

SSC, Dakhil exams begin today

48pc registered students drop out

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 48 percent of the registered students are not taking this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations beginning today.

A total of 12,59,105 students were registered in class IX as regular students under the nine education boards, but only 6,52,899 will sit for the examinations, according to a statistics prepared by the authorities.

Of the dropouts, 42.64 are male while 53.42 percent are female, the statistics showed.

Prof Manirul Islam, chairman of Dhaka Education Board, said at a

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press conference yesterday that 54.10 percent students, who enrolled for Class IX under his board, would not be taking the exams.

He said twelve percent of the SSC dropouts switched to Open University, eight percent chose technical education, eight percent were accused of forging registration, five percent dropped out altogether due to poverty and death, five percent went abroad, seven percent failed to get promoted to Class X, five percent flunked the tests preparatory to the SSC exams and four percent female students got married.

This year a total of 10,13,301 students will take the exams at 1,837 centres across the country.

Of them, 7,47,545 students -- 3,83,770 male and 3,63,775 female -- will appear for the SSC exams under seven education boards, 1,83,381 will take Dakhil exams under the Madrasa Board and 82,375 will take the SSC vocational exams under the Technical Education Board.

With 2,19,758 examinees, Dhaka Board has the highest number of students taking the exams this year. Rajshahi Board has 2,08,646 students, Comilla Board 76,990, Jessore Board 1,06,139, Chittagong Board 55,088, Barisal Board 49,116 and Sylhet Board 31,808 students.

Besides, 219 students will appear for SSC exams at seven overseas centres under the Dhaka Education Board.

Dhaka Board Chairman Prof Manirul Islam told the press conference that they formed several vigilance teams, inter-board inspecting teams and five instant driving teams to prevent students from resorting to unfair means in the examination halls.

Besides, Section 144 will be imposed in and around the examinations centres and every examinee will be searched before they enter the halls, he added.

At a press briefing on March 25, Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman said the government has taken all measures to ensure a congenial environment for the examinees and to prevent any untoward incident during the examination hours.

"I want to firmly state that the environment will ensure examinations free from unfair means. Teachers and officials will be ready to take instant decision should any unexpected incident take place", he said while addressing at a press briefing at his ministry.

He called on all the concerned -- teachers, guardians, law enforcers and journalists -- to extend their cooperation so that the students could peacefully take the examinations.

"I believe the cheating-free examinations will ensure the standard of education in the country. The students will also contribute to establishing a country free of corruption," he said.

Asked if the price hike of essential commodities has contributed to the reduction in number of SSC examinees on last year, Education Secretary Momtazul Islam on Tuesday said nowadays many students are appearing for the SSC examinations under the Open University, SSC (Vocational) Board and Madrasa Board.

The education secretary, however, said poverty might also be a reason behind the drop, but added that many are now interested in going abroad while a good number of the students flunked the preparatory exams.

Last year the number of SSC examinees was 8,01,958.