

Govt to restrict private tutoring

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THE government has decided to ask all schools, colleges and madrassahs to take additional classes against payment of extra fees in an effort to rein in 'coaching business,' education minister Nurul Islam Nahid said on Thursday.

The education ministry took the decision after holding consultations with educationists and heads of educational institutions to discourage private coaching by teachers. Nahid told reporters after the consultations.

He said that a draft Guidelines to stop coaching busi-

ness by teachers' was also finalized at the consultations.

The government took the move following a directive from a High Court bench to stop coaching business, as it undermines class-room teaching at the educational institutions and compels guardians to pay more for the private tuitions.

The teachers would not be allowed to offer private tuition to his/her own students, he said.

But the teachers would be allowed to offer up to 10 students from other schools, colleges and madrassahs, said Nahid.

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He said that the guidelines would require each educational institution to take additional classes, giving priority to 'weak students.'

The classes would have to be taken at a convenient time after or before the routine classes.

The guardians would have to pay extra fees to the schools or other institutions for the additional classes, he said.

For extra classes, a school or other institutions would be allowed to charge Tk 300 in metropolitan areas, Tk 200 in district towns and Tk 150 at upazila towns for each subject.

At least 10 per cent of the extra fee collected has to be

spent to meet school expenses and the rest would go to the teachers, taking the extra classes, said Nahid.

He said that the guardians cannot be compelled to send their children to extra classes on the school campus.

He admitted that as it was not possible for the schools to provide all the tuitions necessary in the regular classes it created the scope for private tuition and coaching.

Educationist Abdullah Abu Syeed, who attended the meeting, said, the new system would help bring the students back to the schools.

He said that the students were rushing to commercial coaching centres leaving their own schools.

He said that there was a difference between schools, which provide the foundation of education, with coaching centres which operate primarily to make money.

A teacher of any government or non-government educational institution, as per the guidelines, will have to take permission from the head of his/her institution for private tuition and would face action in case he or she failed to comply.

For non government teachers, their Monthly Pay Order might be cancelled if found guilty, the minister said, adding that the government would cancel registration or MPO if any institution was found violating the guide-

lines.

The guidelines also prohibit teachers to engage in any commercial coaching institutions. It also stipulates that teachers cannot motivate students to go to coaching centres.

Education secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury said that the ministry would soon notify the guidelines in the official gazette.

He said separate committees in metropolitan cities and district and upazila towns would monitor implementation of the guidelines.

About commercial coaching centres, the secretary said the issue would be addressed in the proposed education law.