



Children sit for their Primary School Certificate examination at Mohammadpur Govt High School in the capital. The exams began across the country yesterday.

PRIMARY EXAMS 1.6 lakh kids absent on first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The primary terminal examinations 2013 for class five students of schools and madrasas began yesterday with more than 1.6 lakh examinees out of over 29.50 lakh absent on the first day.

Three students -- two from madrasa and one from school -- were reportedly expelled for resorting to unfair means.

Examinees sat for the Mathematics exam at 11:00am in 6,566 centres across the country as well as eight overseas centres on the first day. The students of both disciplines will take Bangla exam today.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen, State Minister Motahar Hossain and

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1.6 lakh kids absent

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Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid visited different exam centres in the capital and talked to invigilators, officials and students.

A total of 26,35,406 students from schools and 3,14,787 from madrasas registered for the exams this year.

Of yesterday's absentees, 1,13,507 were from primary schools and 46,568 from ebtedai madrasas, according to the data of the Directorate of Primary Education's control room. A total of 39 students among those who are taking the exams from overseas centres were also absent.

The highest number of absentees in the general discipline was from Dhaka division. Some 37,590 students did not take the exam from this division.

Dhaka division also saw the highest number of absentees in the madrasa discipline with 12,110 students refraining from sitting for the exams, the data show.

Guardians waiting outside the examination centres expressed their

concern over the persisting political turmoil which, they fear, might affect the academic lives of their wards. They requested the political parties not to call programmes like hartal or blockade during the exams.

"Our children suffered a lot during the JSC exams. We don't want a repetition of that," said Arifa Islam, mother of an examinee in Mirpur.

Teachers said they were finding it difficult to deal with two public examinations being held simultaneously -- one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The JSC and IDC examinations which were postponed due to a few spells of hartals in the past few weeks are being held in the afternoon.

"A primary terminal exam ends at 1:30pm and a JSC exam begins at 2:00pm. We have to take all the preparations within 30 minutes. It's causing immense pressure on us," said a teacher on condition of anonymity.

The primary terminal examinations are scheduled to end on November 28.