

SSC exams to be held on schedule

Says education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With fear of violence growing among students and their guardians due to the ongoing blockade, the government is going to hold Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent exams as per schedule.

"The exams will be held on schedule..." Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told reporters after a meeting with law enforcement agencies at the secretariat yesterday.

Nahid discussed the current law and order situation and other issues relating to the exam at the meeting.

Around 14 lakh candidates are expected to sit for this year's SSC and equivalent exams scheduled to begin on February 2.

Talking to reporters, Nahid said they had made all preparations to hold the exams in a peaceful manner, and urged all political parties to lift blockade and hartal.

There is no hartal or blockade going on in the country; what is happening in the name of blockade is

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burning people and creating panic among all, he said.

"The only way to hold the examinations freely and safely is to put an end to hartal-blockade and violence. And the announcement has to come before the exams," Nahid said.

"Please don't jeopardise the future of our generation...don't confuse them," he added.

A meeting source, wishing anonymity, said the ministry would wait until the day before the exams to see what announcement comes from the BNP.

"After the announcement from the BNP, we will be certain of holding the exams on time or not," he said.

"Holding the exams would be difficult even if the exams are kept out of the purview of blockade due to security reasons," he added.