

## PM inaugurates textbook distribution among students

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated the distribution of free textbooks among school students with a pledge to do whatever necessary for the improvement and flourishing of education in the country.

Hasina inaugurated the distribution of free textbooks up to secondary level through giving books to some students of class I-IX of different schools and madrasas at a ceremony at Gono Bhaban, her official residence.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, among others, spoke on the occasion.

The education ministry will hold the much-awaited

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"Textbook Festival Day" today as schools and madrasas remained closed Wednesday marking Akheri Chahar Shomba. Usually, the textbook festival is held on the first day of a year.

Nahid will inaugurate the festival at the Government Laboratory School in the capital around 11:00am.

Mentioning that there is nothing more important than the huge public investment in education, the prime minister said the reason for this is to make the future leaders of the country educated since there is the need of an educated nation to make a poverty-free society.

Amid some concerns and apprehension about reaching the textbooks to the schools across the country in due time because of political turmoil last year, she thanked the ministry and others concerned for successfully completing the task this year.

Criticising the opposition BNP-Jamaat's countrywide

movements over the last few months, Hasina said, "Their (BNP-Jamaat) movements are not mass-associated, rather subversive in nature."

"It was very difficult to reach books throughout the country amid such a situation when the opposition were engaged in burning people to death, even burning cows to death hurling petrol bombs in cows-laden trucks... also vegetables-laden trucks."

Stressing the need for determining the subjects keeping pace with the modern world, Hasina said that in the future, the number of school textbooks would be reduced for different classes.

Education ministry sources said this year, the government will distribute more than 29,96,75,938 copies of textbooks to more than 3.74 crore students of primary, secondary, ebtedayee (primary level of madrasah), dakhil (secondary level of madrasa) and vocational classes of the 2014 academic session.