

Schools mustn't increase fees

Schools mustn't increase fees more than 30pc: govt, Guardians must be consulted
Staff Correspondent

THE education ministry on Tuesday issued a circular asking the non-government schools, colleges, madrasahs and vocational institutions not to increase tuitions and fees more than 30 per cent of the existing ones in any circumstances.

Before increasing the tuition and other fees, the educational institutions must consult the guardians and consider their ability and show them the existing earning and expenditure of the institution, the circular said.

It also banned the realisation of any fees other than session charge and development charge mentioned in the policy framed by the government on admission at the non-government educational institutions.

The ministry prohibited extension of classes and sections and recruitment of teachers without permission of the government and realisation of any fees from the students for the salaries and allowances of any teacher recruited without such permission.

The ministry issued the circular as the non-government educational institutions continued to charge monthly tuition fees and yearly re-admission fees double the amount set by the government.

Most families have been put under immense pressure through the sudden rise of fees.

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The High court in November 2013 declared extra fees charged by non-government schools and colleges while admitting students to Class I-XI illegal.

The circular said that the salaries of the teachers and employees must be fixed based on their qualifications mentioned in the organogramme.

It barred the educational institutions from paying any teacher on monthly pay order more than the salary of a government teacher on the same scale.

No institution would pay salary and allowance to a teacher, who is not on the monthly pay order, more than the salary and allowance of teacher on the monthly pay order, the circular said.

The institutions facing financial deficit have can submit a proposal to the district education officer to make up the deficit increasing the tuition and admission fees, the circular said.

If the district education officer finds the proposal valid, s/he would refer it to

the additional deputy commissioner (education) for final approval, it added.

In the November 2013 verdict, the High Court made it mandatory for the authorities of all the non-government schools to follow the government's guidelines with regard to students' admission fees, session fees and other fees, not exceeding Tk 5,000 in the capital.

The court said it would monitor the case and the aggrieved people could prefer contempt petitions in the High Court against schools