

61

2

School students face uncertain future

One month of academic year lost

By Masud Arif

The country's Secondary and Higher Secondary education faces tough days ahead with 30 days already lost in the beginning of the academic year due to indefinite strike of the non-government teacher.

Out of around 275 days in the academic year only about 200 days remained excluding the scheduled and weekly holidays.

Besides, there are several vacations during the year in the schools, colleges and madrasas for promotion tests to higher secondary levels, tests of SSC and HSC classes, summer vacations and others.

Over 17.5 thousand non-government schools, colleges and madrasas are still closed due to the strike of teachers of the non-government institutions of the country.

The non-government teachers started the indefinite strike from January 18 demanding the implementation of their 15-point charter of demand including salary raise.

Admission in several schools in and out side the capital could not be completed while students of those institutions

were worrying to complete their syllabus for the coming SSC exams.

Test examination for the HSC faced uncertainty because of the boycott by the striking teachers.

While talking to The Daily Star, some principals and school headmasters said that finishing the syllabus would be tough if the strike continued.

However, they added that normally in the past years "we could not complete the syllabus smoothly due to the uneasy political situation prevailing during the autocratic regime in the country."

"We hoped not to face such problem this year especially under this democratic government", the teachers added.

The Director of the Secondary Education Mohsinur Rahman Khan told The Daily Star that finishing the syllabus would not be so difficult if the classes began within a short time.

He, however, added that the strike of the teachers created inattentiveness to studies among the students.

The Director of Higher

Secondary education said "we would try to make up the gap after the strike was withdrawn".

He felt that some vacations might be shortened to overcome the situation.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Shikshak Samity leader Kamruzzaman said that probably they would be able to take two term end examinations out of three as the classes in the first term were not held.

He also mentioned that it would be difficult to pay the salary of the teachers as the tuition fees of the students were not collected in due time.

Beside it was reported that classes in some government schools and colleges were not held smoothly. A small number of students were attending the classes.

Some school students in the capital told this correspondent that they did not get the booklists as the schools were closed.

"Our school is not closed but the teachers are not attending the classes", a class six

See Page 12 Col 8

Academic year

From Page 1 Col 4

school student in the capital mentioned.

However, he added that I stopped going school when I heard our school pcon saying "the classes will not be held as your teachers are observing strike".

"We are passing our days enjoying TV, video, playing and gossiping", he added with joy.

While talking to The Daily Star, an HSC student said that they were trying to finish their syllabus by taking private tuition.