

UNIFORM ADMISSION TESTS

A simple solution with complex repercussions?

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In order to minimise the inconveniences students and their parents have to face during the admission season, the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) has decided to proceed with their plan of a uniform admission test from the 2020-21 academic year that covers all the public universities of the country.

A discussion regarding the entire initiative took place last month between the UGC and the Vice Chancellors of the public universities where both parties agreed that the new system can only be beneficial to admission seekers.

At first glance, the idea as a whole seems to be the perfect solution to all the problems people face during the time of the entrance exams. However, the more you think about it, more flaws seem to surface.

The uniform admission test will allow examinees to sit for the exam at a centre near their home or of their choice. It will save students from the hassles of travelling long distances to sit for the entrance exams at the public universities of their choice. A uniform admission test will also



PHOTO: STAR

shorten the time needed for students to enrol at a public university, which will help to minimise session backlog.

Now, no matter how you look at it, the system still has a few downsides to it, some of which need to be addressed and resolved before it gets too late.

The uniform tests will make the competition even

harder. Under the new system, you're not going to get a second chance, i.e. for example, previously, if you had failed the KUET entrance exam, you could always try your luck at RUET, CUET, and so on. This time, there's just one exam. Get it wrong, and you'll have lost your only opportunity. Sitting for the exam a second time may be allowed in the new system, but that hasn't been specified yet.

As seen before, such central exams that take place over the whole country (like the medical college entrance exams, and the SSC and HSC exams) are often plagued with numerous accusations, like the distribution of wrong question papers or the question papers being leaked. The central admission test will have to deal with the same risks. They also need to maintain the integrity of the system all over the country. In no way can they allow the misappropriation of authority during the time of the central exams. The idea of conducting a uniform admission test for all public universities is indeed a good initiative. But whether it is a flawless one or not can only be determined once the idea is brought to fruition.

PROS: Less travelling, increased accessibility, solution to session jam • **CONS:** Risk of question leaks, universities lose autonomy, increases pressure on students

Really? TV

MRITTIKA ANAN RAHMAN

You're watching Bangladesh's first and only reality TV channel, Really?TV. Please watch our shows instead of TikTok videos.

6:00 PM PROJECT FUNWAY

Aspiring designers run around Chadni Chowk and occasionally pass out from heat stroke while trying to put together a look under BDT 250. Bargaining is a right and the meek won't make it far.

The judges are difficult to please but the pickpockets and lack of ventilation isn't making their lives any easier.

6:30 PM MATCHMAKERZ

Twenty-four singles from Dhaka compete to find their soulmates under the

watchful supervision of their parents and extended family. Each episode, contestants are randomly paired to go on a date with another contestant to fabulous locations such as a park or the same three restaurants as the last episode. Contestants must walk on eggshells so that their date doesn't do anything that might make the adults disapprove. The season finale will be hosted by the *kazi* and is the *akdh*.

7:30 PM P*MP MY RIDESHARE

Ride sharing bikers approach our host to spruce up their motorbikes to attract better reviews. Watch contestants paint, decorate and stylise their bikes but run out of budget before investing in sturdy helmets.

8:00 PM BATTLE OF MAESTROS

Twenty BBA graduates (unemployed, of course) fight for a management trainee position at a bank by living together in an abandoned property in Baridhara. The prize? Living alone on an abandoned property outside of the city for recommendation letters. Watch them secure influencers for social media campaigns and do SWOT analyses to save themselves from elimination.

8:40 PM THE UH-MAZING RACE

Thirty pairs of contestants are sent to Jabona Future Park and must navigate their way through the mall and find their way out. Maps with minimal details, multiple outlets of the same brand, and criminally unhelpful shop-

keepers serve as clues as our contestants race to the exit. So far five teams have gone missing, never to be heard from again.

9:30 PM DANCE MOMS

Watch innocent eight year olds being pitted against each other on the stage as their moms cheer on. Brought straight to the studio in between school and their coachings, these exhausted kids will twirl, jump and pirouette to avoid being yelled at by their moms while on camera.

Mrittika Anan Rahman is a daydreamer trying hard not to run into things while walking. Find her at mrittika.anan@gmail.com



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