

GOVT ORDER FALLS ON DEAF EARS

HSC admission fees too high in top city colleges

SURAJNITH DEABNATH

Renowned colleges in the capital are charging up to Tk 25,000 as fees during admission of the intermediate students, ignoring the June 22 government circular that fixed Tk 152 as the regular fee for admission to the higher secondary educational institutions.

However, Tk 25 as group and subject migration fee, Tk 100 for study break and Tk 50 as late fee are to be paid in relevant cases in addition, making the highest possible admission fee Tk 327.

The Ministry of Education issued the circular stipulating the criteria for admission to the higher secondary level but students have to pay much higher fees for admission, especially to reputable government and non-government colleges.

The circular asked the colleges

to complete the admission process by August 7 as classes will have to start from August 10.

All the colleges have already started admission process but no admission test will be held this year as the circular instructed enrolling the students on the basis of their Secondary School Certificate examination results.

The Daily Star correspondent visited around 20 well-known colleges in the capital and found that the authorities are charging extra money from the applicants under different heads including those for development fund, management cost and quality education.

According to the education ministry circular, Tk 60 for admission form, Tk 50 as registration fee, Tk 25 as sports fee, Tk 10 as scout fee, Tk 7 as science and technology

fee -- in total Tk 152 -- is to be charged for a candidate's admission to the college.

The circular mentioned that Monthly Pay Order (MPO) of non-government colleges will be cancelled and legal action will be taken against the principal of a government college if the circular is not followed properly. But no action has yet been taken against any college on charge of violation of the government circular.

Terming non-compliance of the government direction for students' admission as a very alarming matter, Prof Nazim Uddin, director general of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, said, "I will examine the allegation of government circular violation against the colleges. A monitoring cell should be formed for proper implementation of the order."

However, authorities of the renowned colleges said the admission fee fixed by the government is too small for them to follow. They proposed that the government arrange separate admission fees for government and non-government colleges.

Shahan Ara, principal of Motijheel Ideal School and College, said fixing the same admission fee for all the colleges is not justified. "Non-government colleges have to meet a lot of expenditure, in addition to the teachers' monthly salary. It is not possible to admit a student to my college only for Tk 327," she told The Daily Star.

Rajuk Model College at Uttara is charging Tk 25,000 from a science group English medium student, Tk 22,000 from a science group Banchangli a

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PHOTO: STAR

Workers busy as the memorial at Suhrawardy Udayan, inscribed with the names of 246 martyred freedom fighters of Dhaka district, nears completion.

Production at KHM comes to a halt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Production at Khulna Hardboard Mill (KHM) at Khalishpur industrial belt remained suspended closed since Thursday, making the fate of 105 workers and employees uncertain.

Production was suspended for two months for overhauling works, Managing Director of the mill M Hafizuddin said, adding that 35 workers and employees are now kept on daily wage basis as their services are required for carrying out overhauling work.

However, he declined to say if the other workers and employees have been terminated.

All the 105 workers and employees of the state-owned hardboard mill demonstrated in front of the mill on Thursday evening in protest against the decision by the BCIC

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Canada to shelter 73 Rohingya, 6 Somali refugees from Bangladesh

PORIMOL PALMA

The government of Canada has selected 73 Rohingya refugees from two camps in Cox's Bazar and six Somali urban refugees for resettlement in that country this year.

Canadian authorities and officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) selected the refugees from eight families after interviewing them in the first week of June, said Arakanese refugees' news agency in Bangladesh Narjana News.

A total of 14 families were shortlisted for the interviews.

Confirming the information, a government official said the Canadian High Commission in Dhaka has already sent a list of names of the selected refugees to the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management.

However, the official said the government is yet to approve the list, "but there is no reason for the government not to approve it."

The date for the departure of the refugees has not been decided yet.

The International Organisation for Migration will conduct an orientation session for the refugees and arrange medical tests for them before their departure for Canada.

The receiving country prioritises health and knowledge of English language, among other criteria, for resettlement of refugees, the official noted.

Canada resettled nine Rohingya last year and 13 early this year.

There are also 27 urban refugees (who can move freely) from Iran, two from Sierra Leone, one from Afghanistan and 143 Buddhist refugees from Myanmar in

Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has always lauded such resettlement of the Rohingya refugees from Cox's Bazar in Canada since these refugees are an addition to the already overpopulated country. There has also been no repatriation of the Rohingya refugees from the camps in the last two years.

Adviser for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury at a recent seminar expressed concern over non-repatriation of the Rohingya refugees.

There are about 26,000 Rohingya refugees in the two camps at Kutupalong of Ukhia upazila and Nayapara of Teknaf upazila in Cox's Bazar district.

Over 2.5 lakh Rohingya entered Bangladesh from Arakan state of

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Vendors occupy most part of the footbridge at Azampur in Uttara in the capital, much to the disadvantage of the pedestrians trying to cross the busy road.

BDR recovers 8 Bombs in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel recovered eight bombs from frontier Jamalpur village in the district yesterday morning.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of 32 Rifles Battalion went to the village at around 11:00am and recovered the bombs from a bush owned by Ashraf Ali of the village.

Later, the paramilitary troops handed over the bombs to Daulatpur police. No one was arrested.

Musharraf vows to crush extremism

AFP, Islamabad

President Pervez Musharraf vowed Thursday to wipe out extremism from Pakistan, saying in a defiant address to the nation that the raid on Islamabad's Red Mosque was necessary to save the country.

Military ruler Musharraf, a key ally in the US-led "war on terror," also said he would beef up security forces along the border with Afghanistan, where Taliban militants are active, giving the troops extra tanks and guns.

The televised address came amid fears of a possible Islamist backlash following the raid on the mosque this week that killed 11 soldiers and 75 people inside the complex, mainly militants.

"Extremism and terrorism have

not yet been eliminated, and we are determined to root them out from every corner of the country," said General Musharraf, wearing a dark suit and tie instead of his army uniform.

"I am sad over the loss of lives in the operation but it became inevitable for Pakistan," Musharraf said, adding that the mosque and its adjoining girls' Islamic school had been "freed from the hands of terrorists."

He also appealed to the country's thousands of Islamic schools or madrasas, which have been accused of links to international attacks, to "teach the true values of Islam and in their (students') minds take away extremism."

Musharraf -- under international pressure to dislodge al-Qaeda and

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Fugitive accused of twin murder held with arms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a fugitive accused of double-murder and seized three foreign-made pistols and 16 bullets from a house at Sylhet yesterday morning.

Following information from Masum and Kashai Mujibor, arrested accused in the double murder case, Jatrabari police arrested Sajol, 22, raiding the house of Mohammad Ali, where Sajol lives as a tenant.

Police also recovered the firearms and bullets from an almirah following Sajol's lead.

Sajol is an active member of a gang that spread bullets at a tea stall at Sylhet on May 15, killing shopkeeper Badal and customer Babul, police said.

Earlier, police arrested Masum and Mujibor and four other murder suspects.

The bullets they seized during yesterday's raid are similar to those used during the May 15 shooting, police said.

2 boys drown in Ct pond

CU CORRESPONDENT

Two boys drowned in a pond in Eshak Pool area under Bakolia Police Station yesterday afternoon.

The dead are Taju, 10, son of Yusuf Mian, and Yasin Murad, 10, son of Ilias Mian of Fakir Mohammad Bari of the area.

Locals said Taju and Yasin, both cousins, went to the pond near their house at around 12:30pm for bathing and drowned.

When the family members could not see the boys, they started searching for the two in the pond and found them at around 1:00pm.

Taju and Yusuf were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where the on-duty doctors declared them dead.

"My party colleague just died but they [the government] would not allow me to come see his body!

What kind of a country we are living in?" Hasina said, as if in a soliloquy, after she had finally managed to

US House votes for Iraq troop withdrawal

Iraq war can still be won, insists Bush

AFP, Washington

The US House of Representatives on Thursday passed a bill requiring a withdrawal of most combat troops from Iraq starting within 120 days, to be completed by April 1.

The House voted by 223 votes to 201 to pass the measure, in defiance of President George W. Bush, who has already vetoed a previous troop withdrawal timeline framed by the Democratic Party, and has pledged to do so again.

Four Republicans voted in favour of the plan, while 10 members of the majority Democratic Party voted against, on a day a new US government report offered a bleak snapshot of progress in Iraq.

House Minority leader John Boehner branded the measure a "meaningless bill that undermines our troops."

"If we fail in Iraq we know what happens, we make America less safe," he said.

Meanwhile, President George W. Bush insisted the Iraq war could still be won and dismissed mounting calls for a change in strategy as US lawmakers voted again for troop withdrawals.

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Hasina hassled on way to pay respect to dead colleague

Motia barred again from meeting AL chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former prime minister and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday went through a slew of troubles in her effort to go pay her last respect to her deceased party colleague Dr Moazzem Hossain.

"My party colleague just died but they [the government] would not allow me to come see his body!

What kind of a country we are living in?" Hasina said, as if in a soliloquy, after she had finally managed to

reach National Medical College Hospital to pay her respect to the party's deceased advisory council member.

Dr Moazzem Hossain, 80, also former general secretary of Dhaka city AL, passed away on Thursday night in the hospital due to old age complications. He was also the founder of the hospital.

Hasina was scheduled to arrive at the hospital at 10:00am, but she could not initially come out of her Sudha Sadan residence as her

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BIRD FLU 1,500 fowls culled in Naogaon

UNB, Naogaon

Some 1,500 domestic fowls were culled in the district town on Thursday night following detection of avian influenza.

Two separate teams, led by a first class magistrate, searched local houses at Pramanikpara, Mandolpara, Mollapara and Shibpur areas from 8:00pm to midnight and culled the birds, district Livestock office sources said.

Earlier, a sample of dead chicken was sent to Joypurhat Animal Disease Laboratory for a test that detected the virus.

Later, the test result was sent to Bangladesh Livestock Research

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Extortion case against ex-BNP MP in Jhenidah

UNB, Jhenidah

An extortion case has been filed against former BNP lawmaker Shahidul Islam and his nine associates.

Kartik Halder, former general secretary of Fishermen's Cooperative Society, filed the case against them with Moheshpur Police Station on Thursday night.

Kartik alleged that the former lawmaker and his associates went to Solemanpur water body in November 2006 and demanded Tk 5 lakh in toll from the fishermen.

"As we refused to give them the money, they took away Tk 2.5 lakh deposited with the samity by its members and fishing equipment worth over Tk 2 lakh," Kartik said in his case statement.

The other accused in the case are Shahidul's brother in-law Shahidul Islam, Rafiqul Islam, Ali Akbar, Moshiur Rahman, Forkan Ali, Adjutant Halder, Nazrul Islam, Zafar Ali and Abdus Sattar.

Prayer Timing

July 14

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Magrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation