# Housing Corruption

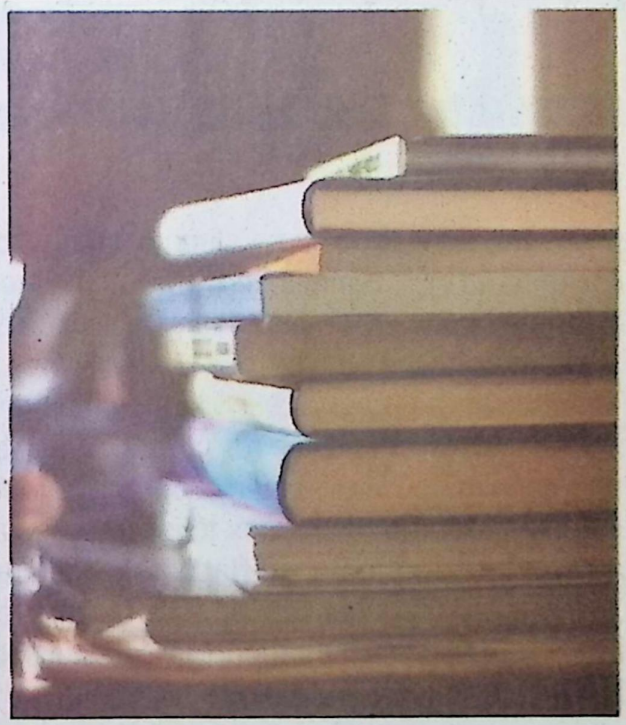
Corruption does not have a limit in our country, and this has become apparent in its rampant practise being unearthed every day. Most recently, an investigation of the National Housing Authority carried out by the National Coordination Committee (NCC) to Combat Corruption and Serious Crimes has revealed that fake plot allocations using phoney wills, case numbers, bank account numbers and award slips have been allotted even to two-year-olds. According to newspaper reports, irregularities were found in 904 plots with a present market value of Tk 400 crore. Some people reportedly got multiple allotments under different pseudonyms, while others encroached on even more land than they had been allotted unlawfully in the first place. The plot allocations, in Mohammadpur and Mirpur, were originally meant to be compensations for victimised citizens. The investigations also revealed that even some NHA employees were found to have been recruited illegally and after paying bribes to a former minister and cronies of the immediate past elected government. Several of those who paid bribes ended up not getting the jobs or their money back and are now seeking help from taskforce officials of the NCC. The NHA seems to be in a state of absolute chaos, and is perhaps not the only body to be so. Just like the traffic situation, only in Bangladesh can an organisation function, or dysfunction, amidst so much corruption and anarchy.



# Paying a High Price

Like every year, students in the government run schools are fighting to get the prescribed textbooks in the New Year. This year, however, the issue has taken a slight turn from the usual crisis of disappearing textbooks. Even though the primary text books are around, they are being sold at very high prices.

A large number of books, which are to be distributed for free at schools, are now being bought at a higher price since there is a lack of coordination between the concerned government bodies. According to many parents and schoolteachers, the middle of the year is fast approaching and if they don't buy the books now, the students will have to go without books for the rest of the year.



The concerned organisations are now playing the blame game. The leaders of the Bangladesh Publishers and Booksellers Association claim that the National Currirulam and Textbook Board (NCTB) did not take any measures to print additional textbooks even though the board was warned of this crisis.

The beginning of every year marks the beginning of this textbook crisis and the blame game between the organisations. The young students end up being the actual sufferers. Many of these children miss out on a lot since academic activities in all the government run schools begin on January 1 of every year.