

SSC exams begin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations begin today with more than 14.32 lakh examinees taking part from 27,489 educational institutions across the country.

This year, the number of examinees rose by 1.29 lakh. However, over 1.66 lakh of the students registered in class IX are not sitting the exams.

Talking to the media at

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the secretariat yesterday, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said 7,33,202 boys and 6,99,525 girls will appear in the SSC and equivalent examinations at 2,942 centres under 10 education boards. Of them, 10.90 lakh will sit the SSC exams, 2.39 lakh Dakhil exams, and 1.02 lakh SSC vocational exams, he said.

The candidates will take Bangla First Paper exam on the first day. The exams are due to end on March 20 with the practical exams beginning on March 22. Nahid said due to upazila elections, examinations scheduled for February 18 and February 20 have been shifted to March 18 and March 20.

Of the total candidates, 1.55 lakh are irregular who either failed in one or more subjects while some 1,632 will take the improvement examinations.

A total of 296 overseas students will take the exams in seven overseas centres. All papers except for Bangla 2nd, English 1st and 2nd, and mathematics of SSC general exams will be held under the creative question method introduced in 2010, said Nahid. The minister said, "The SSC and HSC examinees last year faced tremendous problems due to hartals and blockades. We appeal to all not to hold any programme that has a negative impact on the students."