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Merger of 2 shifts New crisis in city Govt schools

Staff Correspondent

With the merging of double shifts into single shift the city's government secondary schools have reportedly been facing acute accommodation and management problems resulting in hampering the smooth teaching process.

The city's all the twenty-four government secondary schools merged into single shift from double shifts from February 24 last at the directives of the Directorate of Education due to problems, which the authorities claimed to be "beyond their control".

The Directorate of Education

served notice to the authorities of the schools concerned in the middle of February asking them to take necessary measures for introduction of single shift. It also instructed the school authorities to enhance duration of class from 35 minutes to 40 minutes.

The Director General (DG) of Education Directorate convened a meeting of heads of all the city government secondary schools on January 29 and in this meeting the DG sought proposals from them regarding introduction of single shift in schools. Accordingly the heads of all the schools submitted their proposals to the DG on February 8 last mentioning a number of problems to be created out of merging double shifts into single shift. But it was alleged that the DG, without taking into account the inevitable problems, directed heads of the schools to introduce single shift.

According to heads of all city government secondary schools, the introduction of single shift has created a number of problems including accommodation of students in the classrooms, libraries and laboratories. It has also created a serious management problem that would severely affect the smooth teaching process resulting in deteriorating both the standard and quality of education at government schools.

Talking to the Bangladesh Observer the headmaster of a reputed city government school complained that they were in a awkward situation due

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Merger

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to the sudden directive for merging into a single shift without taking the consequences into consideration.

Two shifts mean two different schools at the same premises. We had two sets of teachers and other staff to run the shifts smoothly but merging of two shifts into single shift has just created serious pressure on teachers", he said. In this connection, he said with the introduction of single shift a class consisting 40 students has simply been doubled and turned into a class of 80 students. It has become impossible to manage such overcrowded class by teachers with the same room space and facilities", he observed.

Besides, there had been three, four or even five different sections of a particular class in a government secondary school. The authorities have also become puzzled with the section problems following merging of the single shift.

Shifting of double shifts into one shift has also created another social problem. Some of the city schools had two different shifts—morning shift for girls and day shift for boys. Many guardians, specially parents of the girls students, have sharply reacted to this sudden change and they are in apprehension that girl students will have to face some odd situations because they will have to attend class with boys.

The government introduced double shifts in all twenty-four secondary government schools in early 1986 with a view to coping with an increasing pressure from a growing number of students every year.