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Female SSC examinees rise sharply

Staff Correspondent | Updated at 11:56pm on April 25, 2023

The number of examinees, mostly female ones, for the Secondary School Certificate and the equivalent examinations has sharply increased this year.

Of the 50,295 more examinees compared to 2022, about 80 per cent or 38,609 are female, said education minister Dipu Moni on Tuesday.

The number of SSC and equivalent examinees has increased to 20,72,163 in 2023 from 20,21,868 in 2022.

This year, the SSC and its equivalent examinations will start on April 30, in which 10,50,966 female and 10,21,197 male examinees will participate.

Addressing a press briefing at the International Mother Language Institute in the capital about the preparations for the examinations, the education minister also said that all coaching centres across Bangladesh would remain closed from April 26 till May 23 in order to check any question leak during the examinations.

The Higher Secondary Certificate and its equivalent examinations might start at the middle of August, she further said.

Dipu Moni attributed the rise in the number of female examinees to various facilities and a greater awareness among people.

Replying to a question, she said that the number of female examinees increased probably because they were getting scholarships, greater chances to continue their studies and due to an increased awareness.

‘There was a big concern that female students dropped [out of school] during the pandemic period as [female] students of the classes VIII to X were vulnerable to early marriage,’ she said.

She went on to say that like every year, during the Covid period also the number of female examinees was higher than their male counterparts.

'This doesn't mean that it's possible for us to say if the number of early marriages has increased or decreased, but we can say that the number of female examinees hasn't decreased,' the minister remarked.

The number of female examinees has, she further remarked, increased maybe following a reduction in early marriages and an increase in job opportunities for women.

This year, the number of examination centres is 3,810 while students from 29,798 educational institutions will sit for the SSC and the equivalent examinations. The figures were 3,790 and 29,591 respectively in 2022.

Like 2021 and 2022, this year also the examinations will be held on short syllabuses.

However, the examinations will be held on all subjects and for the full time from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

The theoretical parts of the examinations will end by May 25 and the practical parts by June 4.

Some 16,49,275 students will sit for the examinations under the nine general education boards while 2,95,121 will take the examinations under the Madrassah Board and 1,27,767 students under the Technical Education Board.

This year, the number of examinees is 5,44,574 in the science group, 8,23,885 in the humanities group and 2,80,816 in the business studies group.

The number of examinees in the science group has increased by 37,320 this year from 5,07,254 in 2022.

The number of irregular examinees this year is 2,11,698.

Dipu Moni said that they were trying to hold the SSC, HSC and the equivalent examinations at normal times and with regular syllabuses.

Earlier, the SSC and the equivalent examinations took place in February while the HSC and the equivalent examinations were held in April.

The examinees have been requested to enter their respective examination halls 30 minutes before the starting time and no one except the examination secretary will be allowed to carry cell phones.

The examination centres will be under continuous monitoring and in the cases of examinees with disabilities they will be allowed to have an assistant each and an extra 30 minutes in the maximum.

The briefing was also attended by deputy education minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Division secretary Solaiman Khan and Technical and Madrassah Division senior secretary Md Kamal Hossain among others.



Editor: **Nurul Kabir**, Published by the Chairman, Editorial Board ASM Shahidullah Khan on behalf of Media New Age Ltd. 30 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 Phone: 880-2-8170450-56 (PABX), Fax: 880-2-8170457

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