

ADMISSION TO REPUTED COLLEGES

Hopes dashed by seat crisis

Number of GPA-5 achievers under Ctg board increases

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

With the celebration of success over, anxiety grips the highest grade point achievers in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations due to seat crisis in the reputed colleges in Chittagong.

A good number of students who obtained GPA-5, the highest grade point, under Chittagong board would be denied enrolment at their preferred colleges as seats in those institutions are less than the number of GPA-5 scorers.

Out of 68,386 students from 917 schools under the board, 49,451 students passed successfully with a percentage of 72.31.

The pass rate is more than 2.07 per cent higher than the previous year while the number of GPA-5 scorers stands at 5,800, highest in last six years.

Of them, 4,248 students achieved GPA 5 from the science group, 1477 from the business studies group and 75 from the humanities group.

Around 14,426 students scored between GPA 4 and 5 under the board.

All these 20,226 brilliant students prefer to get admitted to the five government colleges in the port city -- Chittagong Government College, Government Haji Muhammad Mohsin College, Government City College, Government Commerce College and Nasirabad Government Women's College.

But irony is that around 76 per cent of them will not be able to get admitted to these colleges as the institutions have capacity to accommodate only 4,800 students under three groups.

Of them, Chittagong Government College has 450 seats under science group and 300 seats under humanities group while Haji Mohsin College has 450 seats under science group, 300 seats under humanities group and 450 seats under business studies group.

City College has 450 seats under science group, 450 under humanities and 600 under business studies group while Nasirabad Women's College has 300 seats under science group, 300 under humanities and 150 under business studies.

There are only 600 seats under business studies group in Commerce College.

The smiling faces of many GPA-5 achievers from science group are already getting different look as they may not get scope to study in any of the four government colleges -- Chittagong College, Haji Muhammad Mohsin College, City College and Nasirabad Government Women College -- due to shortage of seat.

These colleges can accommodate only 1650 students under science group against 4,248 GPA-5 achievers.

Tanvir Ahmad, a GPA-5 achiever from science group from Chittagong Collegiate School, said, "It will be really frustrating if we do not have scopes to get enrolled in the reputed colleges even after scoring highest grade point."

Dibendu, also a GPA 5 scorer from the same school, said "It is in no way acceptable that brilliant students would not be able to study in the reputed colleges only for seat crisis."

The situation has also worried the guardians and teachers.

Hasmat Jahan, headmistress of Dr Khastagir Govt Girls School, said, "Every year we are experiencing the same situation that many of our brilliant students are deprived of getting enrolled in colleges of their choices as the problem remains unchanged for years."

Chairman of Chittagong Education Board Prof Abu Jafar Chowdhury said the number of GPA-5 achievers has increased this year and this would definitely create the admission crisis.

He underscored the need for increasing the number of seat in the colleges to cope with the crisis.

Prof Jafar, however, said it is not so easy solution since more teachers and classrooms and other facilities are also required with the increased seats.



Onslaught of the river Shankha continues to threaten many more families as the river has already devoured many houses of Poroikora village in Anwara upazila. The photo was taken on Saturday.

A city free from gridlock, waterlogging

People's expectation from the would-be city father

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

People here want a mayor with a vision and skill to make Chittagong a planned city free from traffic congestion and waterlogging as well as to ensure utility services and turn it into a commercial capital in true sense.

The city dwellers resented encroachment and development of structures in violation of the master plan that hamper planned urbanisation and force open spaces to shrink fast.

They also expect a city mayor who would give priority to public service instead of going for activities like real estate development and setting up of commercial establishments on every available land denying public access to those places.

Besides, ill competition of erecting gigantic hoardings was causing serious vision pollution alongside destroying scenic beauty that once brought Chittagong the honour of being

regarded as "Queen of the East", they said.

Besides, there were abandoned century boxes and ticket counters on footpaths and dustbins with garbage littering all around occupying a huge portion of city streets making both public and vehicular movement difficult, said the city dwellers, who expect that the would-be Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) mayor to address such menaces.

While talking to The Daily Star Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), Chittagong President Engineer Ali Ashraf said, "A city mayor must have a clear idea and knowledge on the city, its present condition and needs of the city people."

"We want the city mayor to help develop the city following master plan -- if not possible at a time, in phases," he said.

"Instead of going for adhoc basis solution, development should be carried out through short, mid and long projects. The

new mayor should continue the process of development of the city," he said.

Identifying waterlogging and transportation as the major problems of the city, Ashraf said the city mayor should solve waterlogging through developing the drainage system and ensure smooth traffic movement through introducing less costly rapid transit system with separate lanes for buses instead of going for costly flyover or elevated expressway system.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Senior Vice-President MA Salam expected the mayor to develop Chittagong as a business-friendly one.

"Being a commercial city it must have atmosphere congenial for business activities that would contribute to job creation and economic growth," he said.

"We expect the city mayor to extend all-out cooperation for increasing efficiency of Chittagong port and help con-

tinue port activities unhampered," he said.

Salam thinks that the road network developed so far in Chittagong was sufficient to facilitate smooth vehicular movement if only the transportation system could be managed properly.

He expected CCC and its mayor to take up responsibility of developing transportation system and traffic management.

Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Acting First Vice-President AM Chowdhury Salim echoing the same said a mayor should help develop a business-friendly environment in Chittagong.

Salim expected the would-be mayor to develop infrastructure and ensure utility services for industrial growth in the port city.

Sakhawat Hosain, a businessman in the Sugandha area, said he expects the mayor to present a city with free walkways and safe roads where no garbage would be left

littering all around and no billboard would block view.

Dr Monwar-Ul-Haque Shamim said the city mayor should give more attention to the public service activities instead of going for commercial activities and establishing educational institutions.

Md Nasir Uddin, a shop keeper of Lalkhan Bazar, expects the city mayor to be more serious about conservancy works and ensure smooth movement of vehicles and pedestrian.

Dr Biplob Bhattacharjee of Siraj-Ud-Dowla Road said, "I would expect the city mayor to keep the footpaths and roads free from garbage and construction materials."

"We don't want to see any conservancy work in the daytime and expect the mayor to develop a system so that not a drop of garbage is left in the road -- for this I am also ready to pay a bit more holding tax if needed," said Dr Biplob who resented erection of billboards.

theweekthatwas



STAR PHOTO

Artists of Avyudoya Sangeet Angan perform at a function organised on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore at Theatre Institute, Chittagong auditorium on Saturday.

'Grassroots activists have limited access to nomination process'

Speakers at a workshop here said grassroots level people have limited access to nomination process in elections while it depends highly on opinion of central and senior political leaders.

They recommended more participation of mass people in nominating candidates to vie

for the national and local government elections.

They were addressing the workshop titled 'Expectation of people on nominations in election' at the conference room of Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong centre on Saturday.

Shachetan Nagorik Committee (Shanak), Chittagong chapter and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) jointly organised the workshop moderated by TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekheruzzaman.

Shanak Chittagong Convener Advocate

Akhter Kabir Chowdhury made the address of welcome.

The speakers said though some political parties nominated their candidates in last parliamentary election according to the recommendation of their grassroots level activists, mass people had no involvement in the process at all.

A worksheet was presented at the workshop mentioning that except some changes in the nomination process, it is still influenced by the political high command.

Local leaders, activists and supporters of

different political parties, representatives of the citizen groups and professionals took part in the workshop.

East Delta University Vice Chancellor Prof Sikander Khan, Chittagong University Law Faculty Dean Prof Md Zakir Hossain, Shanak Joint Convener Delwar Majumder, Bangladesh Samjtantrik Dal Chittagong Coordinator Manas Nandi, Engineer Subhash Barua and Advocate Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury spoke at the workshop.

Trial of war criminals demanded

Peshajibi Samannaya Parishad, Chittagong, a forum of the professionals, formed a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club on Sunday demanding immediate trial of the war criminals.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique and Parishad Central Convener and Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists' (BFUJ) President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury attended the human chain programme.

Speakers at the programme urged the government to bring the criminals, who were involved in crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation, under the trail immediately.

Parishad President Dr AQM Sirajul Islam, General Secretary Prof Helal Uddin Nizami, Teachers' leader Abdul Wahab Chowdhury, Dr Moinul Islam, Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian, Chittagong Union of Journalist (CUJ) President Shahid Ul Alam, General Secretary Nazimuddin Shyamal and Woman leader Nur Jahan Khan attended the human chain.

CUJ ultimatum to newspaper owners

Leaders of Chittagong Union of Journalists' (CUJ) at a meeting on Monday urged the newspaper owners to implement the '7th Wage Board' within May 30.

They said if their demand is not met within this time they would wear black badges from June 1 to June 4 and observe work abstinence from 9:00am to 5:00pm on May 5.

They were addressing a rally of the daily Purbokone unit on the fifth day of the CUJ announced demand week.

Purbokone Unit Chief Nawsher Ali Khan presided over the rally while CUJ President Shahid Ul Alam, Vice President Sultan Ahmed Ashrafi, General Secretary Nazimuddin Shyamal, former president Mustaq Ahmed, general secretary Reaz Haider Chowdhury, Purbokone Acting News Editor Kalim Sarwar and Senior Sub-Editor Abu Taher Muhammad spoke at the meeting.

Reception to new Cuet teachers

Newly appointed teachers of different department of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) were accorded reception on Monday.

Cuet Teachers' Association organised the reception at the seminar room of the Engineering Building on the university campus.

Cuet Acting Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Dr Mohammad Saiful Islam was the chief guest at the ceremony with association President

Mohammad Ibrahim Khan in the chair.

Prof Saiful in his speech said anyone can earn reputation through attaining success in education and research instead of lobbying.

Only initiative and hard industry are needed to earn the reputation and the new teachers should keep these in mind to take the institution and him ahead.

Architecture and Town Faculty Dean Prof Dr Mohammad Jahangir, Electrical and Computer Engineering Faculty Dean Prof Dr Poitosh Kumar Shadhu Khan, Students' Welfare Director Prof Dr Tajul Islam and the association General Secretary Mir Mohammad Saki Kawser also spoke at the reception.

Customers conference held

Customers Conference of branches of Mercantile Bank Limited under Chittagong Regional Office was held at a hotel in the port city on Sunday.

The Bank Managing Body Chairman Abdul Jalil MP was the chief guest at the conference with the bank Managing Director Dewan Mujibur Rahman in the chair.

The conference aimed at exchanging views and developing business relations with the customers.

The bank Executive Committee Chairman Mohammad Shahabuddin Alam, Audit Committee Chairman Morshed Alam, directors Akram Hossain, MS Ahsan, AKM Belal, Deputy Managing Director Manindra Kumar Nath and Entrepreneur Director MA Khan Belal were present at the conference.

Later, singers Nila Naznin and Haimanti Rakkhit Man performed at a cultural function.