## **NCTB takes steps for** textbooks on time

textbooks for all.

time of posting the orders.

new academic year.

"We are determined to hand

over the books to students on the

opening day of each school for the

## KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

Books for primary school students may be out on time this academic. The National Curriculum and

Textbook Board (NCTB) will be printing one million books less than last year's NCTB printed a total of 16.4 million textbooks last vear for the primary level (classes 1 to 5), but this year it ordered only 15.3 million. Books will be printed for the 33 topics covered in primary education.

The NCTB officials said that a number of books from last year's publications are available in their stocks, which could be used this year.

"We have some books from last

year's publication and would use them this year if necessary. I don't think there will be any shortage," said Professor Mohammad Yusuf Faruque, member NCTB. With the government's

emphasis on primary education, 30," said Prof. Faruque. the numbers of students are increasing every year. Statistics of 2003 show 80,000 primary schools including

government; community based and registered primary schools in the country, with around 17.4 million students.

Although the number of The government was unable to primary students may increase provide textbooks for students in this year, the official ensured the beginning of each academic year in the last four years.

But as always, guardians are "This year the scenario is different. Suppliers have already anxious whether their wards would be able to start studies on delivered 70 percent of the total order to designated District time. Education Officers. We will get

"We have seen in the past that another 15 percent by November more than a month of the academic year is wasted because He said remaining 15 percent of the unavailability of textbooks," would be completed by December said Mahmuda Nargis, mother of 15 because of a re-tender at the a primary student.

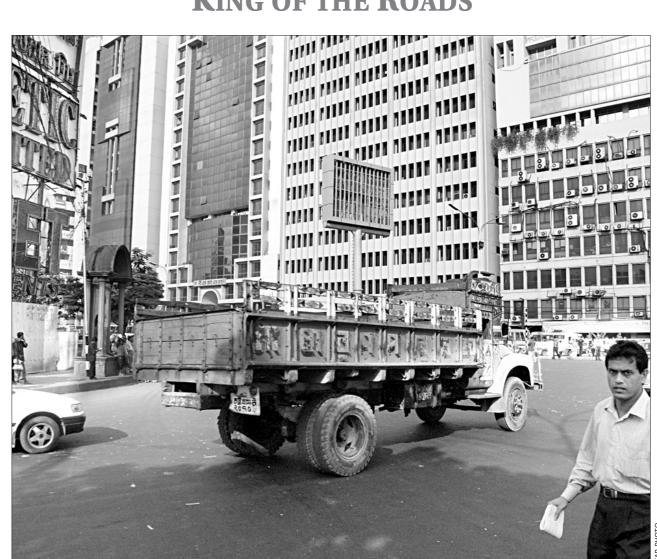
NCTB officials said that they ordered the books in June this year, four months ahead of the orders placed last year.

Around 500 tenders were submitted for the huge order that was divided into 200 lots. Among these 169 orders were placed from the first tender and for the rest another tender was floated.

Nineteen teams are monitoring the entire procedure this year.

Printing of textbooks for Madrasa students is going on at full swing. The number of books being printed is 18 million. Officials of the board said they were expecting all books by the end of the current month.

## **KING OF THE ROADS**



The ban on trucks plying during the day was enforced to ensure that roads were free from encumbrances for the safe and smooth movement of light vehicles, but seems ineffective as our photographer caught sight of this truck at the Sonargaon intersection at midday yesterday.

