



Indian parliament deadlocked again

Muslim students boycott exams in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD (India), Apr. 18:—Some 5,000 Muslim students boycotted school examinations today in India's riot-hit western state of Gujarat, where sectarian riots have claimed more than 850 lives, principals said, reports AFP.

School leaders and relief workers said the students staged the boycott to protest against the government's decision to set up their examination centers in Hindu-dominated neighbourhoods where they considered themselves vulnerable to mob attacks.

"Only half the Muslim students in our school turned up to take the examinations even though we had arranged for transportation from the school to the exam centre," said one principal of a local school in Ahmedabad's Jamalpur area.

School examinations in Ahmedabad have been postponed twice since the sectarian riots began in late February.

"We simply felt uncomfortable and unsafe asking our children to go and sit for exams," said one parent, Nafisa Ahmed.

Mohsin Kadri, co-ordinator of the Shah Alam relief camp for Muslims, said they had requested school authorities and the government to make new arrangements to help the homeless students, but their pleas were ignored.

"We had asked for some of the exam centres to be shifted to Muslim majority areas but since this was not done Muslim parents had no choice but to stop their children from taking the exams," Kadri said.

At least 850 people, mostly Muslims have been killed in the riots in Gujarat.

AP adds from New Delhi: Opposition lawmakers forced the Indian Parliament to adjourn early for the fourth straight day on Thursday, putting more pressure on the prime minister to fire the top official of riot-torn Gujarat state.

"Remove Modi," chanted opposition lawmakers, who accused the Gujarat chief minister, Narendra Modi, of doing little to halt the Hindu-Muslim rioting in western Gujarat state.