

EXTRA FEE FOR ADMISSION

3 city schools yet to refund money

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AUTHORITIES of Viqarunnisa Noon-School and College, Ideal School and College and Manipur School and College have not refunded the extra fees they charged from students during admission in 2011, defying an education ministry deadline, given the fourth time, that expired on Tuesday.

The ministry at a meeting on admission policy for non-government schools on November 11 asked authorities of the three institutions in Dhaka to refund or adjust the amount of money they took from students more than the amount set by the government in 2011 in a fortnight.

The education secretary, Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, after the meeting, told reporters that the ministry would take action if the schools did not meet the deadline. The ministry earlier gave three deadlines.

The education minister, Nurul Islam Nahid, 2 in the parliament on July said that

registration would be cancelled if educational institution charging more than the amount set by the government for admission did not refund the money to the students in a month.

According to a Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education investigation report that was published on July 4, the three institutions realised more than Tk 9.30 crore illegally in admissions fee by forcing students to pay more than the amount set by the government.

The Ideal School and College realised an excess of Tk 3.39 crore from 3,049 Class I students, Manipur school and College Tk 5.23 crore from 3,054 students and Viqarunnisa Tk 68.17 lakh in excess from 1,627 students.

The education ministry's joint secretary (secondary) AS Mahmud about 5:00pm on Tuesday told New Age that none of the schools had refunded or adjusted the money. The ultimatum ends today and none had contacted us. We will see to

it tomorrow [Wednesday].

'There was no question of refunding or adjusting money as we did not realise any extra fees during admission in the past year,' the Manipur School and College governing body chairman, Kamal Ahmed Majuder, also the local lawmaker elected on the Awami League ticket, said. 'We realised the money in development charge.'

The Ideal School and College principal, Shahan Ara Begum, told New Age that they had not refunded any money as they were yet to get the letter.

'Earlier we received a letter regarding money refund and we replied saying that some money was realised from students and it will be used in building infrastructure.'

The Viqarunnisa Noon School and College principal, Manju Ara Begum, said that they had already sent a letter to the secondary and higher education directorate seeking some time and they would adjust the money with the monthly order payment amount.