

University Dues

The recent increase in Dhaka University admission fees and other dues has been protested by a section of students. Whether one likes or dislikes the word commodity, when applied to a service called education, it has a price. The question is who pays the price. The students pay a very meagre part of it. The state bears the brunt. If our citizens decide that the state pay all of it, the state can do that without being much inconvenienced. But citizens know better and no one has up to now demanded free university education. If the students must have a share in the payment of the price, the size of that share must also be decided. Now, should this share be nominal or meaningful? In an analysis for press, the DU authorities have shown the increase amounts to Tk 40 per mensem or Tk 480 per year.

At prevailing prices, the students have been paying close to nothing for university education. This addition of yearly 500 taka to the 2020 Taka of the past year brings it to a monthly burden of 260 taka. How much had the parents spent per ward per month when they were at college? Even the hard-pressed ones must have spent no less than 1500 taka, including clothing and conveyance, on each of their college going wards.

The tuition fee was so long Tk 12 per month. Now it is Tk 24. Ridiculous! Keeping intact the whole take at Tk 2730 a year, the tuition part must be raised closer to what it requires to pay the teachers. That's what tuition means, doesn't it? For the non-academic heads of this package DU must pay from sources other than students.