

## Hartal disrupts half yearly exam.

HSC examinees suffers

Staff Correspondent

THE half-yearly examinations at secondary schools in the city scheduled for Monday were postponed while candidates and invigilators of the Higher Secondary Certificate examinations suffered a lot due to Monday's general strike.

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The Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami had called the countrywide dawn-t-dusk general strike immediately after the International Crime Tribunal had on Sunday sentenced its three leaders to imprisonment on charge of contempt of court for making derogatory remarks on the tribunal and on the war crimes cases pending with the tribunal.

A release of the party, however, said that it had called the strike protesting against 'wholesale arrests and torture' of Jamaat leaders.

The strike caused difficulties for the school authorities in completing the half-yearly examination within stipulated time frame.

The education ministry on February 13 issued a notification asking all secondary and junior secondary schools to take three examinations in a year, complete half-yearly exams in June 9-22 in the

current year and publish the results on July 7.

The Vigarunnisa Noon School and College principal, Manju Ara Begum, and the Ideal School and College principal, Shahan Ara Begum, told New Age that all sections of the school postponed Monday's examinations due to the general strike as it inconvenienced the students and their guardians.

The authorities of Rajuk Uttara Model School and College, Manipur School and College at Mirpur, Dhaka Collegiate School, Motijheel Model School and College and Mirpur National Bangla School and College and other schools also postponed Monday's examinations.

The candidates and the invigilators of the HSC examinations in Dhaka and its outskirts suffered a lot on the day, as the practical examinations at the many centres were held amidst general

strike.

The examinees faced transport crisis to go to examination halls and to return home.

The inter-education board coordination subcommittee chief, Taslima Begum, also the chairperson of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka, said that many centres took practical exams on the day.

'No report of any unwanted incidents was received,' she said.

Frequent general strikes are also hampering academic activities at institutions offering primary to higher education, teachers of different institutions said.

Students taking the ongoing HSC and equivalent examinations have been suffering a lot as six of their exams have already been rescheduled.

O-Level and A-Level exams have also been taken at

midnight causing enormous sufferings to the students and guardians.

General strikes have been enforced for at least 31 days so far in this academic year.

The strikes, mostly enforced by Jamaat-e-Islami and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, had forced the authorities to keep educational institutions open and to hold exams on weekly holidays.