

## NEWAGE

# *Schools asked not to take hiked tuition fees*

**Staff Correspondent**

THE education ministry on Sunday asked the non-government educational institutions not to collect hiked tuition and other fees from the students until further order.

The government issued the office order after guardians of students of several leading schools in the capital had taken to the streets protesting against the increase in fees, which virtually had doubled in a year.

The office order said that

the government would issue necessary directions in this regard soon.

It mentioned that different non-government educational institutions had been charging hiked fees without direction from the government causing a negative impact in the mind of the students and guardians.

Referring to the relevant rules, the order said that the fees would be fixed by the concerned governing body or managing committee based on guidelines of the government.

In recent days, guardians of students of several schools including Vigarun-nisa Noon School and College, Willes Little Flower School and College and Mohammadpur Preparatory Higher Secondary School took to the streets protesting against the fee hikes.

Agitating guardians said that they would begin a non-stop sit-in at in front of the schools if the authorities did not stop realising increased fees by Sunday.

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## Schools asked

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Guardians of many of city's schools alleged that besides hiked monthly tuition fees, the school authorities were also charging re-admission fees, while some were charging admission fees much higher than the amount set by the government.

Usually, schools increased the monthly tuition fees by Tk 200-300 each year, but this year, at many schools, monthly tuition fees virtually doubled, they said.

They said that most families were put under immense pressure through the sudden increase in fees.

School authorities, however, claimed that they had to increase admission fees, as well as monthly tuition, as the daily expenses of running an institution had increased, especially with a rise in teacher salaries.

Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education director (secondary) Elias Hossain

said that they had formed an investigation committee and they would take action based on the probe report. Dhaka-based guardians' platform Abhibhabak Oikya Forum president Ziaul Kabir Dulu said that government should fix the monthly tuition fees and enforce it strictly.