

Polytechnic students boycott exams

Staff Reporter

Thousands of polytechnic students are boycotting their final examinations.

The examinations which began last week are being participated by students of six polytechnic institutes including the one for women. But students at 12 other institutes are staying out.

According to sources the boycott has affected at least one-third of the 25,000 polytechnic students including those appearing in the diploma final examinations.

The students say they are agitating against the inadequate time only 20 days-given to

them at the end of 16 weeks of classes and semesters to prepare for the final examinations.

Authorities say that the time was enough after the semesters. They pointed out that they managed to combine the students of three sessions to appear in the examinations together in order to end the session jam of the past three years.

The decision to boycott the examinations are likely to cost the students dearly in view of a recent directive by the Education Ministry that those failing to sit

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for regular examinations would have their admission in first year, cancelled, sources concerned said.

The teachers are routinely going to the examination halls since the examination began on November 30.

The students of the polytechnic institutes at Bogra, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Kushtia and Feni and the Women's Polytechnic Institute in the city are appearing in the examinations.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Polytechnic Shikshak Samity appealed to the students and guardians yesterday for reconsideration of the boycott decision.

Khandaker Shahabuddin Mahmud and Mohammad Shamsur Rahman President and General Secretary respectively of the samity in a statement said that the action by certain students would affect all students at a time when the authorities managed to overcome the session jam of three years. They further pointed out that the situation was going to cause adverse reaction among the first year students whose admission was liable to be cancelled if they failed to appear in the examinations as per regulations.

The students say they are agitating also to press other demands like increasing the amount of stipends and removing shortage of text books.

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