

Hajee Danesh University in Dinajpur

UGC seeks clarification of admission test expenses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has sought clarification of expenses for the first year honours admission tests of Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in Dinajpur under this session.

HSTU Registrar (Acting) Dr Boloram Roy, who received a UGC letter to this effect on Monday, said they will give reply by Wednesday.

On March 28, Ferdous Zaman, deputy secretary (Public University) of UGC, signed the letter asking the HSTU authorities to submit their reply as early as possible.

Earlier a few national dailies ran reports over the high expenses for the first year admission test at HSTU this year.

There are allegations of anomalies including submission of inflated bills concerning the admission tests as HSTU authorities spent Tk 47 lakh 57 thousand and 275 for holding the admission tests of 2011-12 academic year, sources said.

Prof Dr Bidhan Chandra Halder and Prof Dr Afroza Khatun were the convener and member secretary respec-

tively of Admission Test Committee-2012 of HSTU.

Protesting anomalies, several senior officials of the university filed complaint to the convener of the HSTU examination organiser committee.

According to the HSTU officials, 14,611 students filed applications to attend admission tests under six faculties of the university this session. Teletalk was the official partner to the registration process while Shahjalal Science and Technology University provided technological support.

Each student deposited Tk 500 for registration and so, a total of Tk 73 lakh 5 thousand and 500 was collected from the admission seekers, HSTU office sources said.

The university authority paid 10 and 5 per cent of the money to Teletalk and Shahjalal Science and Technology University respectively as service charges.

The documents collected by this correspondent shows that 109 teachers of HSTU received as honorarium for admission test duty a total of Tk 21,02,000 that was deposited to their bank accounts.

Of them, Prof Dr M Afzal Hossain,

vice chancellor of HSTU, Prof Dr Bidhan Chandra Halder, convener of Admission Test Committee, and Prof Dr Mohammad Alamgir Hasan received Tk 1,20,000, Tk 32,500 and Tk 24,000 respectively.

Besides, Tk 5,08,200 was distributed among 126 officials of HSTU as honorarium for performing duties during the examination.

Tk 4.36 lakh was shown as expenses for preparing question papers, answer sheets and others while Tk 6,15,250 was distributed among 320 staffs of HSTU for performing their duties during the examination.

Contacted by The Daily Star correspondent, HSTU Vice Chancellor Prof M Afzal Hossain earlier said the fund was spent in proper way.

But several teachers of the university alleged that the institution funds have been mishandled for the last few years due to absence of proper fund management policy.

The UGC provision allows a university to spend, for holding any admission test, around 70 per cent of the money collected for the purpose, and the rest of the money is to be kept in its fund, said a teacher of HSTU.

Huge number of surplus textbooks at a school raises question

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A large number of textbooks meant for free distribution among students are kept at Nilphamari Government Girls' High School although three months of the current academic year have already passed.

Such an act clearly violates education department's directive that makes it obligatory to return the surplus books (if there is any after distribution) to the district or upazila education office as early as possible.

Visiting the school on Wednesday, this correspondent found that about 1,000 brand new textbooks of years 2011 and 2012 were piled up haphazardly at a portion of the school's computer room.

The books are on Bangla, English, mathematics, science, social science, home economics, computer science, drawing and religious studies for classes six to nine.

Asked about the matter, headmaster of the school Kamrunnahar Begum first said that the surplus books were old and torn as those were collected from students.

Later she said, "Most of the books are of last year's. I joined this school in August last year. It was responsibility of the previous headmistress to return those books."

On contact, the previous headmaster Dilruba



PHOTO: STAR

A large number of government prescribed textbooks meant for free distribution among students lie haphazardly in the computer room of Nilphamari Government Girls' High School although the 'surplus' books are supposed to be returned to the local office of the education department.

Rahman (now serving Dimla Government Boys' High School), said, "Before leaving Nilphamari Government Girls' High School, I handed over the charge and everything to new headmaster Kamrunnahar Begum as per rules. It would be better if she adjusted the number of books of previous year while preparing statement on demand of textbooks for this year."

Contacted, District Education Officer Rokhsana Begum said, "According to rules school authorities are bound to return textbooks if there is any surplus. Keeping a large number of textbooks at Nilphamari Government Girls' High School indicates

that they had received textbooks through submitting statement of higher than actual demand."

"I shall take step regarding this irregularity as per rule after visiting the school," she said.

"Due to acute crisis of textbooks on several subjects this year we collected even old and torn books from students of previous classes in high schools of different upazilas and districts. Even students got books of a few subjects in March instead of January," she added.

Each school sends a statement mentioning the requirement of textbooks as per number of students well

before January and the education directorate supplies the books accordingly, education directorate sources said.

Questioning how such a large number of textbooks could remain as surplus in a high school, the sources expressed suspicion that the persons concerned might have submitted false statement for receiving more than required number of books with an ill intention.

While the government every year spends huge amount of money for printing high school textbooks and its free distribution among students, a portion of the books are allegedly sold in the black market.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals, mostly school students, form a three-kilometre-long human chain along Panchagarh-Dhaka highway in Panchagarh town yesterday demanding punishment to the criminals who killed Jewel, 8, a class three student of Panchagarh No 2 Government Primary School, after his abduction for ransom on March 26.



The Daily Star - রবি ENGLISH FAIR



STAR NATIONAL DESK

Students of four schools in Chapainawabganj and Khulna districts engaged in joyful interactions yesterday as they took part in English language fairs held under English in Schools programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi.

Saiful Islam, headmaster of Rajarampur Hasina Girls' High School in Chapainawabganj town, formally inaugurated the fair at the school auditorium at around 10:30am, reports our Chapainawabganj correspondent.

About 150 students of the school and Namorajampur High School participated in the programme.

The event included the screening of globally renowned movie The Lion King, followed by students' participation in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one-word question and quick questions -- all based on the movie.

Selected students also took part in extempore speech on different topics and role-play.

Abdullah Al Mamun, area manager of Robi, and Saiful Islam, headmaster of Rajarampur Hasina Girls' High School, distributed prizes among the 18 winners of different events at the programme.

Over 160 students of Nachole Pilot High School in Nachole upazila of Chapainawabganj district joined the English language fair at the school auditorium.

Kamrul Ahsan, assistant headmaster of the school, inaugurated the



PHOTO: STAR

Prize winners of different events in yesterday's English language fair at Phultala Government Girls' High School in Khulna district pose with their teachers.

Students of four more schools fare well

Eighteen students, who won different events at the fair, received prizes.

Our Staff Correspondent adds from Khulna: Over 200 students of Phultala Government Girls' High School in Phultala upazila under the district took part in English language fair held at the institution yesterday.

Hafizur Rahman, English teacher of the school, inaugurated the programme.

Appreciating the move taken by The Daily Star and

mobile operator Robi for holding the EIS programme to improve English language skills of students, Hafizur Rahman in his inaugural speech urged authorities of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi for organising such programmes every year to inspire students to enrich their knowledge of English.

The fair included screening of The Lion King, quizzes on vocabulary, extempore speech, one-word questions and role play.

Eighteen students won

different competitions as per judgement of a panel of three English teachers of the school.

Later, prizes were distributed among the winners.

Aiming to promote English language learning among school students across the country, The Daily Star in cooperation with Robi under took English in Schools programme in 2009.

Under the initiative, each of one thousand schools selected from 64 districts of the country receives three complimentary copies of The Daily Star five days a week.

The ongoing English language fairs at different schools across the country are being held in coordination with the education ministry as part of the three-year-long programme.

Adcom Ltd is the creative and event partner of the English language fairs.



PHOTO: STAR

Two students take part in a role play at Phultala Government Girls' High School.

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