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## Over 5 lakh to appear HSC exams begin today

Varsity Correspondent

The Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations 2000 under five educational boards will begin today (Thursday) across the country with more than five and a half lakh students appearing in it.

On the first day today, English first paper examination will be held in the country and the five centres abroad. These five centres outside the country are Tripoli (Libya), Riyadh, Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) Abu Dhabi (UAE) and Doha (Qatar).

Of the total students 1,52,000 will appear from Dhaka board, 1,45,000 from Rajshahi Board, 93,360 from Jessore Board, 84,788 from Comilla Board and 30,005 from Chittagong Board.

The authorities of the education boards have also decided to strengthen vigilance at different

examination centres to check adoption of unfair means by the examinees. The board authorities will also take tougher action against any teacher if he or she found assisting students in adoption of unfair means in the examination centres.

Meanwhile, our Rajshahi correspondent said that more than 300 examinees under the Rajshahi Board might not be able to sit for the examination as they had not got the admit card since late Wednesday night. Board sources said that the problems with these students were about the subject code. And the board authorities are blaming the college authorities for the fault.

The board authorities have identified 259 centres within the

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## HSC exam

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board as most vulnerable in terms of adopting unfair means and have already taken measures to curb this during the examinations.

Our Comilla correspondent informed that the Comilla Board authorities have detected four such centres where they are suspecting irregularities and decided that two magistrates would be present in these centres for the entire period time during the examinations.

Meanwhile, 27 candidates from Comilla Board were given admit cards in special consideration as they also had problems with subject code. "But I don't know whether the results of these students will be published or not", said the Chairman of the Board Dr. Tapan Kanti Chowdhury. "We had to give them the admit cards being tremendously pressured by them".

UNB adds: Unlike previous years, vigilance teams comprising officials from the Boards and district administration will stake-out the centres. Besides, a 2-member special vigilance team of Dhaka Board will instantly visit and stay at the centre if and when required.

Dhaka Board sources said tough action would be taken against the officer-in-charge and supervisors of respective centres according to the report of the special vigilance teams comprising government college teachers in case of any irregularity reported. Other boards would follow the same rule.

Some 57 special vigilance teams in Dhaka Board including 32 for Dhaka City, 69 for Chittagong and 70 for Jessore have been formed to oversee the centres.

The Education Ministry has directed Deputy Commissioners to implement tightly section 144 at the centres. Board sources said BDR men would be on duty along with police personnel in the 'risky' centres to ward off untoward incident.

The authorities have already ordered respective colleges to shift the centres at the nearby schools or colleges if any unfavorable situation arises.