



Illegally printed primary school books on sale

Staff Correspondent

Primary school textbooks, printed by unauthorised publishing houses are being sold in the city's book markets and elsewhere in the country openly.

Sources said, a number of unauthorised publishing houses are printing primary school books which are supposed to be published and distributed among the primary school students free of cost by the government. "Some corrupt publishers and businessmen are earning huge money by publishing and selling primary school textbooks illegally. The guardians of the students are purchasing the books for their children as the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has failed to distribute books so far among many of the primary school students," sources said.

A businessman involved in this illegal trade on condition of anonymity said, many publishers outside Dhaka City are publishing those books illegally. "These books first come to Banglabazar and thereafter are distributed to different city markets and other parts of the country," he informed.

This correspondent while visiting city's Banglabazar and Nilkhet Book Markets on Thursday found the textbooks for

Class I to Class V are being sold illegally.

The retail price of a set of books for Class I is Taka 15, Class II Taka 45, Class III Taka 65, Class IV Taka 80 and Class V is Taka 85. In the wholesale market the price of a set of books for Class I is Taka 10, Class II Taka 35, Class III Taka 50, Class IV Taka 60 and Class V Taka 65.

Sources said, the books are mainly published at some places in Bogra, Jessore and Noakhali, Chaumuhani. "It does not cost much to publish the books illegally as there is no Royalty charge," they only require papers to publish the books.

Guardians of primary school
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Primary school books

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students are buying the books for their children because the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) is yet to

reach the books a large number of students across the country.

It is learnt that students of many primary schools are yet to get their books from the NCTB although their classes have already begun. On the other hand, shortage of one or two books is found in every set of books disbursed among the primary school students earlier.

The government under the project "Education For All" distribute books to the students of government and approved primary schools free of cost every year. This year the government decided to publish about five crore and 50 lakh books. The publication of the books was scheduled to be completed by December 31. But the NCTB failed to complete publication during the stipulated period.

The government started distributing books to the primary school students on January 3; but students of many schools across the country are yet to get their books.

Sources at the NCTB said they would be able to complete distribution of all the books by the end of February.