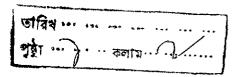
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exams from Mar 15:

All necessary preparations have been taken to hold the upcoming Secondary School Certificates (SSC) examination under the country's seven educational boards peacefully, Ministry of Education and Educa-

tion Boards sources said on Sunday.

The examination is scheduled to begin on March 15 under the seven Education Board including two newly established Boards, Barisal and

Sylhet.

The sources said adequate measures have already been taken to hold the examination in a free and fair manner and steps have also been

taken to resist copying in the examination centres.

Dr ATM Sharif Ullah, Chairman of Dhaka Education Board told BSS on Sunday that stern action would be taken against the students and also the teachers who would be found guilty for adopting unfair means in the public examination and helping the students to do so.

He said that the authorities have already distributed leaflets and posters among the guardians for creating mass awareness against adopting unfair means in the examination centres.

Dr Sharif said apart from this, we are calling upon the people to take united efforts to resist copying in the examination centres through mass media including newspapers, Bangladesh Television and Ekushey TV.

A significant number of invigilators have been appointed to check copying and smooth holding of the examinations across the country.

"The authorities have decided to cancel the examination centres in charge of copying," he said.

Concerned sources said that a total of 8,83,345 students are expected to sit in the SSC examination under the seven-education board this year. Of the total, 5,01,323 are male and 3,82,022 are female students.

According to the statistics of the concerned ministry, a total of 2.35.048 students are taking part under

SSC exams

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the Dhaka Board this year, 2,73,620 from Rajshahi Board, 1,12,563 from Comilla Board, 1,02,242 from Jessore Board, 74,240 from Chittagong Board, 56,533 from Barisal Board and 29,099 from Sylhet Board.

The highest number of examinees is taking part in the exami-nation under the Rajshahi Board this year while the lowest number

under Sylhet Board.

While talking to BSS. Secretary to the Dhaka Education Board, Professor Mokhlesur Rahman, said adequate measures have so far been taken for introducing grading system in the SSC examination this year. "After introducing the system, the existing combined merit list would be with-drawn," he said.

He also informed that the newly adopted grading system would also be introduced in the Higher Secondary Examination (HSC) from the year 2003.

Sources said the SSC examination would be completed on March 31 and the practical examination would begin on April 10 and will be continued till April 15.