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## Price hike of books hampers education

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, July 15:—The students, teachers and readers are hard-hit due to abnormal price hike of books hampering education in the country.

The Medical, Engineering, Agriculture, Masters students and research fellows are the worst sufferers.

Books of religious subjects including the Quran and Hadiths are sold at high price affecting the common buyers.

Prices of books are going up every year. Many text-books for HSC, Degree (pass and honours) and Masters classes are being sold at Taka 200 to 500 per copy. Dictionary, English Grammar and Compositions, drama books, books of poems and reference books for research work are sold much higher than the actual price.

The 'Ekushey Boi Mela' of the year drew a large number of visitors but the sale was poor because many visitors did not buy books at high price.

The price of books is beyond the purchasing capacity of the students and readers. The students of poor

families can not buy books for their study. Even a student of Class IX has to buy books worth about Taka 2000 to prosecute his study.

Samsad English-Bengali and Bengali-English Dictionary costs Taka 295. English Grammers and Compositions with key-note are sold at Taka 110.

Indian Atlas of Anatomy sells at Tk. 2000. Guide-books of SSC and HSC examinations are sold at high price.

The students and readers in general are deprived of benefit of reading books to acquire knowledge. The education in the country is being hampered due to high price of books.

The books on medical, engineering, law and journalism published by foreign publishers are costly.

Many old books at University, Medical and Engineering libraries have been defaced and wornout due to continuous use from years together.

The govt should provide necessary help including supply of paper and printing materials at subsidised rate to the publication industries.