

# Nahid assures of checking question leak

*Ahead of SSC exam that starts tomorrow*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 17,86,613 students sitting for the SSC and equivalent examinations tomorrow, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid has insisted that the government has taken all-out preparations to check question paper leak.

"There is no possibility for the original question paper of being leaked... I am urging all the examinees and guardians not to go after fake question paper," he told a press briefing at his ministry in the secretariat.

Those who were earlier arrested told law enforcers that they could not leak original question papers and rather sold out the fake ones from Tk 5,000 to Tk 3 lakh, he said, adding that they did so "to do business" and "demean the ministry."

Nahid said no student and teacher will be allowed in examination centres to take cellphones or electronic devices.

His comments came against the backdrop of allegations of question leak before and during the public examinations.

The written part of the SSC exams will be held from February 2 to March 2, while the practical ones from March 4 to March 11.

The education minister said this year the number of examinees rose by 1,35,090 than previous year's. He said some 9.10 lakh boys and 8.76 lakh girls will attend SSC and its equivalent exams at 3,236 centres under 10 education boards.

Of the total, more than 14.25 lakh candidates will sit for the SSC exams under eight general boards while some 2.56 lakh ones will appear in Dakhil (secondary level of madrasa) and around 1.04 lakh in SSC vocational exams, he said.

A total of 446 overseas students will sit for the exams in eight overseas centres.