

CU fees hike will force many poor students to quit education

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Students came from middle-class and lower middle-class families were facing serious problem for getting enrolled at Chittagong University (CU) as the authority had increased enrollment fees by 65 percent.

Leaders of different student bodies believed that the unsolicited fees hike had endangered the academic carriers of approximately 14,000 students.

"Different student organizations raised voice against the illogical move by the CU authority and announced demonstrations including non-stop strike which affect our courses," some students without political attachment said.

Enrolment in first year (2002-2003 session) of the CU is on. But, less affluent students did not enroll as they failed to accumulate the amount.

Many who came from the different parts of the country, especially from the villages, returned to their respective houses for accumulating the amount.

A student, who came from Brahman Baria, said, "the CU must be for the affluent students, not for the poor students like me."

"My father is a peasant, doesn't the handsome fees mean higher education for the mined man only," he continued with frustration.

Each of the departments is charging Taka one thousand for procuring admission forms. In addition to that, Taka 2,000 is needed to complete the enrollment process. Some departments are charging Taka 500-1000 for computer laboratories. Some students blamed the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) faculty for accumulating money in the name of computer lab.

Forget about the new entrants, senior students lacking strong financial backbone are out to find part time jobs to supplement their education.

"It must be a shame if I ask my parent for additional amount of Taka 3000 for getting enrolled in the second year," said Latif of Mathematics Department.

Off campus part-time jobs hamper routine education and often the jobs require students to stay longer time away from the campus force skip lecture sessions.

"If I don't reach at my work in time certainly the employer will fire me. If I get unemployed my higher education will stop immediately," said Kamal, a second year student of Economics Department.

It was common that the student bodies shouldered blame for destruction of academic atmosphere but this time the blame went to the university authority.