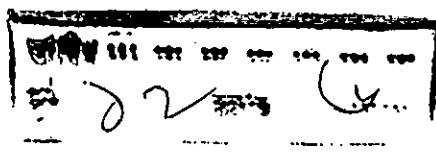


5/22



Transparency International Bangladesh survey Textbook crisis to tell on education system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most teachers and students of the secondary schools said the persistent crisis of textbooks and their sub-standard quality would adversely affect the overall educational system.

They said students of the secondary level would not be able to sit for their examinations in time this year, as they faced an 'irrecoverable' loss.

A survey report at a press conference in the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) auditorium yesterday revealed these observations.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) conducted the survey among 53 headmasters and 636 students of 53 higher secondary schools under 27 thanas in 21 districts with a view to finding out the problems created by the textbook crisis.

The crisis has emerged as the three concerns of the BEXIMCO Group awarded the job of printing 8.5 crore textbooks by the National Curriculum Textbook Board (NCTB) have failed to print and distribute those books within the stipulated time which ended on November 30

last.

The survey disclosed that none of the students of the secondary level could buy all sets of new textbooks even after more than two months of the beginning of classes.

Seventy-two per cent of headmasters said they were taking classes with the old sets of books, while 19 per cent said they were taking classes without any. Seventeen per cent, however, said there was no class at their schools.

Ninety two per cent students disclosed that they were facing

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Textbook crisis

FROM PAGE 12

problems for the scarcity of new books, while only six per cent came up with a different view.

The survey revealed that only one per cent of the students was able to buy all sets of new books.

About errors in the new books, 36 per cent teachers said the new ones are full of informational and spelling mistakes while only two per cent did not find such mistakes.

Sixty-eight per cent teachers said examinations of secondary level would not be held in time while 26 per cent teachers argued against this opinion. They observed that 'the crisis could be resolved by taking additional classes on holidays.'

As the survey findings show, 77 per cent students are studying with the old sets of books while 19 per cent are yet to start their study. It also revealed that students paid additional money to buy new sets.

Addressing the conference, Prof. Mozaffar Ahmad, a member of TIB trusty board, held both the government and the BEXIMCO responsible for the crisis.

"The government should take action against the BEXIMCO," he said.

Prof. Khan Sarwar Murshid, chairman of the trusty board of TIB and Muhammad Saidur Rahman, its research executive, were also present.