

NCTB takes steps for textbooks on time

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 year 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, 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 primary students may increase this year, the official ensured

textbooks for all.

"This year the scenario is different. Suppliers have already delivered 70 percent of the total order to designated District Education Officers. We will get another 15 percent by November 30," said Prof. Faruque.

He said remaining 15 percent would be completed by December 15 because of a re-tender at the time of posting the orders.

"We are determined to hand over the books to students on the opening day of each school for the new academic year.

The government was unable to provide textbooks for students in the beginning of each academic

year in the last four years.

But as always, guardians are anxious whether their wards would be able to start studies on time.

"We have seen in the past that more than a month of the academic year is wasted because of the unavailability of textbooks," said Mahmuda Nargis, mother of 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.

10x3

12x2

12x3