

HSC, equivalent exams begin today amid fear of question leaks

Staff Correspondent

THIS year's Higher Secondary Certificate and equivalent examinations will begin across the country today with the authorities making a number of new arrangements for preventing question leaks, which include closure of coaching centres and fixing the sets of questions 25 minutes before the starting of an exam.

The students will also have to take seats 30 minutes before the scheduled start of an exam while the use of cell phone within 200 metres of the exam centre is banned.

No person will know how many sets of questions are prepared.

This year, about 13.11 lakh examinees will take the HSC and its equivalent tests from 8,943 educational institutions.

Of them, 10.92 lakh will take HSC exams under eight

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general education boards, 1 lakh will appear for Alim exams under madrassah education board and 1.17 lakh will sit for HSC vocational exams under technical education board.

General stream students will take Bangla first paper, while madrassah students will take Quran Majid and technical students will sit for Bangla exam on the first day.

The number of examinees this year has increased by 1.27 lakh from previous year's 11.84 lakh students.

Theoretical exams will continue till May 13, while practical exams will be held between May 14 and 23. Exams of 56 papers on 28 subjects will be held under creative question method this year.

Education minister Nurul Islam Nahid said that the government had completed all preparations for holding a smooth HSC and equivalent exams.

The minister hoped that no question would be leaked this time as stern measures had been taken based on experiences of previous ex-

ams.

Nahid said that teachers and others would be barred from carrying a cell phone inside exam centres. Only the exam centre secretary will be allowed to carry a cell phone that has no camera, he added.

The education ministry has taken the measures in the wake of huge criticism for their failure to stop question leaks in the latest Secondary School Certificate exams.

The written part of this year's SSC exams witnessed the largest ever spate of

question leaks in the history of country's public exams. Almost all question papers were leaked well ahead of exams.

Examinees and their guardians said that the questions, mostly the multiple choice questions, had been leaked and found posted in several Facebook and Whatsapp groups before the starting of exams.

They also alleged that the leaked questions were sold for Tk 500-3000, but later the questions were found free in social media.