group, 818 from business studies and 71 from humanities group.

Around 1,486 GPA-5 achievers from science group could not get admitted in any of three leading government colleges -- Chittagong College, Hazi Md Mohsin College and City College

-- as they have capacity to accommodate only 1,350 students.

A total of 1,207 students got A+ in all subjects without the additional subject (considered as golden GPA achiever). Of them, 1,091 are from science group, 52 from business studies and 11 from humanities.

Around 191 golden GPA achievers did not get chance in Chittagong College and Mohsin College due to age-based selection.

Zain Uddin Ziad, a student of Chittagong Collegiate School who achieved A+ in all subjects, gave up all his hopes when he missed the chance to get admitted to his long-cherished Chittagong College.

Zain, who obtained first position in the Junior Scholarship Examination in Chittagong Division in 2003, was so surprised when he did not find his name in the first list of Mohsin College.

He missed the chance as his date of birth is October 28, 1991 while the college authorities selected the students who were born on or before January 11, 1991.

Zain, however, got his name

in the second waiting list of the Mohsin College.

Like Zain, Prottyush and Mahruf of the same school, and Shakhawat and Syed Aftabuddin of Muslim High School, who also got golden GPA marks, could not enroll them at Chittagong College due to same problem.

Priyanka Dastidar, a student of Dr Khastagir Girls High School, who got GPA-5 and achieved A+ marks in eight subjects, could not get herself admitted to Chittagong College and Mohsin College.

"Many students, who achieved A+ in eight subjects like me, got admitted to Mohsin College but I missed it due to being under age than them, Priyanka said.

Later, Priyanka was admitted to Chittagong Cantonment Public School and College.

Umi Rahman, the second girl of Silver Bells Girls High School and also an achiever of GPA-5, faced the same problem.

Md Sirajul Islam, principal of Chittagong College, said around 853 students with golden GPA-5 from science group submitted forms in his college.

As per direction of the edu-

cation ministry, we had to select the students who got A+ in all subjects, then the students with A+ in general mathematics and higher math. But all of them fulfilled these conditions, he said. So, we had to follow the age-based selection, he added.

Mahruf and Prottyush said admission test is the best method of selecting students and it has scope to test the merit of the students.

Age can't be a method to evaluate merits, they said.

Prof Mohammad Shahidullah, principal of Government Commerce College, said age-based system is a better one for fair selection.

He said there is a scope for nepotism or corruption in the system of admission test.

Elders should get priority, Shahidullah said, adding that many students try to provide false information by reducing age in their certificates.

Rafiqul Islam, professor of Zoology of City College and convener of admission committee (science group), also echoed the same.



Motel Saikat has been running its activities at a small space in a railway building at the Railway Station, inset, during the last two years as the construction work of the proposed motel complex is yet to start. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia laid the foundation stone of the proposed complex.

Motel Saikat goes to private sector for profit

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) has decided to give the Motel Saikat Complex in Chittagong to private entrepreneurs dropping its plan for constructing the motel on its own fund.

The BPC took the decision as the motel has been running without any profit at a rented place at the Chittagong New Railway Station Building for the last two months.

Abul Kashem, General Manager (Works) in Dhaka, said to construct Motel Saikat, a modern shopping mall cum three-star hotel, the BPC has floated a tender in early July.

He said the lessee will give the BPC a yearly premium for their profit.

"We were compelled to seek private investment as we did not get adequate response from the businessmen against selling of the complex space," Kashem said.

The BPC is refunding Tk 19 lakh to 22 businessmen, who bought spaces in the complex, sources added.

The BPC shifted its activities to the Chittagong New Railway Station Building after demolishing the previous complex at Station Road. But it could not attract tourists, local and foreign, due to lack of sufficient facilities.

Motel Saikat now has a sale of Tk 1 lakh to Tk 1.40 lakh a month without any profit,

whereas it had a profit of over Tk 3 lakh a month at the old complex.

Earlier, the government used to earn revenue as Value Added Tax (VAT) from its income, they said.

BPC now spends around Tk 70,000 only

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) has decided to give the Motel Saikat Complex in Chittagong to private entrepreneurs dropping its plan for constructing the motel on own fund

for rent and bills for utility services a month, excluding salaries of the employees.

To implement the project on its own, BPC advertised in different dailies for space booking in the Saikat Complex with poor response.

The authorities sold 426 forms for over 260 possessions, with only 19 of them responded positively and showed interest.

BPC took a project of Tk 82.55 crore, scheduled to be completed by 2006, to provide world-class services to the tourists and promote tourism in the port city.

Fate of the project became uncertain when the authorities demolished the four-storied motel complex immediately after the foundation stone was laid on April 19 in 2004.

The motel now runs with only 14 rooms without any modern facility. The motel has only two air-conditioned rooms. The motel charges Tk 1000 for each air-conditioned (AC) room and Tk 500 for non-AC room.

Besides, uninterrupted power supply and restaurant facilities discourage local and foreign tourists to come here, said a BPC staff on condition of anonymity.

The proposed eight-storied complex on one acre of land is to house a huge car parking lot, shops and departmental stores and bank and insurance offices on first third floors, tourist information centre, a 300-seat hall room and 200-seat restaurant, including swimming pool and bar, on the fourth floor and residential hotel of three-star standard for the tourists on fifth, sixth and seventh floors.



The same old story: People commute to the port city by tempos everyday risking their lives. The on-duty traffic police are indifferent to the problem.

STAR PHOTO

theweekthatwas

Adulteration in bakery foods

A report of Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR) confirmed the adulteration in raw materials and food items seized from two renowned bakeries in the port city during the anti-adulteration drive last week.

A mobile court of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) seized the food items from the bakeries -- Samrat Bakery at the Nasirabad Industrial area and Chattala Bakery at Madarbari area during its drives. The court sent the foods to the BCSIR Laboratory for test.

The adulteration of ghee, saccharine and palm oil seized from Samrat Bakery was confirmed in the test at BCSIR Lab.

During the drives, Magistrate Munir Chowdhury also fined the bakeries and sealed them off.

Destiny to help CPC

Speakers at a view exchange meeting here on Sunday said Multi Level Marketing was introduced as an attractive business in the world and its gaining popularity day by day.

The Destiny-2000 Limited officials and members of Chittagong Press Club (CPC) participated in the meeting at the

CPC VIP lounge.

CPC President Abu Sufian presided over the meeting while Destiny Chairman Mohammed Hossain and Managing Director Rafiqul Amin were present.

Speakers hoped the Destiny would grow up as a responsible and reputed business firm in the country.

Hossain said his firm will cooperate with the press club in its programme.

Later, he handed over a cheque for Tk 1 lakh to the club president.

Former Club President Ataul Hakim, Senior Vice President Ali Abbas, Vice President AZM Haider, General Secretary Kalim Sarwar, Publication Secretary Mamun Abdullah, Treasurer Shahidul Islam Bachchu, Destiny officials Jasim Uddin Rana, AKM Shahidul Haque Babu and Mohammed Zahurul Islam were present.

'Stop filling of water bodies'

Environmentalists here on Saturday formed a human chain demanding an end to unabated filling of the water bodies and hill cutting in Chittagong.

Jana Udyog, Barnali and Save Chittagong, environmentalist organisations in the port city, jointly organised the programme in front of Chittagong Press Club.

Later, a rally was held with Barnali Chairman Saroj Kanti Das in the chair. Speakers at the rally said a section

of dishonest people have been filling the water bodies and cutting hills ignoring the administration. They said this would cause ecological imbalance in the society.

Though it is essential to have a water-body in each square kilometre to protect environment and assist fire fighting, nobody was taking the matter as seriously as it gets, they said.

The speakers demanded initiatives to resist the ill efforts and punishment to those involved in this criminal trade.

Environmental activists Delwar Hossain Majumder, Sharif Chowhan, Morshed Alam, Mintu Chowdhury, Suman Chowdhury Moni, Mohammed Nazim Uddin, Shyamal Dhar, Abul Kalam Azad and Rubel Das Prince spoke at the rally.

Healthcare programme for school children

A free healthcare programme was held at the Green Society Preparatory School in the port city on Tuesday.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) organised the programme under their urban primary healthcare project.

Healthcare and medicines were provided to the students of the school during the programme titled School Healthcare.

Speakers in the programme

advised the students to keep themselves and surrounding neat and clean.

Chawkbazar Ward Commissioner Syed Golam Haider Mintu, Women Ward Commissioner Anzuman Ara Begum and Mantaz Khan and CCC physician Mohammed Nasim Bhuyian were also present.

Debate contest at Southern University

A daylong debate competition was held at Southern University on Sunday.

The Spoken English Club run by the Department of General Education of the university organised the debate on higher education.

Later the participants received prizes at a ceremony with Southern University Vice Chancellor Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury in the chair. Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Sharifuzzaman and Treasurer Sarwar Jahan were also present at the function.

Ferdous Ahmed, lecturer of English Department, moderated the programme.

4 win KDS WC quiz prizes

A World Cup Quiz prize distribution ceremony was held at the KDS



Renowned sculptor Prof DK Das Mamun has taken an initiative to create busts of distinguished personalities of the port city who contributed to Chittagong through their work. He has already completed 20 such works. Prof DK Das is sculpting the bust of freedom fighter and writer Mean Faruquee at the gallery of Photo Bank.

STAR PHOTO

Accessories Division, a conglomerate of KDS Group, on Tuesday.

Accessories Division of the KDS Group organised the quiz competition for their clients and garments owners online during the World Cup Football.

Around 1,000 participated in the

competition. Of them four won the prizes.

Kazal Barua, an executive of the company's human resource department, won the first prize - a 29-inch colour television while Milton Dutta, assistant merchandiser of Micro

Fashion second prize-- a music system. Besides, Mohammed Emrul of Vallian Group won third prize -- a microwave oven and Syed Mohammed Ali Anwar of Epic Designer fourth prize -- a cellular phone set.

The company HR and IT Head Nabil Ahmed, Supply Chain Head Debasis Daspal Pal and Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian were present as the guests and distributed prizes.