

NEWAGE

PUBLIC EXAMS

Teachers compelled to give higher marks to pupils

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THE education boards are facing the allegation of compelling teachers to give higher marks in public examinations to show the success by increasing number students and also more and more of them scoring higher grades.

Following written instructions from the boards head examiners bluntly convey to the script examiners that they could face inquiry unless they were lenient in giving marks, complained many teachers.

'Head examiners and board officials also harass teachers who refuse to follow such instructions,' said the president BCS Sadharana Shikha Samity, professor Nasrin Begum.

Besides, she said, the

teachers get barely 15 days to check 300 scripts and as the time was far too inadequate for the task many examiners do it in haste following the instructions.

Many teachers frankly admitted that they tread the safe path of giving more marks without properly checking the scripts to avoid the threatened inquiries.

Emeritus professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury called it 'A sort of academic inflation which cannot be corrected.'

'It's also unbelievable that the boards bring pressure on teachers to give higher marks to students than they deserve,' he said.

Any verbal or written instructions to give higher marks to students than they

deserved was bound to frustrate them in admission tests for higher learning as well as while appearing in examinations to get jobs, he said.

Records show combined pass rate in HSC examinations increased to 78.33 per cent in 2014 from 74.30 per cent in 2013.

Similarly, the number of GPA 5 scorers also increased to 70,602 in 2014 from 58,179 in the previous year, show the record books of the education boards.

The credit for the increasingly good performance in the public examinations should go the policy of 'generosity' of the boards of education rather than the hard work of students, said teachers.

Continued on page 2 Col. 2

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Continued from page 1

For the papers bearing the full marks of 100, all the 10 boards gave clear written instructions to teachers to make special efforts to give the pass marks of 33 to students scoring between 28 and 32.

Similarly, the unambiguous instructions asked for adding 1 mark to scorers of 39 to improve their grade.

The scorers of 49, 59, 69 and 79 also got the same benefit under the same instructions.

The upshot was the number of scorers of all the six grades swelled, said teachers.

Similar written instructions were given for the papers bearing the full marks of 75 and 40.

Dhaka Education Board's controller of examinations Srikanta Kumar Chanda said that the practice of issuing formal written instructions began in 2001.

Earlier, he said, the boards used to give verbal instructions to teachers to give grace

marks without which some students would narrowly fail.

'We only advise teachers to re-check the scripts so that some of the students did not narrowly miss higher grades,' he said.

'In no way it means that we compel them to give higher marks,' he said.

He turned the table on the teachers who according to him love to make such allegations rather than properly checking the scripts.

'We say nothing when examinees get higher marks and only when it appears that less marks were given to students than they deserved we see to it that the teachers in question face inquiries,' said Rajshahi Education Board's controller of examinations Shamsul Kalam Azad.

Education minister Nurul Islam Nahid admitted that there were flaws in the system of examinations and said they needed to be addressed.