

## Primary terminal exams begin today

Staff Correspondent

THE Primary and the Ibtedayi Terminal Examinations 2012 begins today with girls outnumbering boys and with 11.48 lakh students dropping out.

According to the Director of Primary Education, about 37.89 lakh students enrolled for Class I in 2008 in general education and 26.41 lakh students are taking the terminal exams. The dropout rate stands at about 30.

The primary and mass education minister, Afsarul Ameen, at a press conference, on Tuesday, however, said that the dropout rate hovered about 29 in general primary education in 2011.

Shyamal Kanti Ghosh, director general of the directorate of primary education, said that the dropout rate was decreasing. The figure was 40 in 2010.

He said that many students who enrolled for Class I later moved to kindergartens, English-medium schools and noorani madrassahs, pushing down the number of students taking primary terminal examinations.

This year 29,69,393 students — 26,41,067 from primary schools and 3,28,326 from madrassahs — will take the terminal examinations. Of the total number of students, 6,05,414 are girls and 13,63,979 are boys.

The primary and mass education state minister, Motahar Hossain, said that from this year, answers scripts would be sent to other upazilas for evaluation. Earlier answer scripts were evaluated by teachers within the upazilas.

The examinations will be held in the 6,372 in all the 482 upazilas and overseas.

All preparations have already been made to hold the six-day examinations which will end on November 29. Examinations will be held every day from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Students with physical disabilities will get 20 more minutes to write their answers.

The terminal examinations will begin with mathematics today.

In the past year, 23,16,521 students — 12,49,693 girls and 10,66,828 boys — took the primary terminal and ibtedayi examinations.