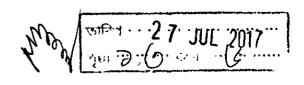
## The Daily Star



## Excessive fees charged from HSC admission seekers

## Cox's Bazar college principals justify decision

MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT, Cox's Bazar

Most of the colleges in the district are charging much more than the government-fixed fees from students seeking admission to Glass XI.

Although students are being compelled to pay excessive fees, especially to get themselves admitted to the college of their choice, they are not given any receipt against the money paid, alleged a number of students talking to this correspondent.

As per the education ministry's directive, the admission to the HSC class this year started on May 9. The first phase of admission ended but the latest admission notice for the waiting students was published on July 16.

The education ministry fixed Tk 1,000 as admission fees for the colleges in rural areas, ordinary municipalities and upazila headquarters and Tk 2,000 for the colleges at the district towns. The ministry also directed the colleges to give fee waiver as far as possible to the poor, meritorious and differently able students.

An investigation showed that Harvard International College in Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila realised highest Tk 5,400 as fees from each of 200 students admitted under science, humanities and commerce groups at the college established by Jamaat-e-Islami leaders.

College Principal Sirajul Mostafa said the institution has not yet been listed in the government's MPO (monthly payment order) and it does not have building of its own. All expenses including house rent and salaries to the teachers are borne by the college fund.

He claimed that the extra fees are given by

the students voluntarily.

Cox's Bazar Commerce College is charging Tk 5,200 per student. This college has already admitted 132 students.

"The college is a specialised one and in view of its quality of education, there is hard competition among students for getting admitted here. The college is not an MPO-listed one and it is run with the fees received from the students," said Principal Mohammad Fazlul Karim.

Eidgaon Farid Ahmed College at Cox's Bazar Sadar is charging Tk 4,000, Ukhia College Tk 4,500, Bangabandhu Mohila College at Moheshkhali Tk 3,500, Ramu College Tk 2,900, Kutubdia College Tk 3,300, Moheshkhali College Tk 2,500 and Badarkhali College Tk 3,000 from each student seeking admission to Class XI.

Besides, Chakoria College, Pekua Ziaur Rahman Coastal College, Ukhia Bangamata Fazilatunnessa Mohila College, Moheshkhali Alamgir Farid Technical College and Hoanok College have been charging extra fees.

Contacted, Principal of Moheshkhali College Md Jasim Uddin said, "This college is admitting students, taking the fees fixed by the education ministry. Following approval from the college governing body, additional Tk 500 only is charged for the college development fund, which is not compulsory."

Asked about the -matter, Deputy Commissioner Md Ali Hossain said, "Charging extra fees in violation of the education ministry's directive is an offence. The matter will be investigated and action will be taken."

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