EXTRA ADMISSION FEES

# DSHE issues notices to Viqarunnisa, Ideal, Manipur schools

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THE Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education has issued notices to principals of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, Motijheel Ideal School and College, and Manipur High School for not refunding or adjusting the additional amount of money they charged during student admission to Class I in the 2012 session.

'On Wednesday morning I approved the notices served to the Viqarunnisa principal Manju Ara Begum, Motijheel Ideal principal Shahan Ara Begum, and Manipur school principal Md Farhad Hossain,' the director general of the directorate of secondary and higher education, Fahima Khatun, told New Age on Thursday.

The monthly pay order of principals of the three schools is now suspended.

The notices issued following a High Court order that had directed the education ministry to report on July 16 the action it has taken against 46 private schools and colleges which had charged additional amount of money.

On January 9, 2012 the High Court after hearing a writ petition filed by the Campaign for Popular Education executive director, Rasheda K Chowdhury, and the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust deputy director, Farida Yasmin, asked the government to explain the legality of extra amount in the Tk 8,000–Tk 25,000 being charged from students by the institutions flouting government guidelines.

The extra amount was being charged in the name of donation to the fund set up for different purposes.

Regarding action against other schools, the DSHE director general on Thursday, however, replied in the negative.

The director general said that the directorate had reported to the High Court on Monday the action taken against Viqarunnisa, Ideal and Manipur schools.

The education ministry on July 7 asked the DSHE director general to inform the ministry by issuing final notices to principals of Ideal school and college and the Manipur school asking them to explain why their monthly pay order would not be cancelled permanently for failing to fully adjust or refund the extra admission fees by June.

The Viqarunnisa School and College principal, however, has been asked to report to the DSHE giving the percentage of money the school had adjusted or refunded to Class II students in their readmission in 2013.

The Manipur High School principal in his report submitted on July 4 to the DSHE said that the school had enrolled 5001 students in Class I for fees of Tk 10,000 each in January 2012, which did not exceed the amount the government earlier had set.

The DSHE director general told New Age that a directorate investigation had found that the Manipur school charged extra fee during admission to Class I in 2012.

On July 14, Manju Ara Begum, in response to the DSHE query, told officials that her school enrolled 1,627 students for Class I in Bangla and English versions in the 2012 session charging Tk 68.17 lakh from them in additional fees.

Manju Ara also said that Viqarunnisa had adjusted Tk 10.8 lakh during readmission of 1,627 students of Class II in the 2013 session.

Each of the Bangla version student was charged Tk 4,200 and English version student Tk 4,100 in extra admission fees, she said.

Manju Ara said that Tk 600 from each Bangla version student of Class II and Tk 800 from each English version student of Class II were deducted from the total amount of readmission. Viqarunnisa will refund or adjust the rest of the amount gradually, she said.

She also said that Viqarunnisa had enrolled students from the current session following the government admission rule 2011 that admission fee, including session fee and others, for a student in the city would not exceed Tk 5,000.

In its report submitted on July 14 to the DSHE, the Ideal School and College principal that the school had realized Tk 1,31,79,900 in extra admission fee from 2,980 students of Class I in 2012.

The report said that the school had charged Tk 12,050 from each Bangla version student and Tk 16,150 from each English version students during their admission to Class I while the government rate was up to Tk 8,000 for admission of each student.

The Ideal school charged Tk 20,000 for admission of each Class 1 student at its Mugdapara branch in the capital in 2012.

Tk 21,59,000 were adjusted during readmission of 2,980 students of Class II in January 2013, the Ideal school report said.

The school also said that it would adjust the additional money gradually.

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