

# Education caught in po-llu-tics

WASIM BIN HABIB

Nothing seems to be going right for Abir these days. The eighth-grader cannot concentrate in his studies. He looks annoyed at everything almost all the time. "What's wrong!" wonders the teenager.

Abir is a candidate of the ongoing Junior School Certificate (JSC) examination. At a time when he should be busy revising his syllabus, he remains puzzled as to whether the next exam will take place

or be postponed again.

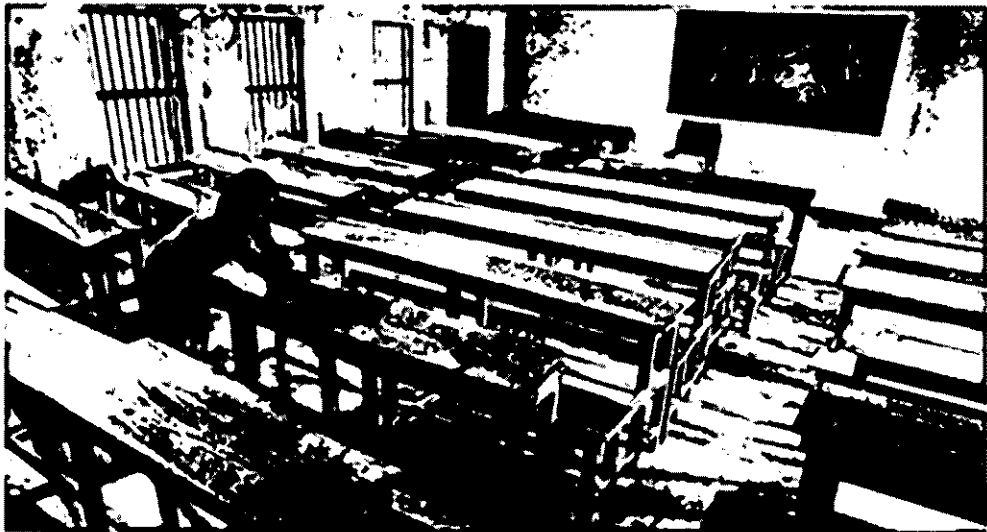
The ongoing political unrest, especially hartals, has disrupted his routine, plunging him into uncertainty and utter frustration.

"I don't know what subject to prepare for and how. After preparing for one subject I find at the last moment that the exam on that particular paper has been postponed due to hartal. Then I turn to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

RELATED STORIES - PAGE 2, 5

# Education caught in po-llu-tics



An employee of Rajdhani High School wipes the benches clean for students expected to arrive today, the only school day in this week which had an 84-hour hartal coupled with the last weekend.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

FROM PAGE 1

another subject but that too gets deferred for the same reason," he said.

"None would consider this political factor if I do badly in the exam," added Abir.

The boy has more disappointments to share. His father had promised to take him to his grandfather's after the JSC examination. But little did he know that the examination would take so long and travelling would become so risky all on a sudden.

"I don't think we will be able to go to our village home as it is uncertain when the exam will finish. Moreover, the admission rush begins next month," said Abir's father Raihan Ahmed.

He feels that the way the political situation is deteriorating, things will go even worse in the coming days.

This is how Abir and 19 lakh other eighth-graders feel, thanks to current political turmoil. So far, four of the 11 exam days for JSC and equivalent Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) exams had to be rescheduled.

The situation of the kids younger than Abir is even more pathetic. Take five-year-old Surjo, of Gulshan in the capital, for an instance.

His father Shamim said, "The streets have turned into battle fields nowadays. So he [Surjo] stays home all day, getting bored

WORKERS  
RS  
e  
ay

yesterday  
\$5,300 to  
ided by the

nth to the  
now," said  
angladesh  
ssociation

ie Minister  
meeting, we  
ommenda-  
ar over the

GE 10 COL 4

DOCK  
lay

শুভ উদ্বোধন  
২৮-৩তম শাখা  
১৪ নভেম্বর ২০১৩

গোলাপগঞ্জ

যে কোন ব্যাংকিং প্রয়োজনে যোগাযোগ  
ইসলামী ব্যাংক ফল সেক্টর- ১৬২

www.prothom-alo.com