

NEWAGE

ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS Govt has no mechanism to monitor

*Failed to draft
 guideline in
 4 years*

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THE government is completely unaware about what happens in the country's English medium schools.

This happened as the government could develop no mechanism until now to monitor the English medium schools.

Even there is no mechanism to prevent the English medium schools from charging exorbitant admission and tuition fees.

Education ministry officials said that following an order issued by the High Court

Division in June 2012, government took move to frame a guideline for English medium schools that produced no results in last four years.

Leading academicians said that it was long over due for the government to develop a mechanism to monitor the English medium schools as they follow overseas curricula.

The involvement of three

students of English medium schools, all from privileged families, in the recent mayhem at a Gulshan restaurant reinforced the demand.

Traditionally, the demand to bring the English medium schools under monitoring was raised on the allegation that these institutions culturally alienate their pupils from the society.

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The government should immediately start monitoring English medium schools, demanded professor emeritus, Serajul Islam Choudhury and former Dhaka University vice chancellor Enajuddin Ahamed.

Officials said that there were no guidelines to monitor and supervise English medium schools to find out what they teach and what motivation they provide to their students.

Education ministry joint secretary Ruhi Rahman said that they almost completed drafting the guideline the English medium schools should follow.

The guideline, she said, would provide for 'regular inspection' of English medium schools.

The proposed guideline

would require renewal of registration of these schools, she said.

She said that the guideline would also fix the maximum admission and tuition fees to be charged by English medium schools.

The education ministry even could not say how many English medium schools were there in Bangladesh.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, better known as BANBEIS, there are 162 English medium schools in the country with 1,25,233 students.

Education ministry officials described the BANBEIS data as 'not credible'.

They said that number of English medium schools in Bangladesh would be much higher.

Academicians blamed English medium schools for alienating their students, mostly from well to do families, from the society and its culture.

They said that some how many students of English medium schools adopt distorted alien culture.

Serajul Islam Choudhury said that the government should monitor English medium schools to know what actually happens in these institutions.

Most of students of these schools, he said, being deprived of the opportunities to get acquainted with the vibrant Bangali culture and customs get alienated from the society.

It is unfair to blame students of English medium schools for terrorist ac-

tivities when the problem persists throughout the society, said Bangladesh English Medium Schools Association general secretary and Cardiff International School principal GM Nizam Uddin.

He said that after the Gulshan incident the association representing English medium schools took the decision to increase cultural and sporting events to keep their pupils away from all misdeeds.

He said that the association requested parents to spend more time with their children.

He said the government could monitor English medium schools' teaching quality.

He said that the fees should be fixed according to the ground realities.