

HSC exams must go on

FROM PAGE 16

This year, the number of examinees has decreased by 67,490. More than 2.10 lakh students are not sitting for the exams as they did not fill in the forms despite registering as regular students of Class XI.

Sources in the education boards said many students who did not fill in the forms might drop out. Financial inability and poor results in test examinations are the main reasons behind this, they observed.

The minister also admitted that a number of students, particularly the irregular ones, do not continue their education and rather join different occupations to help their family financially.

"The drop-out rate among students remains a big challenge for us," he said.

At the briefing, he disclosed that a total of 5,70,993 boys and 5,02,891 girls from 8,305 institutions will appear in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent exams from 2,419 centres under 10 education boards.

The exams will also be held in seven overseas centres in Doha, Abu Dhabi, Jeddah, Riyadh, Tripoli, Dubai and Bahrain for 241 candidates:

Of the total examinees, some 8,86,933 students will sit for the HSC exams under eight general education boards while 84,360 will appear in Alim tests under Madrasa Board and 98,247 will take Business Management exams under Technical Board.

Besides, 4,344 students of Diploma

in Business Studies will take the exams under Dhaka Board, according to the data provided by the education ministry.

This year, about 2.03 lakh students are irregular who either failed in one or more subjects, while some 3,972 will take the improvement examinations.

The theoretical exams would end on June 11 with the practical exams beginning on June 13.

The minister said 25 papers will be held in creative question method introduced at HSC level in 2012.

He also said hartals or blockades were neither effective in the past nor now.

"If they [BNP-led alliance] can withdraw the hartal for a day for cricket, why don't they take the exams into their consideration?" he said, urging the alliance once again not to call shutdown during exams.

Nahid said it was not possible to conduct the HSC exams the way the SSC tests were taken.

"If we take the exams [HSC] in another way [on weekends], our students will fall behind by a year... we cannot take the risk."

Besides, he said he talked to the guardians and other people and they told him that they wanted the exams to take place on schedule.

Moreover, the law enforcement agencies were told to provide all-out security to the examinees during the blockade and shutdowns.

The minister also sought cooperation from all so that the examinees could take the tests safely and uninterruptedly.