



# CAMPUS

## School admission and tuition fees

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We are at the end of the academic session 88. Most schools are now closed and shall be opening in the new year. However, there is a queue of entrants and their parents in most schools of the metropolitan capital for getting their children admitted. The rush is worse at schools which are upto the SSC level with good result.

child himself. In most cases it is impossible to admit a child in classes other than nursery or playgroup. Today admission in many schools is linked with donations. The older the child is and studying in a higher class the greater is the rate of donation. In a missionary school catering Cambridge exams a guardian had to pay forty thousand takas

for six whole months prior to joining the school as alleged. The ex-head master of St Joseph tried to stop this practice but unfortunately he failed to do so. Sometimes a telephone call from someone high up in the govt machinery does the trick and helps to get a seat. This is not a problem at the tutorials. After the admission comes

middle class families many of whom are forced to send their children to such tutorials in the absence of govt schools because in these tutorials seats are always available whereas in the govt schools there is acute shortage of seats and also because in the tutorials there is no such thing as 'admission closed'.

Scholastica, Dhanmondi Tutorial, Maple Leaf, Fluor Tutorial, South Breeze have all increased their fees on the plea that the cost of living has gone up in Dhaka but do they really provide facilities to students according to the fees they charge?

The govt has recently issued a circular that no private school can suddenly increase their tuition fees without prior permission from the govt what about these tutorials? Don't they too fall under this rule or is it because they are owned by people who run the govt that they do not fall under this category?

Is it only the private Bengali Medium schools who will have to suffer whose fee is already much less in comparison to the tutorials while they do a much greater service to the nation. In many so called tutorials there is no such thing as proper teachers of laboratories. They are run by part timers and often by students. They provide third class tuition to their students in the guise of education for the 'GCSE' examinations of London. The awful grades of most examinees from here justifies this assertion.

Yet in the absence of clear defined rules the tutorials can get away with whatever they do and skim profit by evading tax in most cases while the parents have to suffer to bear the expanses of their children.



A tiny tot of Nipobon Shishu Biddalaya receiving a present in her school's annual cultural meet.

As the number of educational institutions is far short in comparison to the number of school going children the rush is becoming worse with the passage of time. After independence very few new schools have been set up in the govt sector although the population has increased by manifolds. Unfortunately things have reached such a state that to get a child admitted to a reasonably good school is often more difficult than rearing the

in cash and that too was last year. Surely the rate of donation shall be higher this year. At a school in the university area a mother was asked to donate ten ceiling fans for getting her daughter admitted to class one. At St Joseph and Govt Laboratory School it is impossible to get a child admitted unless and until one takes tuition from a teacher of the concerned school for the whole year or atleast

the issue of tuition fees. Most tutorials of Dhaka particularly the English medium ones have the tendency of increasing their fees and annual charges every year. In some tutorials the annual charges is varying from Tk 500-3500 per annum and the fees from Tk 300-600 for infant class. The fee increases as one goes up. Surely a persons salary does not go up in that pattern so from where is he to pay the fees? What about the