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## HSC EXAMS BEGIN APR 16 Over 6 lakh to sit for exams this yr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 6,18,308 students will sit for the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent Alim and business management (BM) examinations beginning from April 16 under 10 education boards of the country this year.

The candidates will sit for the exams at 1,919 exam centres, including five abroad, under Dhaka, Rajshahi, Comilla, Jessor, Chittagong, Barisal, Sylhet, Dinajpur, madrasa and technical education boards.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid at a press briefing yesterday said necessary steps have been taken to hold the HSC exams in a copy-free and peaceful atmosphere, adding that zero tolerance will be shown to any incident involving copying during the exams.

"I warn everybody, both teachers and students strongly. Once someone is found involved in copying, there will be no mercy. So, neither teachers nor students should throng the exam centres with the mindset of copying or help copying," the minister said.

Nurul called on all the candidates to appear at their examinations without any worry or fear of intimidation in an environment free of any cheating.

"The crisis of power has been in the country for a long time. The concerned authorities would be asked to ensure power supply to the exam centres

during examination hours," he added.

A total of 55.17 percent of the total candidates are male, while 44.83 percent are female. Of them, 1,53,398 will appear in the exams under Dhaka Education Board, 75,629 under Rajshahi, 41,644 under Comilla, 74,489 under Jessor, 41,754 under Chittagong, 30,159 under Barisal, 18,349 under Sylhet and 59,411 under Dinajpur Education Board.

Some 59,354 students will sit for Alim exams under Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board, while 64,121 students will appear at the HSC BM exams under Bangladesh Technical Education Board.

Besides, some 170 candidates will sit for the HSC exams under Dhaka Education Board at five centres abroad. The centres include Jeddah, Riyadh, Tripoli, Doha and Abu Dhabi.

The rate of dropout in HSC exam is 19.92 percent on an average at all education boards. Of them, 20.29 percent is male and 19.45 percent is female. Of the boards, the highest rate of dropout is reported in Comilla at 23.68 percent, while the lowest rate is in Rajshahi at 16.73 percent. The average dropout rate in education boards was 23.58 percent last year.

A total of 6,20,020 students sat for the HSC and its equivalent Alim and BM examinations under nine education boards last year.