

# Text books sell at unfair price

an OBSERVER report

The text books particularly for Class IX and Class X published by the Text Book Board are not available in the market at fair price though the new academic session has started. The books are either in the printing presses or with the book binders. Most of the books of class IX and X are not available in the market. Some of the selected books are however available in some of the book stalls but at exorbitant high rate.

The book sellers taking advantage of the scarcity of text books and demand of the students are trying to force sale of note books with text books to make a good profit.

The Bengali prose for class IX is selling for Taka 28 as against the actual cost of Taka 14 and English for Today was selling for Taka 55 with notes as against the normal price of Taka 15 only. The book sellers are charging Taka 34 for an arithmetic book and geometry book together as against the normal price of about Taka 24 for the two books.

The scarcity and high prices of text books for higher classes has put the students and guardians alike to great inconvenience.

It may be pointed out here

that only a selected number of printing presses are given the contract for publishing the books and there is also a selected number of book binders for binding them. The quality of paper and binding of most of the text books is far from satisfactory.

Meanwhile the book binders were on a two-day token strike in support of their demand for higher rate for their work. This has further worsened the situation.