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Feature

Schools rush as June 30 recognition deadline nears

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Teachers of non-government schools are now very much concerned as the deadline for renewal of school recognition will expire on June 30, but the authorities concerned would not be able to complete the task by then.

The secondary schools can send up candidates for SSC examinations only when they are recognised by the education boards, or are given special permission to do so.

The process, however, involves inspection of the non-government schools by the District Education Officers under the directorates of secondary and higher education, before the granting of recognition by the boards. The

Practice is to ensure that each school had the required physical facilities, trained and qualified teachers, libraries and laboratories required for importing secondary level education.

Recognition is given to most non-government schools on an year-to-year basis. Certain established schools, however, are also granted permanent recognition, depending on their performance in public examinations.

This year teachers of non-government schools are concerned because the education authorities have put conditions that the school which would not get their recognitions renewed by June 30 would not get government grants and

contributions towards the salary of their teachers.

The number of non-government secondary and junior schools is now above nine thousand in Bangladesh. Reliable sources say the four boards are yet to be able to renew recognitions of a large number of schools. What fate is then awaiting them?

Education authorities say the failure to renew recognition of all the non-government schools should be ascribed not only to delays made by them but also to the lack of adequate and timely interest taken by the managements of the schools concerned. He alleged that most school managements appeared to have sat idle for a large part

of the year, but were now in hurry as the time was running out.

He also conceded that renewal of recognition to such a large number of schools in a limited span of time was a very difficult task. He, however, hinted that a school which was once recognised usually was never refused renewal later.

The authorities only tried to ensure that the conditions subject to which recognitions were granted earlier were fulfilled by it.

He said that the authorities concerned wanted to improve the state of education in the non-government school. The strictness now being observed does not mean that many schools would be denied recognition and associated benefits.