

## Fake textbook sales call for lawful action

IT IS disturbing that dishonest businessmen are selling three fake textbooks of the Higher Secondary Certificate course. As New Age reported on Saturday, some businessmen at book markets such as Bangla Bazar and Nilkhet in the capital are selling old textbooks of Bangla and English with new covers to unsuspecting students to earn quick money. The two Bangla textbooks for this academic year have been rewritten following the new curriculum while the new English textbook has a number of changes. The board released the latest versions of the textbooks in the first week of July. The students who bought the old-version textbooks have fallen victim to the unquenchable avarice of some unscrupulous businessmen.

What, however, is important now is for everyone to understand that publishing and sales of these unauthorised books is illegal. And what is important for the government to understand is that special drives against this illegal sale of books have been in order. It cannot be denied that the vast majority of the students belong to fixed-income groups, the people who struggle hard to keep body and soul together, especially, as there has been an unabated surge in prices of essential goods. The government, therefore, needs to realise that the extra amount that would be required to buy the latest edition of these textbooks, again, will invariably add to miseries of those who were duped into buying the old versions before. As such, the incumbents should have taken steps to launch drives against people involved in the printing, distribution and sales of these books much earlier. Textbook board officials should also have requested the government for special drives against the sellers and publishers of such books. It is unfortunate that no coordinated drive has as yet been undertaken against the enterprises that are printing, distributing and selling such fake books.

There are allegations that some teachers are also involved in this unlawful business. By asking the students to buy these books taking bribe from publishers, some teachers are not only abetting the violation of law but are also committing crimes. The onus to bring the violators of the law in question to justice lies with the government.