

PVT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS Enforce admission fee rules strictly

HC asks govt

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The High Court yesterday directed the government to strictly enforce the admission fee rules to prevent private educational institutions from overcharging students, an incident reported in 47 schools and colleges in Dhaka city this year.

Delivering the verdict on a writ petition filed in January last year, the court also declared the institutions, which are overcharging, as illegal.

In their petition, rights bodies Campaign for Popular Education (CPE) and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), said private institutions had charged from Tk 8,000 to as much as Tk 32,000 across the country, while the maximum limit was only Tk 5,000 in Dhaka city as per the admission fee rules issued in December 2011.

According to the amended rules circulated in November last year, private institutions including those of English and Bangla versions, can charge a maximum of Tk 5,000-Tk 10,000 as admission fees in Dhaka metropolitan area.

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But overcharging has been reported in at least 47 institutions in the capital, petitioners' counsel Barrister Ashraful Hadi told The Daily Star.

The new rules also state that the government can cancel the monthly pay order (MPO) facilities, academic recognition or permission for teaching of the violators.

In the short verdict, the HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Zafar Ahmed said the petitioners could move a contempt of court petition against the institutions if they did not

follow the admission fee rules.

According to new rules, an institution enjoying MPO has to charge a maximum of Tk 5,000 in Dhaka city, while the ceiling is Tk 8,000 for Bangla version institutions and Tk 10,000 for English version institutions, partially enjoying MPO, in the capital.

Outside Dhaka city, the maximum fee is fixed at Tk 3,000 for institutions in all other metropolitan cities, Tk 2,000 in district towns, Tk 1,000 in upazila headquarters, and Tk 500 in the rural areas.