



Students from different schools in the city chant slogans against corrupt officials of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) and Beximco as they march towards the Ministry of Education yesterday. The processionists demanded trial of the people responsible for delay in printing and distribution of textbooks for the current academic session. -- Star photo

Protest against edn ministry

PM's Office asks again for legal action

Star Report

Hundreds of students yesterday staged a demonstration in the city against the Education Ministry protesting non-availability of textbooks for secondary level students.

Earlier, the students brought out a procession from the Dhaka University and gathered in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

The students, mostly from different high schools in the city, chanted various slogans against the "corrupt" officials of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) and Beximco for the delay and irregularities in printing and distribution of textbooks.

They demanded trial of the officials of NCTB, Education Ministry and Beximco involved in the 'irregularities'.

Their other demands include immediate supply of textbooks, withdrawal of the books containing error and end to irregularities

in printing textbooks.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) called the demonstration.

Meanwhile, for the second time, the Prime Minister's office asked the Education Ministry to take legal action against the printers and distributors for their failure to supply textbooks in time.

The PM's office earlier this month gave the same instruction but there was no response from the ministry, sources concerned alleged.

Instead, after a long delay, the ministry just forwarded a note with some reports of NCTB regarding "progress in printing and distribution" of textbooks.

The Prime Minister's office on January 2 asked the Education Secretary to take legal action against the defaulting printers within a week.

The PM office has expressed

dissatisfaction over the issue and asked for "specific comments" from the Ministry whether the printer performed the job properly.

Taking the advantage of poor supply of textbooks, a section of unscrupulous businessmen in different part of the city are selling textbooks of secondary level at higher prices, sources said.

Allegations have it that Pustaka, a Beximco concern, has given its dealership to owners of petrol pumps and sellers of construction material and homeopathic medicine instead of real booksellers for distribution of textbooks printed by it.

The SCF held two rallies, one in front of the DUCSU building on the Dhaka University campus and the other in front of Jatiya Press Club before and after the procession respectively.

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Textbook

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Addressing the rally, SCF leaders said, the textbooks printed using low quality paper are full of errors.

Books printed for free distribution are being sold in shops, the alleged. The Pustaka has sold out allotment letters to five note book printers in the city to make profit