

# Further blow to education

## Students, parents worried, exams deferred again

WASIM BIN HABIB

The fresh spell of 72-hour blockade from today will again mess up the schedules for all exams being held in the country.

The government once again rescheduled today's primary and ebtedai terminal tests, which had been deferred last week due to the opposition alliance's 71-hour blockade.

The tests would now be held from 9:30am to 12:00noon on December 6, said Shyamal Kanti Ghosh, director general of Directorate of Primary Education. "We have already notified all deputy commissioners, district primary education officers and upazila primary officers about the change," he told The Daily Star.

More than 29 lakh class-V students are taking the examinations that began on November 20.

The authorities of city schools held exams yesterday, during the weekend. But it is likely that the schools would suspend the ongoing annual examination slated for today, tomorrow and the day after.

Hartals and blockades in this crucial month messed up

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Dhaka streets littered with pre-election campaign placards, banners, and posters, as seen at Kakrail intersection and on Bangabandhu Avenue, inset, even though the EC on Tuesday issued notices asking candidates to remove them within 48 hours.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Ershad doubtful about polls

Says political unrest could foil voting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday expressed doubts over holding the ensuing general election as the country has been beset by political turmoil.

"The whole country is now on the verge of destruction and in uncertainty. People are being burnt and killed in political violence. I doubt whether the election would be held. If it is held, would it be

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## Transport in tatters

Hartals, blockades seriously affect owners, workers, others linked to the sector

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and PANKAJ KARMAKAR

More than five million people affiliated with the transport sector are in great misery, as the country's roads and waterways communications nearly collapsed in the 71-hour blockade that ended early yesterday.

One million others who run various businesses around terminals and dockyards are also indirectly affected by long spells of hartals and blockades, said transport sector people.

While plying of buses, trucks and launches almost came to a halt during the just-ended blockade, rail communications too has gone through a nightmare due to uprooting of sleepers and fishplates, and arson.

Against the backdrop, Bangladesh Railway on Wednesday urged the people to protect the public sector from destruction.

"The Railway is a public institution. All its assets belong to the people. It is our duty to protect the sector," reads a text message of the railway sent to mobile subscribers.

As per Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation, around one lakh trucks, lorries and pick-up vans, and 86,000 large and small buses operate across the country employing around four million workers.

Transport operators said the Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Benapole are the two crucial routes as most of the country's export-import take place through the Chittagong seaport and Benapole land port.

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## Truckers face risk, charge higher fare

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Forty-year-old Ripon is a trucker from Puthia, Rajshahi. A caring father, husband and son, he was not at all eager to take life risks and drive for fast money during hartals and blockades.

But not everything goes according to one's wish. His small savings soon got exhausted and he was faced with the question, "What to do now?"

This is during the opposition's just-ended 71-hour countrywide roads, railways and waterways blockade.

Ripon finally decided to volunteer for

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## Pedestrian killed in BNP-cop clash

Ctg-Cox's Bazar highway blocked, 50 vehicles damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Yet another bystander gets killed in the ongoing political violence.

Jager Hossain, 50, received a stray bullet when BNP activists were engaged in a clash with law enforcers in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The 50-year old hailing from Chiringa of Chakaria municipality succumbed to his injuries while being taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The clash which left at least 15 others injured began when police tried to prevent the opposition activists from bringing out a procession carrying the body of a local party leader around 3:00pm at Chakaria Chiringa Shaheed Abdul

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Vidushi Jayashri, centre, performs on the second day of the Bengal Classical Music Festival, 2013, at the capital's Army Stadium.

## AL nominations spark protests in several districts

STAR REPORT

The announcement of the Awami League nominations for the 10th parliamentary polls yesterday caused angry outbursts within the party at different places of the country.

The leaders of Beluchi upazila unit AL resigned en masse last night as former fisheries and livestock minister Abdul Latif Biswas did not get nomination in Sirajganj-5 constituency. The AL has nominated Abdul Majid Mandal in the seat.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports: At least 10 people were injured in a clash between the supporters of former lawmaker Hafez Ruhul Amin Madani and Trishal municipality Mayor ABM Anisuzzaman and those of sitting MP Reza Ali.

The activists loyal to Madani and Anisuzzaman brought out violent processions soon after the announcement of Reza Ali's nomination in Mymensingh-7 (Trishal) constituency.

At one stage, the agitating AL men ransacked Trishal upazila AL office, triggering clashes with Reza Ali's supporters. They also barricaded Dhaka-Mymensingh highway, halting traffic movement for over an hour.

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JP SPLIT  
Kazi Zafar heads 'new committee'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

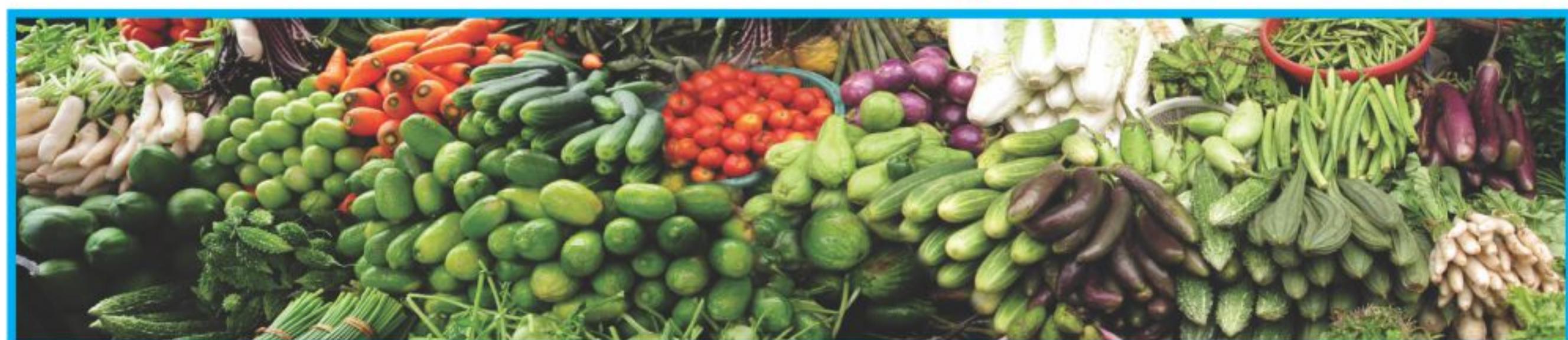
Expelled Jatiya Party leader Kazi Zafar Ahmed yesterday announced an interim committee declaring himself as the chairman of the party and Golam Moshi as its secretary general.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad on Thursday expelled Zafar on the grounds that he (Zafar) had spoken against him. Almost immediately, Zafar expelled Ershad blaming him of constantly changing his political stance.

Golam Moshi, who has recently resigned from the party as a presidium member, yesterday told The Daily Star that they had formed the committee to

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