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State Minister, Secy differ on SSC exams circulars

Staff Correspondent

The feud between the Minister and the Secretary of the Education Ministry surfaced during a press conference on Sunday over issuance of two circulars regarding the ensuing SSC examinations.

State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haq Milon in a recent circular directed the centre authorities to search the body of SSC examinees at the entrances of the examination centres and expel if copies are found with them.

On the contrary, Education Sec-

retary Mohammad Shahidul Alam in a similar circular ordered not to expel examinees even if any copy is found in their possession.

As the journalists wanted to know which circular would come into effect, the State Minister pointed to the existing public examination law, saying it (the law) permits us to searching the body of examinees at the main entrances of examination centres, and expulsion of those who would carry copies.

The Education Secretary, however, stick to his circular and said expelling examinees at the gate of the centres is the violation of human rights and those who will do it may face prosecution.

The grassroot level government officials and teachers involved in the examination process were confused after they received the contradictory circulars from the State Minister and the Secretary.

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk and Deputy Minister for Education Abdus Salam Pintu, who were also present at the Press conference, initially extended their support to the Secretary and said that the body of examinees could be searched at the main entrances, but they would not be expelled.

Failing to give any amicable solution, Dr Osman Farruk urged the reporters to write, "If copies are found after searching the body at the entrances of examination centres, lawful action would be taken." (See Page 15 Col. 5)

SSC Exam

(From Page 1 Col. 5)

As the reporters repeatedly requested him to say whether the body of the examinees would be searched and those who will be found guilty be expelled, the Minister finally said that the concerned authorities would be given the discretionary power to search and expel the examinees.

"If the centre authorities feel that they would search the body of the examinees at the entrances and expel them if found any copies with them, they can do so," Dr Farruk said.

At the instruction of the Prime Minister, the Education Ministry organised a month-long campaign this year in all the 64 districts to check the adoption of unfair means in the public examinations.