

Series of hartals

Education sector facing setback

Staff Correspondent

The education sector of the country has been facing a serious setback due to repeated call of hartal by major opposition BNP led four-party opposition alliance. The fate of millions of children has become almost uncertain as the opposition observed three days of country wide hartals in the first week of November and poising for a series of hartal.

Adding to this setback, the opposition is observing another country wide dawn to dusk hartal today (Tuesday).

All primary and secondary schools have been instructed by the government to complete the annual examinations by November 18 in view of the holy Ramzan commencing from the second week of December. However, authorities of different schools said they might not be able to complete the annual examinations in the stipulated time if the continue to call hartal.

Guardians are worried how their children would complete the examinations and some of them they would heave a sigh of relief at the completion of the annual examinations of their children.

Teachers of different schools and colleges are equally concerned as they have to finish the

courses before holding the examinations. "We are to finish the course before the annual examinations and help students take preparation", said a teacher of Dhaka University Laboratory School and College.

Besides, Honours, Master's, Course final, Semester, Incourse and tutorial examinations of different higher educational institutions including Dhaka University, National University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), different other public universities and medical colleges across the country have been postponed due to hartal called in this month. The examinations of different private universities are being disrupted because of hartal.

Talking to The Bangladesh Observer, Saifur Rahman, a student of Jagannath University college said, "I am very frustrated because one of master's final examinations, which was scheduled on Sunday last, has been postponed and I am still in uncertainty whether my next examination, schedule on November 13, will be held". He also said that his preparation for the examinations was seriously affected due to uncertainty over holding examinations as per schedule.

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The examinations, which have been postponed due to hartals of November 7 and 8 include M.A. final examinations under traditional system of '95 of Dhaka University, Degree (Pass) examination of '98 of Home Economics college, B.Sc. (honours) of '97 of the same institution, First and second part of B.Sc. in Leather Technology of 1997 and 98, First and second part of B.Sc. in Textile Technology of '98, master's final of English, Geography and Political Science Department under the National University.

The other sufferers are the examinees of Dhaka Medical College, Salimullah Medical College, Bangladesh Medical College, ZH Shikder Medical College, City College, Viqarunnesa Noon School and College and Holy Cross College, Ideal College, Udayan School, Oxford International School, BAF Shaheen School and College and many other educational institutions through out the country.