

HSC exams begin today amid power cuts, fear of strike

Staff Correspondent

THE Higher Secondary Certificate and its equivalent examinations begin today amid anxieties among examinees and guardians over the current political turmoil and frequent power outages.

This year, 10,12,581 students from 7,803 educational institutions have

Continued on page 4 Col. 1

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Continued from page 1

enrolled in 10 educational boards including madrassah and technical boards to take the exams at 2,288 centres across the country.

The students will take their Bangla first paper examination today.

A group of examinees of some colleges in the capital, at a press conference on March 28, urged all concerned not to call any general strike during the exams.

They made the call due to the frequent general strikes called by different political parties in the last couple of months, causing disruption in the education sector.

General strikes had been called during the latest Secondary School Certificate and its equivalent examinations and the exams of at least five days had to be rescheduled.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party-led opposition

alliance leaders in the past week said that they might call general strikes during the HSC exams, if necessary, to intensify their agitations.

The education minister, Nurul Islam Nahid, at a briefing at his ministry on Thursday had called upon the leaders of opposition political parties not to call any general strike during the exams.

If necessary, general strikes may be called between midnight and dawn, the minister had said.

Many students however also complained that they could not make enough preparations for severe power outages. In some areas, people have been facing power outage for seven or eight hours.

Many examinees said they were also worried about the ongoing frequent power outages.

The students cannot prepare for the exams properly,

as power outages are taking place for five to six hours in Dhaka and 10 to 12 hours in the rural areas across the country, he said.

The number of HSC examinees increased to 85,767, including 5,35,662 boys and 4,76,919 girls, this year. In 2012, the number of examinees was 9,26,814.

Of the total examinees, about 8.36 lakh are regular students while over 1.67 lakh are irregular.

The written exams will end on May 28 and the practical exams will be held between June 1 and June 14.

This year, the HSC exams will also be taken at five overseas centres for 165 candidates.

The exams of seven subjects will be held on creative question method.

The students with disabilities would get 20 minutes extra time to complete exams.