

Number of students taking HSC exams declines/

Staff Correspondent

THE number of students taking the Higher Secondary Certificate and equivalent technical examinations has declined this year, shows inter-education board coordination subcommittee statistics, ahead of the exams scheduled to begin on April 2.

Alim exams under the madrassah education board, however, will witness a rise in the number of examinees this year.

The decreases in the number of successful students at the SSC level in 2014 and 2015 were behind the decline, officials claimed.

A total of 9,82,783 students will appear for the HSC exams under eight general education boards. The number was 37,320 more in 2016.

Under technical education, 5,218 fewer students will appear for HSC exams, compared to last year's 1,02,132.

Alim exams will witness a rise of 7,729 examinees from last year's 91,591.

Inter-education board coordination subcommittee chairman Mahbubur Rahman, also Dhaka education board chairman, said that the drops in the number of successful students at the SSC level in 2014 and 2015 had led to the drop in HSC exams.

He, while addressing a press conference on Thursday, added that in 2016, a significant number of irregular students under Jessore education board who performed badly in English, had taken the exams, but this year irregular students were fewer.

Education minister Nurul Islam Nahid, while attending the conference, said that they would conduct a detailed evaluation of reasons behind the drop.

He said that the government had completed all preparations for the HSC and equivalent exams.

This year 11,83,686 students would appear for HSC

and equivalent exams from 8,864 educational institutes at 2,497 exam centres across the country, he said.

Of the examinees, around 6.35 lakh are boys and 5.47 lakh are girls.

Theoretical exams will end on May 16 and practical examinations will be held between May 16 and May 25.

'We will take action against all sorts of malpractices as per the existing laws. If anyone is found guilty of question leak, they will lose their jobs,' Nahid said, adding that only the exam centre secretary would be allowed to carry cell phone at an exam centre.