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Decision on edn instts in next cabinet meeting: edn minister

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The minister for education and primary and mass education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon. | Collected photo

The minister for education and primary and mass education on Sunday said that decision on the action plan for saving electricity in educational institutions amid the ongoing fuel crisis would be taken in the next cabinet meeting on Thursday.

Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon told journalists at Bangladesh Secretariat that before the cabinet meeting they would discuss with the stakeholders on keeping educational institutions operating amid the situation.



'Then in the next cabinet meeting decision will be taken and announced at a press conference after the meeting,' he said, adding, 'before that we have nothing to say about the matter.'

Mentioning the ongoing worldwide fuel crisis, Ehsanul Hoque added, 'other countries are also implementing various austerity measures, and we must do the same.'

Usually, the weekly Cabinet Division meeting is held on Thursday with the next cabinet meeting is scheduled for April 9.

In the last cabinet meeting, held on April 2, no decision was taken for educational institutions while new office hours were fixed along with new business hours for shopping malls and other shops that came into effect on Sunday in response to the fuel crisis.

At a press conference after the April 2 meeting, cabinet secretary Nasimul Ghani said that education authorities would give separate directive for educational institutions after further discussions.

Earlier in the past week, the education minister said that they were planning to hold school classes six days per week instead of existing five days to recover learning losses caused by the long Ramadan holiday and political movements.

After a high-level meeting chaired by prime minister Tarique Rahman on March 31, he also said that they were considering adopting a blending approach combining online and offline classes, especially in metropolitan areas.

He also mentioned that they had conducted a survey in which 55 per cent participants wanted online classes.

Education ministry officials also said that discussions were held to conduct online classes three days a week and in-person classes another three days, while holding online classes at all educational institutions except the universities.

The suggestions prompted criticisms from different corners, including academicians, who feared further learning loss would result from holding online classes particularly at government schools, as many students lack access to technological means.

Schools, colleges and madrassahs across the country resumed academic activities on March 29 following the combined holiday for Ramadan, Eid-ul-Fitr and several other occasions for about 40 days.

On March 24, the primary and mass education ministry ordered the country's all 65,567 government primary schools under it to remain open on 10 Saturdays in a row after the start of classes following the holidays to reduce learning gaps.

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