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481 expelled on first day SSC exam begins

Staff Correspondent

The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations began as per schedule on Monday across the country despite strike and boycott by some teachers of non-government high schools.

The first day of the examination passed off almost peacefully all over the country. No major incident was reported in Dhaka or from anywhere in the country till writing this story.

A total of 6,92,741 students are

appearing in the SSC examinations at 644 centres under the four education boards of the country.

Of the total, 2,22,274 examinees appear under Dhaka Board, 1,70,481 under Comilla Board, 1,62,861 under Rajshahi Board and 1,37,125 under Jessor Board.

The Joint Secretary of the Education Ministry M Khademul Islam told Bangladesh Observer that examina-

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SSC examination

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tions started smoothly all over the country. "We have received information from all districts that examination duly began in all the centres of the country. There was no report that examination was not held in any centre", he added.

There were doubts whether the SSC examinations would begin timely as about two lakh teachers and employees of non-government high schools and colleges had been on a strike to press home their different demands including increase in government's contribution to their salary, introduction of fufledged pay scale for them and security to their services.

But some of the striking teachers' associations called off their strike earlier following government decision to give Time Scale to the teachers and employees of non-government high schools and colleges and assurance to increase their medical allowance from Taka 100 to Taka 150. While the Central Teacher Action Liaison Committee, an alliance of six teachers and employees organisations of non-government schools and colleges, did not withdraw their strike and boycott programme.

Meanwhile, the government made arrangements for holding examinations on schedule with the help of non-striking teachers of government schools and colleges, government officials and teachers of polytechnic colleges.

The official source said that 50 per cent of the striking teachers of non-government high schools joined their duties and engaged in conducting examinations but the leaders of Liaison Committee claimed that none of the striking teachers joined their duties.

However, police and ansars were deployed in and around the exam centres across the country toward off any untoward incident.

In Dhaka city, examinations began on schedule at 10 a.m. at all the 94 centres under strict security measures.

On the first day of the examination on Bengali 1st paper, a total of 481 students were expelled under the four education boards, according to

board control rooms.

Of the total, 86 students were expelled from different centres under Dhaka Board, 138 under Comilla Board, 225 under Rajshahi Board and 32 under Jessor Board.

About 12 persons including two policemen were injured in a clash that ensued between guardians and police at Lalmonirhat Model High School. Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reported that the incident took place as the guardians tried to enter the premises of examination centre immediately after the exams began ignoring police order. During the clash, police made lathi charge while people pelted stones on police.

Striking teachers hold rally

On the other hand the Central Teachers Action Liaison Committee staged rally and brought out processions in the city to protest the police action on its leaders and holding examinations what it called without teachers.

Held in front of the Press Club, the rally was addressed, among others, by Sheikh Amanullah, Dr. M. Akhtaruzzaman, Kazi Farook Ahmed and Hena Das. They condemned the police attack on leaders of the Liaison Committee on Saturday during the gherao of Deputy Commissioner's office.

They also called upon teachers and employees of non-government high schools and colleges to continue the strike and to boycott examinations till realisation of their demands. After the rally, a procession was brought out in the city that was dispersed at the Central Shaheed Minar.

A meeting of the Liaison Committee held with Dr. M. Akhtaruzzaman on Monday thanked all the teachers and employees of non-government high schools and colleges for continuing the strike and boycotting the examinations.

Bangladesh Shikkhak Samity (Asraf-Nazrul) thanked all teachers and employees of non-government high schools for conducting examinations properly. It also protested against the police action on leaders of the Liaison Committee during the DC office gherao programme.