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36pc students skip HSC, equivalent exams: minister

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ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon

As many as 543,989 students, or 36.46 per cent of the 1,491,932 regular students registered for the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations, did not fill out the forms required to sit for the exams, said education minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon, expressing shock at the number of dropouts.

Briefing reporters at the Bangladesh Secretariat in the capital said on Thursday, the minister said this year's dropout rate far exceeded the usual pattern seen after the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent

examinations, when a nominal dropout of 10 per cent or less is typically recorded, often due to marriage or students entering the workforce to support their families.



“However, this time we found a 54 per cent dropout in technical education, 44 per cent in madrasahs, and 33 per cent in general education,” he said, adding, “This is a huge and questionable number that requires investigation.”

The HSC and equivalent examinations began on Thursday, with 12.7 lakh students sitting for the exams under 11 education boards – nine general education boards, one madrasah education board and one technical education board.

The minister said he believed proper teaching was not taking place in classrooms, even though the examinations themselves were being conducted correctly and the administration had curbed unfair practices.

“This is a very bad indicator, which is why we will prioritise our teacher training programmes,” he said, adding that the root causes of the dropouts would be addressed to prevent a recurrence.

Attorney General Barrister Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal and State Minister for primary and mass education Bobby Hajjaj were also present at the briefing.

Meanwhile, on the first day of the HSC and equivalent examinations, 24,784 examinees were absent across the country, and five candidates were expelled.

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📍 Hamid Plaza (4th floor), 300/5/A/1, Bir Uttam CR Datta Road, Hatirpool, Dhaka-1205
PABX: +8802 41062247-50, Fax: +8802-41062245

✉ newage.editorial@gmail.com

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