

## Education officials to face music for irregularities in upgrading 555 colleges

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THE education ministry has asked the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education to take legal action against 30 officials for their involvement in irregularities in upgrading 555 colleges without approval from the ministry, officials said.

They said that all the 555 intermediate colleges were upgraded to Degree colleges without approval from the ministry and the additional number of teachers and employees had been getting monthly pay order (salary from the government).

The education ministry in a letter signed by a deputy secretary last week said the education ministry probe body headed by additional secretary Mozammel Hoque had found some 30 officers and employees who were involved in the irregularities.

The letter sent to the DSHE reads: 'The ministry probe body's report has recommended the authorities concerned to take legal action against the officials whose list was enclosed with the letter.'

All the 555 colleges, which were MPO-listed between 1990 and 2004 without approval from the min-

istry, had incurred a huge financial loss of the government, according to ministry officials.

Md. Ataur Rahman, director (college and administration) of the DSHE told New Age that they received the letter from the ministry and would hold a meeting soon to start the action process.

Among the 30 officials against whom the DSHE will launch action include three former directors (college and administration) and four deputy directors and assistant directors who had worked with the DSHE between 1997 and 2004. Four of them are now on retirement, according to the list.

The other involved persons include 23 upper division clerks, office assistants and typists, and among them 13 had gone either on voluntary retirement or normal retirement. Eight of them are still serving in different offices under the DSHE.

Office assistant Amirul Islam Sarkar is the only person who has been suspended for eight years.

Amirul told New Age that those who have contacts with upper level had managed to avoid suspension, 'which I could not'.