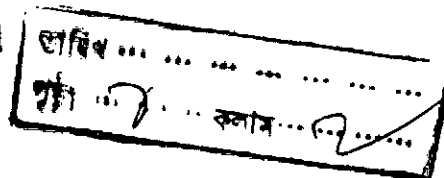


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Acute textbook crisis in Khulna, Bagerhat

Khulna Bureau

KHULNA, Jan 30:—Textbook crisis in secondary schools in Khulna district is seriously hampering the study of students. Book supply in primary schools is also not satisfactory.

Students of different secondary schools in the city and upazilas are yet to get their prescribed textbooks. "It's hampering our study seriously" said a class eight student of Khulna Zilla School. "We have heard about our syllabus, but we are yet to see it in the books," said another class nine student of Batiaghata Pilot High School. "Teachers everyday are taking classes and teaching us from their memories but we are

failing to follow them" said another class seven student.

First term examination is likely in March next in most of the schools, guardians are frustrated at the future of their kids.

Some students have collected books from their seniors and some are lucky to buy textbooks from book shops but the price is exorbitant.

Meanwhile dealers of textbooks have complained that the sole agent of textbook supplier here "Book Supply," is adopting nepotism in book distribution. It is taking payment in advance for whole set but giving only three or

Textbook crisis

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four copies said a dealer on condition of anonymity.

"Book supply" source said that it had paid two crore Taka to "Pustaka" in advance and to recover the money it's doing so. The source also observed that they would incur loss if books didn't come in time.

On the other hand, some guardians of primary schools complained that their kids, were yet to get books. They said the authority seemed to have no concern about providing books to all enrolled students. In some schools teachers have advised senior students to give old books to their juniors.

Meanwhile, students of different schools of Khulna city today brought out a procession in the city demanding immediate supply of textbooks. The students under the banner 'Democratic Students Unity' demanded resignation of the Education Minister.

UNB adds from Bagerhat:— Although one month of the new academic year has already elapsed, many school students in the district have not yet received their textbooks.

Shahabuddin Ahmed, president of local Book Publishers and Sellers Association, said no bookseller here is willing to be agent of 'Pustaka' due to their financial constraint.

Meanwhile, a section of dishonest traders have started bringing books from Khulna, Dhaka and Jessore and are selling those at exorbitant prices.

Education officials said there were 179 high schools in the district with over 50,000 students and they need some four lakh textbooks.