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# NEWAGE

## Pry scholarship exams start in 61 dists

Staff Correspondent  16 April, 2026, 01:40



*A teacher invigilates students during the primary scholarship examinations at Segun Bagicha High School centre in Dhaka on Wednesday, as the 2025 exams begin in 61 districts. | New Age photo*

Primary scholarship examinations for 2025 began on Wednesday in 61 districts despite criticism from the guardians and educationists.

In the three Chittagong Hill Tracts districts—Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban—the exams will start from tomorrow to allow the national minority communities to observe their year-end and New Year festivals.



This time primary students of private schools also took part in the examinations.

On Wednesday the Bangla subject exam was held, while the English exam is scheduled to be held today followed by elementary mathematics tomorrow, and Bangladesh and global studies and elementary science on April 18 in 61 districts.

The examinations started at 10:00am and last for two and a half hours till 12:30pm.

The examinations will begin in Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban tomorrow with the elementary mathematics subject.

On April 18, Bangladesh and global studies and elementary science exam will be held, on April 19 Bangla exam, and on April 20 English exam will be held in the three districts.

After visiting two exam centres at Motijheel Ideal Government Primary School and Motijheel Government Primary School, the state minister for primary and mass education Bobby Hajjaj told journalists that the main goal of holding the scholarship exams was to encourage students to go to school.

He said that as some students were absent in the exams they would take more steps to increase their presence in the future primary scholarship exams.

The government was also considering amending the primary scholarship exam guideline to increase the scholarship amount and also the number of students receiving the scholarship, Bobby Hajjaj added.

Soon after the decision on reintroducing the exams came, many guardians and educationists protested at the decision.

They said that this exam would put additional pressure on the students and create even more room for coaching centres and guidebook businesses to make money.

Earlier on February 25, minister for the ministries of education and primary and mass education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon announced that the primary students of private schools would be allowed to participate in the primary scholarship examinations.

As the number of government primary school students is much higher than the kindergarten (private primary) students, 80 per cent of the total 82,500 scholarships will go to them and 20 per cent to the private school students, according to the minister.

The Directorate of Primary Education, in a circular issued on July 17 last year, announced that only students of government educational institutions would be allowed to participate in the scholarship examinations.

The High Court on November 3, 2025 directed the primary and mass education ministry and Directorate of Primary Education to allow private schools students also to take the examinations under the 2008 Primary Scholarship Examination Policy.

The HC ruling came in response to a writ petition filed by 42 teacher and guardian representatives, including Md Faruk Hossain, director of Keraniganj Public Laboratory School, challenging the interim government's decision to exclude the students of private educational institutions from the scholarship examination.

A High Court Division bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Rezaul Karim passed the verdict declaring the directorate's decision to allow only government school students to participate in the scholarship examinations illegal.

Primary scholarship exams had regularly been held in the country before the Primary Education Completion examinations were introduced in 2009.

**Tags**

[#Primary scholarship examinations](#)

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