

## 3 city schools given a month to return extra fees

Mushfique Wadud

THE education ministry on Wednesday gave three private schools in the capital a month to return the money they took in extra fees during admission in breach of the ministry guideline or adjust them with monthly tuition fees.

The schools are Motijheel Ideal School and College, Viqarunnisa Noon School

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and College and Manipur School and College.

The ministry also asked the secondary and higher education directorate to take action against the schools in keeping with Section 10 of the admission guideline if they failed to do so in a month.

The secondary and higher education directorate has been asked to notify them and to take action in keeping with the law if they fail to do so in a month,' the education secretary, Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, told New Age on Wednesday.

The ministry gave the ultimatum after a four-

member team found that the three schools had not returned the extra fees they had taken from students during admission.

The team also found that the Manipur School had collected Tk 5,23,76,100 extra from 3,054 students, Motijheel Ideal Tk 3,39,34,900 from 2,667 students, Viqarunnisa Noon School Tk 68,17,100 from 1,626 students.

The investigation also found that Holy Cross College had collected Tk 12,94,800 from 1,034 students but as the college is not covered by the monthly pay order, the government would not take action

against it.

The Manipur School and College principal, Farhad Hossain, told New Age, 'We have not yet received any notice. If we get the notice, we will call an emergency meeting of the managing committee and make a decision.'

The education ministry in a guideline on January 31, 2012 set the admission fees for non-government schools and colleges.

According to the guideline issued, educational institutions in the metropolitan area which are covered by the monthly pay order cannot charge more than Tk 5,000 and institutions

which were partly under the MPO can charge the maximum of Tk 8,000 for admission.

But many schools in the capital charged higher than what the government set. The ministry then asked the schools to return the extra fees they had charged during admission. But many school did not do so.

The investigation also found that two schools — Mirpur Bangla High School and BAF Shahin College — had returned the extra money or adjusted it with the monthly fees. Admajee School and College said that it would adjust the extra fee next year.