

# Area-based question papers for primary exams in the offing

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THE government has decided to set area based question papers for the Primary Education Completion Examination in a bid to prevent possible question paper leak.

Till now, students across the country sat for examinations with a uniform set of questions and if question papers leaked at any area, it would spread to others parts. With the new decision, if the question papers leak in any area, only that

particular area would be affected, not the whole country, said officials.

Primary and mass education ministry additional secretary Gyanendra Nath Biswas, confirming the move for district-base question papers, said it would be effective to prevent possible question leaks.

The government took the decision in the second week of October. Under the new system, at first, 64 sets of questions on each subject will be set, and after scrutiny

32 sets will be picked and from them eight sets will be printed from the BG press.

From that eight set of questions will be provided to the districts randomly and no district will be able to know which set they are getting for exam until opening the sealed question papers.

The Primary Education Completion Examination this year is scheduled to begin on November 22. Nearly 30 lakh students are expected to sit for the largest public

exam of the country.

The government took the decision when PECE exam is facing heavy criticism as allegations of question paper leak came during the exams in last couple of years.

A primary and mass education probe committee in December 2013 found that 80 per cent of English and 50 per cent of Bangla question papers matched with the leaked questions papers in the four districts—Dhaka, Khulna, Satkhira and Dinajpur.

The PECE, introduced in 2009, requires students to sit for examinations in Bengali, English, mathematics and Bangladesh and global studies and religion papers.

Investigations found that some corrupt government employees, coaching centres, guidebook businessmen, some activists of the ruling party-backed student organisation and some teachers were involved in the question paper leaks in four public examinations.