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## Govt urged not to abolish Taherpur SSC exam centre

RAJSHAHI, Jan 27:—The SSC examination centre at the renowned Taherpur High School in the district is up to be abolished after 36 years of its smooth run, school's managing committee said and urged the government authorities concerned to reverse the decision, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, the school authorities on behalf of local people and students and guardians have submitted petitions to the Deputy Commissioner and the UNO of Bagmara for retaining the examination centre at Taherpur, a first-class municipality and famous river-port.

The examination centre was set up in 1972 at the school, established in 1948 by King Kangsa Narayan Roy Bahadur, who had formally introduced Durga Puja as a festival. Pre-independence NAP leader Advocate Noor Mohammad Khan had been its noted headmaster until he stood for the 1970 National Assembly polls.

Taherpur is located at the centre-point of four upazilas—Bagmara, Durgapur, Puthia and nearby Naldanga. And once students of many high schools in the area used to sit for exams at this centre. Later, in course of time, four other centres were set up in the interior parts of Bagmara upazila during the rule of different governments.

For this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination, 400 students of five nearby high schools have registered with the centre to sit for the exams.

"But we came to know that the authorities concerned have decided to cancel the centre at the eleventh hour," said one member of the managing committee.

The petitioners pointed out that all the SSC examinations had been held in a copy-free atmosphere every year. Some 750 students are studying at Taherpur High School now under a "congenial atmosphere of education".

There are a primary and two high schools, a degree college, a fazil madrasah and several government offices in this pourashava.

For the examination 2008, all preparations for the 400 examinees, mostly girls, from the five schools have already been completed, it is stated in the applications.

The four other centres are at Bhawaniganj, Machmoil, Nordas and Gangopara. The school-management sources said that "without showing reasons", the examination centre is being merged with Bhawaniganj, the headquarters of Bagmara upazila located in the interior part.

When contacted, Bagmara UNO Habibur Rahman told UNB that decision for withdrawal of the centre from Taherpur had not yet been finalised. "Two centres will be retained in the upazila in consideration of advantage of the locations," he said.

The Taherpur school management noted in their petitions that the communications between Taherpur and Bhawaniganj is not good for road condition and lack of transport.

Even sufficient accommodation for the examinees is not available in Bhawaniganj, they said.

The local people urged the authorities to keep Taherpur SSC examination centre at its present location so that the examinees could avert "sufferings".