



## HSC exam begins Thursday

### People urged to help maintain law and order

By A Staff Reporter

Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam on Monday urged the people of all strata of the society to actively help the administration to maintain law and order during the ensuing HSC examinations beginning on Thursday.

Addressing a news conference at the Ministry's conference room, he particularly appealed to the organisations of students, teachers, guardians to help stop adoption of unfair means at the examinations.

A total of 3,22,193 candidates including about 89,000 girls are appearing at the HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate)

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## HSC exams

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examinations under the four Education Boards from 520 centres including three overseas centres, the Minister said.

Of the total candidates 95,020 are from Dhaka Board, 74,111 from Comilla Board, 65,378 from Jessore Board and 87,674 from Rajshahi Board.

The Education Minister said that adoption of unfair means in examinations not only created aversion among students towards the pursuit of knowledge but also led to overall social degradation.

He deplored the tendency of copying in the examination hall, which was more prevalent in the rural areas, and in the recent past untoward incidents took place at some centres outside upazila headquarters.

He said the adoption of unfair means also hurt the interests of the talented and good students, and this situation could never be welcomed. The Government did not permit more than one examination centre at the upazila level due to this, he said.

Sheikh Shahid said that arrangement had been made to hold the ensuing HSC examinations properly and peacefully with active cooperation of the district and the upazila administrations.

Listing a number of decisions taken to stop adoption of unfair means in the examination hall, the Minister, however, said that the number of members of the law enforcing agencies put on examination duties was limited compared to the number of students, and hence the cooperation of the people of all strata was necessary for conducting the examinations properly and peacefully.

The Education Minister recalled that during the last Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination organisations of students, teachers and guardians and some people's organisations had lent their active support to the administration to check the unfair practice.