

HIKES IN FEES IN CTG Students, guardians form human chain, stage demonstration

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STUDENTS and their parents on Sunday demonstrated and formed a human chain in the city, protesting against a decision of the Chittagong City Corporation to raise tuition and admission fees of all classes of the secondary schools run by the CCC.

Both the programmes took place in front of Chittagong press club which were attended by several hundred of students and parents.

The parents said they were deep concerned over the hike in fees which they said were excessive.

A good number of parents alleged that they could not

enroll their kids in schools as the amounts seemed too high for them to bear.

School authorities nearly doubled the monthly fees and the admission fees, the guardians alleged.

Guardians said the corporation cut their subsidies while running the schools, and hence they doubled all kinds of fee.

Shafiul Alam, a father of an eighth grader, who studies at Hossen Ali School located at Sholoshahar area, said the school authority set Tk 150 against its earlier amount of Tk 70 as the monthly fee, 'which is illogical.'

Besides, the admission fee for the same class rose to Tk 2,470 from Tk 1, 470,

said the father.

Another guardian, Tapon Kanti Das, whose daughter is in class six in Arponacharan High School run by the CCC, said due to excessive admission fee he could not admit his daughter in class VI though 10 days of January have already elapsed.

Similarly, fees rose disproportionately for other classes, the guardians said.

Contacted, an official of CCC, seeking anonymity said they increased both the fees as they wanted to raise the salaries of the teachers.

Chittagong City Corporation runs 46 secondary schools, 7 kindergartens where around 57,000 students have been studying.