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MPs lose more power over pry school appointments

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THE High Court on Wednesday declared illegal the power of member of parliaments to select one of the three candidates who qualify for the post of office-assistant cum security guard at the government primary schools in their area.

The court also declared illegal Article 7(2) of the guideline for appointment of office-assistant cum security guard at government primary schools, which empowers MPs to select one of the three candidates nominated by the selection and appointment committee through viva voce.

The bench of Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan declared the appointment procedure illegal after disposing of a

public interest litigation writ petition challenging the legality of the guideline issued by primary and mass education ministry secretary on January 26, 2015.

The petitioners include MAZ Moshir Mollah, Mamunoor Rashid and Md Jahangir Alam, who identified as educationists and social workers.

The MPs can no longer be included in the appointment process following the High Court's verdict, petitioner's lawyer SM Rezaul Karim told New Age.

The duty of MPs is to make law, not to appoint people or carry out other businesses, he said.

According to the guideline, the appointment committee prepared a list of three qualified candidates for the post of office-assistant cum security

guard and the MP would recommend one of them.

The MP's choice would be final and the upazila nirbahi officer concerned would send the candidate to the headmaster of the primary school concerned for the appointment, said the guideline.

On June 1, the High Court scrapped a government regulation that empowers a lawmaker to become ex-officio chairman of the managing committee, or the governing bodies of a maximum four non-government school and college of his or her choice.

The HC had also scrapped the regulations that empower the government and the Dhaka education board to appoint unelected special managing committees or governing bodies with local MPs as chairmen.