

No decision yet on new school timing

By Gobinda Bar

As the education department is considering a major change in timing of government high schools in the city, teachers are locked in a debate over what should be the ideal system for better education.

A proposal for introducing morning and afternoon shifts both at primary and secondary levels in all the 24 government high schools in the city is at the core of debate now.

According to the proposal, morning shift classes of both primary and secondary level students will be held from 7 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and the afternoon shift will be from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Now, classes of primary level students are held from 7 to 11 am and those of secondary level from 11 am to 5 pm.

Director General of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, Prof Nayar Sultana, when contacted, said that the proposal was under consideration.

"A decision will be taken regarding this after discussions with the ministry, guardians and others concerned," she said denying press reports that the authorities have already taken decision to introduce the new system.

At a recent meeting, headmasters of government high schools in the city had detail discussion on the proposal with the DG.

At present, 20 government high schools in the city run double shifts and four schools run single shift.

See Page 12 Col 1

New school timing

From Page 1

When contacted teachers supporting the proposed system argued that this would help develop skill of the teachers who take classes at primary level now. Those who take classes at primary level always are being deprived of the opportunity to develop their skill by taking classes at secondary level. They are getting frustrated day by day, they said.

But those opposing the system argued that it would only help teachers to carry on with their private coaching and they will have to work only for five hours a day. "The system will help teachers get more time for private coaching," a headmaster said.

"Some self-seeking influential teachers have managed the Directorate officials and most of the headmasters to argue in favour of the proposed system so that they can carry on with their business," the headmaster told The Daily Star seeking anonymity.

"The present system is more appropriate than the proposed one as the number of classes at primary level are less than that in the secondary level," another headmaster said.

"In the proposed system, secondary level students will get five hours instead of six hours they get under the present system. The secondary level students need more class-hour as they have to study many more subjects than the primary students," he elaborated.

"Without changing the present system, teachers should be shifted from the primary to the secondary section and vice versa after a certain period so that they do not get bored and frustrated with only the primary level classes," the headmaster argued.

"If the proposed system is introduced, we will have to divide every class of the primary and the secondary sections, place one part in the morning shift and the other in the afternoon and give the teachers an option to choose between the two shifts. We will have to face guardians' request about putting their wards in a particular shift," he added.

Meanwhile, admission tests in all the 24 city government high schools which began on Saturday concluded on Monday. Results of admission tests will be announced after three days of the test.