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GOVT ORDER FALLS ON DEAF EARS.

HSC admission fees alarmingly high in top city colleges

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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.

Termining 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 Bangla

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medium student, Tk 21,000 from a commerce group English medium student and Tk 20,000 from a commerce group Bangla medium student during their admission.

A university teacher whose son is an admission seeker to Rajuk Model College, questioned the rationale of charging so much money as admission fee and development fund.

The college authorities do not have to pay any rent for the infrastructure, he said.

Uttara Milestone College has fixed Tk 25,000 for a science group student and Tk 24,000 for a commerce group student as the total admission fee including that for development fund.

A student has to pay Tk 18,560 for admission into Motijheel Ideal School and College. According to the college admission prospectus, development fee is Tk 11,000, admission fee Tk 3,000, monthly fee Tk 1050, board fee Tk 90, session charge Tk 2300, computer fee Tk 500, research fee Tk 100, diary and syllabus fee Tk 200, rover scout fee 20 and freshers' reception fee Tk 300.

Dhaka City College is charging Tk 12,717 from a commerce group student, Tk 10,467 from a science group student and Tk 10,214 from an arts group student. Lalmatia Girls College has fixed Tk 9,600 as admission fee for a science group student and Tk 9,000 for a commerce or arts group student.

Notre Dame College is charging Tk 11,500 from a science group English medium student, Tk 8,500 from a science group Bangla medium student, Tk 8,000 from a commerce student and Tk 7,500 from an arts student.

Government colleges are also violating the government circular. Dhaka College is charging Tk 1,600 from a student of science group and Tk 1,400 from a student of arts or commerce group.

Badrunnesa Girls College has fixed Tk 1,700 for a science group student and Tk 1600 for a student of arts or commerce group.

Several other colleges are also charging additional admission fees.