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NON-GOVT SCHOOLS IN DHAKA

# Admission fees re-fixed

WASIM BIN HABIB

In the wake of a public outcry over high admission fees charged by the non-government schools in the capital, the government yesterday re-fixed the fees for the schools enjoying monthly pay order (MPO) facilities for their teachers.

These schools can now charge at

best Tk 8,000 in admission fees, session charge and other fees for their Bangla version and Tk 10,000 for English version. And they cannot take more than Tk 3,000 in development charge, included in the admission fees.

But the schools which have already realised admission fees higher than this will have to return

the extra money or adjust it with the monthly fees.

Admission fees for the schools where all teachers get MPO facilities, as fixed in the recently announced admission policy, will remain unchanged. They will not charge more than Tk 5,000 in admission fees.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

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FROM PAGE 1

and session charge.

The decisions were taken at a meeting yesterday with Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid in the chair.

The meeting reviewed the report and recommendations of the seven-member enquiry committee on admission fees, said meeting sources.

Contacted, the education minister said, "There are many schools where we (government) give salaries of a small number of teachers. Salaries of the other teachers are paid by the institutions. Besides, they also carry out many development activities and other activities to ensure quality education. We have taken the decision considering all this."

He went on, "The problems (concerning admission) are longstanding and we are trying to solve those gradually."

The minister urged all to cooperate with the government in resolving the problem.

On December 14 last year, the government announced an admission policy for the non-government schools across the country. It fixed the admission fees for such schools in Dhaka city at Tk 5,000 at best.

But, most of the renowned non-government schools in the capital have been violating the admission policy by charging Tk 8,000 to Tk 32,000. The issue came under the spotlight following media reports about violation of the policy.

The government then formed the enquiry committee to look into the matter. But things turned worse on January 3 when the ruling Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder assaulted journalist Aprona Singha when she went to Monipur School to make a report on charging of extra admission fees. The lawmaker heads the school managing committee.

The committee in its report submitted to the education minister on January 19 said that 24 out of 32 renowned non-government schools in the capital charged fees much higher than the amount fixed in the admission policy.

Monipur High School and College, Viqarunnisa Noon

School and College, Motijheel Ideal School and Motijheel Model School are among these schools.

The committee recommended returning the extra money and suggested formulating a policy considering location of the institutions, expenses and various other factors.

Asked about the re-fixed admission fees, Manju Ara Begum, acting principal of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, said, "We will comply with the government decision."

She, however, said despite the increase in the fees it will be difficult for them to run the institution by ensuring quality education.