

Students battle floods, heavy rain to sit for exams, attend schools

Shahriar Azam  14 July, 2026, 00:34



Higher Secondary Certificate examinees stand on a submerged road in front of the T&T College centre at Motijheel as the capital experiences heavy monsoon rain on Monday. | Sony Ramani

Thousands of students across Bangladesh battled floods, heavy rain and waterlogged roads in the past few days to sit for the Higher Secondary Certificate and equivalent examinations and also to attend schools.

On Monday, HSC candidates in many districts were seen walking through knee- to waist-deep water with umbrellas, while some reached centres with

their clothes soaked after struggling through inundated streets and long traffic jams.

Many also failed to arrive on time because of disrupted road communication.

A total of 11,729 candidates, or 2.59 per cent, were absent in Monday's HSC exams as 441,774 under the nine general education boards participated there, according to the education ministry.

In Cumilla, students of Cumilla Government Women's College had to travel by boat to their examination centre after continuous rainfall submerged the college campus and surrounding roads, New Age correspondent in the district reported.

Bangladesh Meteorological Department meteorologist Md Shahinul Islam told New Age that Cumilla recorded 110 millimetres of rainfall between 6:00am and 12:00pm on Monday.

A flash flood hit the northern regions on Monday, trapping thousands more by floodwater as monsoon rain picked up in central and northern regions over the last two days beside the southeastern Chattogram region facing floods triggered by the monsoon rains.

'The examinations should have been postponed in such a natural disaster,' HSC examinee Taslima Akter from Cumilla told New Age, adding that they had to go to the centre drenched in rain and wading through dirty water.

Despite the adverse weather conditions, the HSC and equivalent examinations were held in 59 districts as scheduled, while examinations have remained suspended only in flood-hit districts of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar,

Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban under the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Chattogram, Bangladesh Madrassah Education Board and Bangladesh Technical Education Board in the worst affected Chattogram division.

The Bangladesh Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee in a notice on Monday evening said that due to inclement weather on Monday morning some candidates faced difficulties to reach the exam centres that including Comilla Government Women's College centre.

It, however, said that it was not realistic to postpone examinations at all divisions due to the flooding in only one division only.

The Met Office on Monday warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall in parts of Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet divisions over the next 24 hours and cautioned that temporary waterlogging could occur in parts of the capital.

In these circumstances, students and guardians raised concerns over the continuation of the examinations, saying many candidates were forced to travel through floodwaters and heavy rain, risking their safety to reach examination centres.

Moreover, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Socialist Students Front and Jatiya Chhatra Shakti separately urged the education ministry to postpone the ongoing HSC and equivalent examinations in flood-affected areas, saying students' safety and equal access to examinations should be given priority until the situation improves.

Besides, Dhaka University unit of Revolutionary Student Unity on Monday evening demanded the immediate suspension of the ongoing HSC and equivalent examinations amid the worsening flood situation.

At a protest rally held at university Raju Memorial Sculpture, the organisation also called for the declaration of a national emergency and state-led relief and rehabilitation for flood victims.

Meanwhile, academic activities at 38 government primary schools remain shut in coastal district Satkhira for heavy downpour and waterlogging, New Age correspondent in the district reported.

‘Teaching activities at 38 government primary schools in Satkhira have been suspended due to continuous rain and waterlogging. The decision was taken considering the safety and health risks faced by young students,’ Satkhira district primary education officer Md Ruhul Amin said.

Academic activities would resume as soon as the situation improves, he added.

As per the initial routine, the theoretical part of the examinations that began on July 2 will continue till August 8 and the practical part will conclude by August 15.

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