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Jessore Board

Fake registration of 15,500 SSC candidates detected

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, April 11: The Jessore, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education authorities have cancelled the registration of 15,500 SSC examinees of 1995 under the Board for fake registration and alleged corruption. It may be mentioned here that SSC examination, 1995 of the Board will commence from April 20.

It is widely alleged that about 40,000 students of 124 secondary schools in Khulna and Barisal divisions have managed to obtain fake registration for SSC examination, 1995 in connivance with a section of unscrupulous officials and employees of the Board with the help of Head Masters and other teachers of the respective schools. It is believed that these students had to pay about Tk 20 crore to these accused persons.

When contacted, Prof Hossain Waig, Chairman of Jessore Education Board confirmed the cancellation of registration numbers of these 15,500 examinees and told that legal action would be taken against the persons concerned following enquiries made by Ministry of Education and Board authorities.

The fake registration numbers were detected by the computer section of BUET who identified gross irregularities during data processing. The Board authorities on being informed made extensive scrutiny and found gross irregularities and finally cancelled the registration of these examinees.

When contacted the Controller of Examination of the Board informed *Bangladesh Times* that out of a total of 2476 affiliated high schools of the Board, the schools involved are mostly from distant places. Regarding the nature of the corruption, the Controller said that forms of examination were filled in one school and the candidates were found to be appearing from another school. Such large scale change of centres aroused suspicion in the minds of the authorities and on proper investigation it was found that most of the forms were with fake registration number. He further said that 1,57,899 examinees filled up the forms and now 1,42,399 examinees

will appear in the examination beginning from April 20. No more registration number will be cancelled, he said.

It may be mentioned here that the SSC answerscripts through objective questionnaires will end from this session and hence large number of students of class IX and X (new) have submitted examination form with the help of concerned teachers who managed to obtain fake registration number paying a handsome amount ranging from Tk. 5000 to 10,000 per students to a section of unscrupulous employees of Jessore Board. For example in a school at Bagerhat the number of students of class IX in 1993 was 37 but 137 students of this school had submitted registration application. In another school of Barisal district 237 students obtained registration number although the Class strength was only 30. Thus several schools managed to setup 4/5 times students than their actual student numbers. The Board authorities had to sanction affiliation to a good number of schools in the remotest corners of the thana headquarters under political pressure in recent years and these anomalies were detected mostly from these newly affiliated schools.

Following widespread allegation, the Ministry of Education sent a Joint Secretary of the ministry to investigate the corruption and anomalies. The report of enquiry is yet to be made. Another 3-man committee, headed by a Professor of Rajshahi University was also constituted by the Board authorities to investigate the incident.

Meanwhile, the students concerned staged several demonstrations in front of the Board demanding revival of the decision and for allowing them to appear in the examination. The Bangladesh Teacher's Association has condemned the cancellation of the registration of so many students and urged upon the Board authorities to allow these students to appear in SSC examination, 1995 on humanitarian grounds and demanded exemplary punishment to the Board officials and employees who are responsible for this "crime."