big story



University of Bahrain hardly has the infrastructure to support the rapidly increasing strength, say students

An aerial view of the university.

30,000 and growing!

It's overcrowding everywhere, be it parking lots, queues for registration, graduation hall, restrooms and cafeterias.

It was learnt that as many as 7,503 high school graduates applied for 44 undergraduate programmes in the year 2017.

TDT|Manama **Thamer Tayfour**

embley in England is one of the biggest stadiums in the world with a total capacity of 90,000 and if all University of Bahrain (UoB) students are taken there to watch a football match they would fill one third of seats.

has reached a whopping 30,000, first time or even second choice of specialisation, since its founding in the year 1984 and the students here say they are "suffocating" with the existing infrastructure hardly supporting the huge number.

According to them, it's overcrowding everywhere, be it parking lots, queues for registration, graduation hall, restrooms and cafeterias.

Student Salman Hamad finds delay in graduation as one of the main reasons behind this overcrowding.

"Students suffer from overcrowding well before choosing a specialisation. Yes, the total number of students at UoB Many students often fail to get their first forcing them to enroll for other subjects before getting transferred to the specialisations they want. This naturally leads to a delay in their graduation," he explained.

He said "battling the crowd" is one of the toughest things at the university. "I live in Muharraq. There is always a huge traffic congestion while trying to enter the university premises through ulty of Arts, who finds the growing numthe eastern gate. It's very difficult to find bers hard to digest. "My brother tells a parking place and one can't even think me that when he was at the university of parking the car faraway and walking in 2008, the number of students in the at least a kilometer to reach classes es- arts college was only 1,000. As of now, pecially during the summer."

Student Salah Emad conducted a sur- than 4,000. vev on Twitter in which he sought the opinion of students over taking a public but not doubled. Students every day to beat traffic congestion and parking and most classes are filled once the regissues. About 1,300 took part and 53 per cent of them agreed on boarding a public hour. Four years is the duration of study bus to reach the university.

the university changes its admission system.

for programmes is quite large, it is difficult for many of them to find the right specialisation. The system allows only 25 or 30 students in each section, and this leads to delayed graduation by one or two semesters.

"During the registration time, we even timings. Sometimes it is very difficult graduate programmes in the year 2017. to get back to the university after three Muharraq or Manama."

Fawaz Ahmed is a student at the Fac- istration Dr Abdul Rahim Abbas.

University Strength

Harvard 20,324 Cambridge 21,656 Oxford 23,195 Karachi 28,500 JNU, India 7,304 Peking 32,777

the number of students here is more

"The teaching staff has also increased bus to the university against private car struggle to get the subjects they want, istration is opened in less than half an at any university in the world, but be-Student Salah Emad feels it's high time cause of preparatory classes and the difficulties for registering in some subjects, the graduation process seems impossible "As the number of students applying in four years. I think majority students spend an average of five years at the UoB. We are also afraid of late graduation."

Meanwhile, the UoB has announced its date for personal interviews and general abilities tests for selecting students for the coming academic year.

It was learnt that as many as 7,503 high find it difficult to choose convenient school graduates applied for 44 under-

For the coming academic year, interhours for a single session. I live close to views will be held between June 10 and the university and have no problem with 14, while tests are scheduled from June timings. Thank God I am not living in 24 to 28 for undergraduate programmes, according to dean of admission and reg-



Many students often fail to get their first or even second choice of specialisation, forcing them to enroll for other subjects.

SALMAN HAMAD



The system allows only 25 or 30 students in each section, and this leads to delayed graduation by one or two semesters.

SALAH EMAD



My brother tells me that when he was here in 2008. the number of students in the arts college was only 1,000. As of now, the number is more than 4,000.

FAWAZ AHMED



Parking space crisis haunts every student at the university.



Students walk through one of the corridors of the university.