

Edn board's move to check unfair means Question styles to be changed, expelled students sued

Education board authorities are changing question styles and plan to sue students for adopting unfair means in line with government decision to rectify the rot in public examinations.

"We are planning to instruct schools and colleges to file cases against those who would be expelled for unfair means," ATM Sharif Ullah, chairman, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education of Dhaka, told UNB yesterday.

With punishment of expulsion and cancellation of registration, the accused practitioners of unfair means would be subject to maximum 10 years imprisonment as per law.

The punishment of the guilty "shall not be less than three years who shall also be liable to fine," the Dhaka Board chief said quoting the Public Examinations (Offences) (Amendment) Act 1992.

The decisions would be implemented from this year's SSC (Secondary School Certificate) examinations beginning March 2. As per the schedules, the SSC examinations will take 15 days to finish.

Approximately 936,000 examinees are sitting for the exams this year under the five education boards, officials said. Of them, 263,000 are from Dhaka, 273,000 from Rajshahi, 166,000 from Jessore, 153,000 from Comilla and 76,000 from Chittagong education boards.

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"There have been many laws, but we lack in using and implementing those laws appropriately," said a high official of education ministry talking about the tough steps being

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Edn board's move

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taken this time.

Public Examinations Act would be followed strictly from this year's examinations and legal actions coupled with other measures would be taken to curb offences of negligence regarding examination affairs.

Moreover, the government decided to bring about major changes in public examination system, with new style of question papers of secondary and higher secondary examinations from this year.

The government created a 10-point plan and trained 600 authors and moderators to implement it in order to prevent cheating and improve the standard of education.

No question paper will be produced, since it is in note or guidebooks available on the market.

For better evaluation broad types of questions will be split into parts, such as Ka, Kha, Ga as in the subjects in Science, for students in the humanities and commerce.

Figures of sums will be changed from the textbooks in making question papers of mathematics.

Special vigilant teams from the board will make surprise visits in examination centres. If any teacher or official is injured when resisting unfair means, respective boards will bear medical expenses as of previous years.

The boards are also hunting for fake certificates and registrations. Dhaka Board officials identified 609 college and 136 madrasah students this year who got admitted to colleges with fake SSC marksheets, board officials said.

They continued classes for last two years without any hindrance but were caught during scrutiny while registering for this year's HSC examinations. Like Dhaka Board, other boards are also looking into such forgeries.

ATM Sharif Ullah who also is the acting chairman of Madrasah Board, has formed special task force to scrutinise

and reexamine the papers and documents of the Aleem examinees.

Four-hundred and one students under Dhaka Board were caught with fake SSC marksheets while registering for HSC exams. Registrations of 923 were cancelled for producing fake papers. The board authorities instructed the colleges to file cases against them last year, but they did not take action.

This year, respective boards will file criminal cases against the accused. Guilty persons would face at least eight years of prison term, according to Public Examinations Act.

Fake certificate-issuing rackets are being caught in Chittagong and Dhaka. The Dhaka Board authorities recently sued two principals for alleged involvement in irregularities. Cases were also filed against Fulbaria College and Sherpur Hatibanda College.

A madrasah teacher was caught from a hotel at Kaptanbazar recently while selling fake marksheets and certificates.

The government is also setting up two more education boards in Barisal and Sylhet to avert complexities. Barisal Board has been conceived splitting Jessore Board while Sylhet splits from Comilla Board.

Chairmen and controllers have been appointed for these two boards which will raise the number of general education boards to seven. The new boards will function from next year, official sources said.