

MCQ tests to precede written SSC, HSC papers

*10 marks of MCQ tests
to be slashed from 2017*

Staff Correspondent

MULTIPLE Choice Question tests would precede the written examination in each subject of Secondary and Higher Secondary Certificate examinations from the next year, according to a decision the education ministry took Wednesday.

The education ministry also took decision to slash 10 marks from the MCQ tests of SSC and HSC examinations from 2017.

The changes were prompted by allegations that at exam centres some of the teachers helped the examinees in encircling the correct option provided in the question paper, said an official.

The decisions were taken at a meeting chaired by education minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

Later, officials told reporters that the government took the decisions to minimize the risks of leakage of questions.

The government is also planning to slash the papers in JSC, SSC and HSC examinations and shorten the gaps between the exams of different papers, they said.

Officials suggested for holding public examinations only on basic subjects and leaving the assessment of the examinees on the other subjects to the schools, said an education ministry official.

Until this year, science group examinees in SSC and HSC examinations could avail 35 marks from the MCQ section out of 100 marks in each paper.

But the examinees of humanities and commerce groups could avail 40 marks from MCQ section out of 100 marks in each paper.

Under the new decision, the students of the science group would get the option to avail 25 marks from the MCQ section while their compatriots from the humanities and commerce groups would get the option of availing 30 marks in the MCQ section from 2017.

Each year about 1.5 million students appear in the SSC exams and over a million in the HSC exams.

Attending officials said total automation of Bangladesh Government Printing Press was essential to stop question leakages.

Nahid said that efforts were on finding out flaws in the public exam system.

The recurring leakage of questions became an issue of serious of public concern in recent years.