

SSC PAPER LEAKAGE

First ever judicial probe instituted

M Moneruzzaman

THE High Court Division on Thursday appointed two five-member committees, one judicial for finding out those connected with leaking papers of the ongoing SSC Examinations and an administrative committee was asked to recommend the ways for

stopping the leakage.

Both the committees were asked to start work in seven days and submit their reports in 30 days.

The judicial committee is headed by district and sessions judge of Dhaka SM Kuddus Zaman.

Never before in this country judicial probe

was instituted into public exam paper leakage, said Dhaka Education Board's acting chairman Shahedul Khabir Chowdhury and veteran teacher leader Quazi Faruque Ahmed.

The administrative committee led by BUET's computer science and engineering department professor

Muhammad Kaikobad was asked to recommend the modus operandi for the prevention of paper leakage in public examinations.

A bench of Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir appointed the committees after hearing a public interest

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litigation writ petition jointly filed by Supreme Court lawyers Aynun Nahar Siddiqua, Sikder Mahmudur Razi, Raju Mia and Nur Muhammad Azami.

The committees were empowered to co-opt more members if needed.

The judicial committee includes Narayanganj chief judicial magistrate, Gazipur chief justice magistrate, a law ministry deputy secretary and an education ministry's deputy secretary.

The administrative committee includes BUET's CSE professor Sohel Rahman, director general of Secondary and Higher Education, an IT expert from the Bangladesh Computer Society and a deputy inspector general from the Criminal Investigation Department.

In a ruling the court asked the government to explain why leakages of each and

every paper of the ongoing SSC exam and its recurrent failure to prevent leakages of public examination papers would not be declared illegal.

The respondents, secretaries of ministries of education, primary and mass education, law, home, science and technology and telecommunication, the chairmen of all the 10 educational boards and the inspector general of the police were asked to reply to the ruling.

SC lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua appeared for the petitioners.

If there has been any inaction on the part of the education ministry, 'we would let the court know about it, said secondary and higher education division secretary Sohorab Hossain.

On Thursday, the chemistry paper was leaked on the social media like all the other papers.

Earlier, the Bangla first

and the second papers, English first and the 2nd papers, religion and moral studies paper, mathematics, information and communication education and the physics papers were posted on social media sites much before the exams took place, complained parents.

The government and the education boards dismissed media reports about the paper leakages as 'rumours'.

A series of steps taken by the authorities including banning the use of cell phones at and around exam halls, closure of coaching centres during the exams and asking examinees to take their seats 30 minutes before the start of the exams and putting in place enhanced measures in opening paper packages proved useless in preventing the paper leakages.

Widespread complaints about the leakage of almost all the papers compelled

the education ministry to form a committee on February 4 to investigate into the whole episode of paper leakages.

On the same day, a bounty of Tk five lakh was declared to anyone identifying the paper leakers.

In 2017, paper leakages were common for the primary, junior school, SSC as well as the higher secondary exams.

Educationists as well as parents said that due to the government's recurrent failures, in 2014, all the education boards had to postpone the HSC exam's English 2nd paper tests following complaints that the paper had been leaked.

In 2014, several SSC exam papers were also leaked.

The Transparency International Bangladesh revealed that 63 papers of public exams were leaked in four years until 2015.