

Frame rule in two months

HC asks government

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THE High Court has directed the education ministry to frame a rule under Section 39 of the Private University Act 2010 in two months so that private educational institutions providing coaching or tuition for degrees may be brought under discipline and control of the government.

The bench of Justice Tanqul Hakim and Justice Md Farique also directed the ministry to take appropriate steps in 60 days in accordance with law and in pursuant to the University Grants Commission's findings that a number of institutions including Chancery Academy of English Law are completely fake.

In view of the harassment to the petitioner, Chancery Academy of English Law is directed to pay a sum of Tk 1.50 lakh to the petitioner, Rehana Ali, a former student of Chancery Academy of English Law, said the court in its full text verdict released on December 30, 2012.

The ministry has also been asked to form an appropriate committee to monitor the activities of private educational institutions providing tuition for degrees of foreign universities so that innocent students do not get defrauded by unscrupulous persons.

By monitoring their activities and framing legis-

lation in the form of Rules and Guidelines it is hoped that the number of such tuition providers under private initiative will not only increase but the quality of their tuition and services... the court observed.

Since these institutions (both private university and institutions providing tuition for foreign degrees) have opened their doors to the public to provide tuition in exchange of money, the government has a duty to monitor their activities to ensure that the citizens do not get defrauded... the court observed.

It also said, Chancery Academy of English Law's vice chancellor is alleged to have done just that.

It is however for the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh to formally approve or disapprove the L.L.B course of Williamsburg University; thus on the face of evidence before us the Chancery Academy of English Law should not be allowed to provide coach-

ing or tuition for any course of Williamsburg University until specific approval is obtained from the UCC, the court observed.

The authority should be satisfied firstly that the tuition is provided for a degree of a recognised university and it will be useful for the student in Bangladesh as well as abroad to pursue further studies or to qualify for government service or professional career (Bangladesh Bar Council). Secondly, the tuition provider should have sufficient infra-structure facilities for the tuition and coaching... And thirdly the syllabus and course of the subject for which the degree is being pursued should be at least of a standard comparable to a similar course of study in a university in Bangladesh covering the same number of years or months of study, the court observed in the verdict.

The bench pronounced the verdict on May 24, 2012 after hearing a writ petition filed by Rehana Ali, seeking a direction on the government to prepare a guideline for controlling the fraud perpetrated by the unauthorised

educational institutions in the pretext of providing foreign law degrees.

The petitioner also sought a direction on the government to explain its failure to take necessary legal action against the institution, which is allegedly resorting to fraud against the students in the pretext of conferring UK law degrees without having any affiliation or approval of any authenticated university of the UK.

The petitioner claimed to have lost several years of her life studying for a degree from a UK university but she later came to know that the university has no existence in the UK. The certificate given to her was fake and the degree not recognised.

I think the verdict will help the government in stopping the business of some unscrupulous persons who are earning huge of money from innocent people by deception in the name of offering degrees of reputed foreign universities, petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told New Age.

He also sent a copy of the verdict to the education ministry on Monday.

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