

English questioner lacks accurate format

## Scores of HSC examinees face confusion

Staff Correspondent

Major inconsistencies in the prescribed format of compulsory English question papers of Chittagong Education Board have thrown scores of this year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinees at a total loss.

Senior English language teachers alleged that differences in the format of question papers in many of the best-selling guide books and model-test question papers of different colleges of good reputation have made the examinees confused.

According to the officials of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board (SHSEB), Chittagong approximately 41 thousand students are to sit for the ensuing HSC examinations beginning on May 29.

For the first time, the examinees will take test for their ability in English language under a newly introduced method called 'communicative system', SHSEB officials added.

Three different components - reading, grammar and writing tests - have been endorsed in the syllabus

prepared for the subject under new system. The syllabus says that the examinees will need to address a seen comprehension in English part-I.

Model tests of some reputed colleges in the city, however, forced their candidates to address two seen comprehensions in part-I.

It is also alleged that unconfirmed word limitation for some specific questions has created confusion among the examinees as teachers even failed to find an acceptable solutions to the problems.

Shaila Sharmin, an examinee from Agrabad Mohila College, said that she had procured two guidebooks and both of them were confusing to her. "Our teachers also follow these guide books," she said.

An official of the SHSEB Chittagong preferring anonymity admitted that the examinees were facing trouble simply for want of an accurate format of question papers prepared by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB).

AYM Obaidul Akbar, Controller of Examinations of the SHSEB said that the expert teachers could resolve the specified confusions of HSC English part-I and part-II. "We're for coordinating the whole process of examinations only," the Controller said.

Mohammed Shahid Ullah, an expert teacher and Professor of Chittagong Government Women College told this correspondent that the examinees were facing serious troubles particularly in part-C as the NCTB did not provide elaborate format for both the papers.

He said that the size of paragraph, letter writing and composition was 100-150 words. "I think that the NCTB itself created the confusion," he said.

Luna, an examinee of HSC, told that some question papers of the test papers had shown a number of alternatives in question no 4 of the English second paper. "I'm not sure how many alternatives will be given in the question paper," she resented.