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'Mass coaching destroying education'

Our Correspondent

JESSORE: 'Mass scale coaching' by teachers on 'professional basis' was destroying education as was 'mass scale copying' by students, Prof Gazi Abdus Salam, Chairman, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Jessore said while talking about the crack down on copying by the Board during the recent examinations.

The crackdown was hailed by guardians despite the poor percentage of pass in the HSC examination.

According to the results of HSC examination published on November 10 last year 18,904 examinees came out successful out of a total of numbering 65,659 with a pass percentage of 28.79. Of the successful candidates 1,500 got First Division, 10,673 got Second Division and 6,708 passed in Third Division. The previous year's pass percentage in Jessore Board was 49.85. The pass percentage in Jessore Education Board was the lowest among the four boards this year. The pass percentage in other Boards were Dhaka Board—57.75, Comilla Board—51.70 and Rajshahi Board—34.62.

The districtwise pass percentage in Jessore Board HSC examination this year was Jessore—21.72, Narail—22.30, Magura—

22.68, Jhenidah—21.61, Kushtia—8.5, Chuadanga—8.5, Meherpur—24.80, Barisal—34.3, Pirojpur—25.27, Jhalakati—42.52, Bhola—29.95, Patuakhali—11.35, Barguna—22.34, Khulna—45.97, Bagerhat 34.42 and Satkhira—38.25.

Prof Gazi Abdus Salam, Chairman, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Jessore told the Bangladesh Times that to check unabated unfairmeans in the examination halls this year, high-powered District Vigilance teams consisting of seven persons including Deputy Commissioners including Superintendent of Police and educationists were formed who kept a close watch on all centres. Besides, 24 vigilance teams were formed with educationists and journalists and a Chairman's Special Vigilance Team was also formed with Board officials, educationists and senior journalists who visited examination centres 24 at colleges identified as dens of unfairmeans.

The Chairman said that the Board also took certain steps to create an academic atmos-

phere in the educational institutions. These includes stoppage of influx of students through illegal registration, mushroom growth of colleges and schools defying government's rules and regulations, cancellation of examination centres outside upazila headquarter and mass copying. All these measures were taken as per directives of the Ministry of Education he said.

Prof. Salam disclosed that examination of all the 386 examinees of Keshabpur College under Patuakhali district were cancelled for gross irregularities. The on-duty Magistrates and members of the Special Vigilance teams were not allowed to enter into the examination halls by students, teachers and outsiders. Open copying was going on at the centre. The decision has been approved by the Disciplinary Committee of the Board, he said. The Chairman said that the examination of November 14 at Bhandaria College under Pirojpur district was also cancelled for gross irregularities.