

# Students to get free textbooks today

Staff correspondent

THE government is set to celebrate textbook festival on Sunday in all schools and madrassahs across the country by handing over free textbooks to students.

Prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday inaugurated the free textbook distribution programme for the academic year 2017 at a function in her official Gono Bhaban residence.

National Curriculum and Textbook Board chairman Narayan Chandra Saha said that all textbooks for students had reached primary and secondary level institutions.

He said that this year the government will distribute 36.21 crore textbooks free of cost among 4.26 crore primary and secondary level students.

Textbooks will be distributed among all pre-primary, primary, secondary, ibtedayi, dakhil, dakhil vocational and SSC vocational students.

Besides, the government will distribute teacher's guide among 60 lakh primary level teachers and 46 lakh among

secondary level teachers.

For the first time, the government will distribute around 52,000 copies of textbooks to 24,646 pre-primary students belonging to five ethnic minority communities printed in their mother tongues. These books have been printed in Chakma, Marna, Tripura, Sadri and Garo languages.

The education ministry will hold a programme at Azimpur Government Girls School and College where minister Nurul Islam Nahid will distribute new books among 5,000 students of 31 secondary level institutions today.

Finance minister AMA Muhith will hand over books to several hundred primary level students at a separate programme at Dhaka University central playground on the day.

In 2010, the government began distributing free textbooks among students of secondary schools. Free distribution of books among the primary school students began in 1981.