

Excessive HSC exam, tuition fees in Mymensingh colleges alleged

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Feb 22:—The authorities of different colleges at upazilas and other places of the district are realising excessive fees beyond the prescribed rate of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination fixed by the Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education and tuition fees from the female HSC candidates also who were exempted to pay it by the government.

According to Education Board sources they fixed the examination fee at Tk 40 per subject and practical examination fee Tk. 25 for each subject. The Board prescribed Tk 35 for marksheet, Tk 10 for boy scout or girls guide fee and education week fee Tk 5 for each examinee. As per circular of the Board each examinee of Social Science and Business Studies Group was to pay Tk 80 as Centre Fee and an examinee of Science Group was to pay Tk 100 as Centre Fee.

Each examinee under Social Science and Business Studies Group was to pay Tk 630 and an examinee of Science Group to pay Tk 800 as Examination Fee. But violating the order most of the colleges located in Muktagachha, Fulbaria, Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Nandal Ishwarganj, Gafargaon, Bhaluka, Trishal and Gouripur upazilas realised Tk 1000 to 1500 as Examination Fee from each student.

These colleges also realised tuition fees from the students upto the month of next June even for five months after suspension of classes.

Violating the government's instruction most of the colleges in the district realised tuition fees from the female HSC examinees upto June next.

Abul Kashem, a guardian of a female HSC candidate from Bhaluka Degree College, told me although the government had exempted tuition fees of the female

students up to Class XII and providing subsidy to the college against the female students I had to pay full Tuition Fee for my daughter.

Quamrul Hassan Pathan, a guardian of another girl student from the same college told me "Although my daughter is an irregular student and an HSC examinee of one subject I had to pay tuition fee for my daughter."

Protesting the realisation of excessive HSC examination fees and tuition fees from the female examinees the agitated students of Bhaluka Degree College locked up the office of the Principal of the college on February 3. Later the students brought out a procession and burnt the effigy of local UNO before the local Martyr Memorial. Following the movement the college authority first reduced 10 per cent of examination and other fees and later 20 per cent of the fees fixed by the college.

Some guardians of HSC examinees of the same college raised the question as to how the college authority sent the filled up forms to the board's office for those who did not take part in the Test Examination showing imaginary Pass Marks in the forms.

It may be mentioned that there is a provision that the college authority will show the marks individually obtained in the Test Examination in the forms to be sent to the Education Board.

On the other hand, the authority of Akak Golandaz College in Gafargaon upazila headquarter allowed only the students who passed in the HSC Test Examination to fill up Examination Forms. Having failed to fill up the forms the agitated students ransacked the college on February 3. Having failed to brought the situation under control the college authority closed the college for sine-die since February 4.