



# Availability of textbooks still uncertain

As uncertainty still hovers over availability of textbooks, different school authorities are planning to begin classes retaining the old books.

"We have no other alternative but to continue the classes with the old books," Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, Principal of Udayan School, told UNB on Tuesday.

She said other schools in the capital and elsewhere in the country are also planning to teach the students from the old books as nobody can say for sure when the new books will be available.

"We asked the students to submit their books they studied last year to the school authorities. We will give the old books to the new students," Chowdhury said.

The Udayan School begins its new academic session on Thursday. It will continue teaching the old books both at primary and secondary levels until the new books come.

The school authorities are contacting the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) and concerned departments for the books, but none could tell them

when the new books will come.

A number of guardians are also beginning the new academic year of their children with the old books. They are teaching at home from the books studied last year.

Dipika Acharya is among the guardians who collected some old books for their children. She said she would be teaching her class-nine daughter, a student of

Vigarunnisa Noon School, from the old books.

"What we can do if the new books are not available. The best option is teaching from the old books to continue the practice of daily studies at home," she said.

The classes at the Vigarunnisa School will begin on January 14.

Meanwhile, sources said Beximco of which three presses got the order for printing lion's share of textbooks was now giving sub-contract to other presses to speed up the printing.

They offered almost all the capable presses in the capital to take sub-contract of the books as the leading business house is again under serious strains after the share scam.

But, sources said, most of the presses refused to accept the offer from the Beximco. Only some 40 presses came up to take the sub-contract.

"We can't believe them (Beximco). We don't know whether we will get our payments if we do their job," said one press owner who refused to take sub-contract.