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## Hartal puts edn in terrible state *Says Nahid*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday urged the political parties not to hold any programme that hinders students' education, saying the education process is being hampered due to the hartal.

"The students are our sons and daughters, our future generation. So there should not be any such programme that may harm them," he told reporters at his secretariat office.

The non-stop hartal has put the education in a terrible state as many exams including that of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) were deferred, he said, adding "We will face mounting pressure to overcome the loss."

Around 9.26 lakh examinees are appearing in the HSC and equivalent examinations that began on April 1. The government has already rescheduled the exams of several subjects due to the non-stop hartal called by the opposition BNP.

BNP observed its countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal for the third consecutive day yesterday in protest against the alleged "disappearance" of former lawmaker and BNP Organising Secretary for Sylhet Division M Ilias Ali.

The minister said Ilias Ali is a political leader and they are sympathetic to him, and earnestly expect that he will return to his family.

But observing non-stop hartal centring the incident will be harmful for the students, he said.

Nahid said they have tried to bring discipline in the education system during the last three years. But hartal has already created a session jam in the academic calendar.

Dhaka Education Board officials said it would turn out to be a system loss as they would not be able to finish the exam in due time and distribute the answer sheets as per the schedule.

"We have been able to publish results of the public exams like HSC and SSC within 60 days of completion of exams. But this time, it will be tough to maintain the timeframe," said a senior official of the board preferring not to be named.

The education minister, however, said they would try their best to publish results on time.

The ongoing first term examinations at different schools also hampered due to the hartal, with the authorities rescheduling the exams for the last three days over and over again.