The Daily Star

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12:00 AM, May 13, 2018 / LAST MODIFIED: 12:00 AM, May 13, 2018

Exemplary act by teachers

Poverty should not stunt the meritorious

Shimul, 18, with his family members, on the courtyard of their house in Sandwip upazila of Chittagong after the SSC results were published on May 6. Photo: Collected

It is not every day we come across a story where a student's education is put back on track by his teachers who convinced his parents that the boy had a bright future and he should continue his studies. Poverty forced young Shimul to drop out of

JSC examination and take up work as a mason to contribute to family earnings. We thank the teachers of Katgor Golam Nabi High School in Sandwip upazila for pooling funds needed to help the young boy who scored a GPA-5—one of only two male students to attain this score from Chittagong Board in the Humanities group.

Thousands of students are dropping out of secondary schooling due to poverty. While it is a very difficult choice for poor parents to pay for schooling when there is hardly enough to put food on the table, these teachers have set an example to emulate. Today, Shimul is an example to his school but more importantly it is the commitment of his teachers who made the financial sacrifices out of their own pockets so that he may prepare for his examinations. That his mentors want to support him for the next hurdle of entering college is laudable but we would like to see a programme at school level that would allow poor students to continue their education, at least up to high school.

Poverty should not become a hurdle for the meritorious regardless of their position in society, but those are the ground realities in our country and a special fund could help bright students in need to reach new heights.

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