

HSC exams start today

Identical question papers for general education boards

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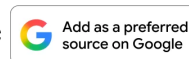


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This year's HSC and equivalent examinations begin today, with the nine general education boards using identical question papers and all 2,697 centres brought under CCTV monitoring.

Police personnel on duty at the centres will also be equipped with body-worn cameras, while a monitoring cell at the education ministry in Dhaka will be able to observe any exam centre across the country.

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Until this year, HSC examinations under the general education boards were held using separate question papers prepared by each board.

The exams, to be held under the full syllabus, will begin with Bangla first paper from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Examinees must take their seats 30 minutes before the tests begin. The written tests will continue until August 8, while practical exams must be completed by August 15.

A total of 12,70,583 candidates from 9,439 institutions will sit for the exams under 11 education boards, Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon told a press conference at the ministry yesterday.

The government has taken measures to ensure that the exams are held in a fair, orderly, and cheating-free environment, he said.

Of the total candidates, 10,69,714 are under the nine general education boards, 92,905 under the Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board, and 1,07,964 under the Bangladesh Technical Education Board.

The number of male candidates is 6,21,969, while the figure of female candidates is 6,48,614, according to ministry data.

In Dhaka, the DMP has banned unauthorised public entry within 200 yards of HSC exam centres, except for examinees and people involved in exam duties.

Speaking at the press conference, the minister said the government would take a strict position on answer-script evaluation this year. Examiners will receive training, the number of scripts assigned to each examiner will be reduced, and boards will randomly re-examine sample scripts to check whether scripts were evaluated properly. “We are alert about preventing question paper leaks.”

He warned that action would be taken if any examiner marked scripts carelessly or awarded marks arbitrarily.

On question paper leaks, the minister said the government has tightened the law, prepared three sets of question papers, and would take action over rumours or fake question papers on social media.

Milon added that the government is working to coordinate university admission tests after the HSC and equivalent results are published.

“We have discussed university admission tests with vice-chancellors. These are policy matters. Before admission begins, you will see what kind of coordination we are making.”

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

Among the general boards, Dhaka has the highest number of candidates, with 3,00,393 examinees, while Barishal has the lowest, with 58,664.

The other general education boards are Rajshahi, with 140,830 candidates; Jashore, with 117,210; Dinajpur, with 113,479; Chattogram, with 99,688; Cumilla, with 94,802; Mymensingh, with 73,037; and Sylhet, with 71,611.

Compared with last year, the number of candidates under the nine general boards increased by 14,316. The figure rose by 6,803 under the madrasa board and fell by 1,647 under the technical board.

Under the nine general education boards, 11,86,461 students registered in class-XI for the 2024-25 academic year, but 7,94,477 filled up forms. The non-form-fill-up rate was 33.04 percent. The rest of the 10,69,714 candidates are irregular students.

NEW CURRICULUM



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Milon said a new curriculum for primary and secondary education would be introduced from 2028, as it was not possible to roll it out from 2027 because of time constraints. He added that a committee has been formed to prepare the curriculum.

Asked whether the new curriculum would be introduced in all classes from class-I to class-X, Milon said changes would be made where necessary.

PM's Education Affairs Adviser Mahdi Amin said the curriculum would give importance to culture and sports alongside textbook-based learning.

He added that technical and professional education would be made mandatory in the education system, starting from class-VI, initially in a theoretical form and later through practical learning.