

# Triumph over adversities

*Textbooks reach students in time despite hartal, blockade*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children who went to school yesterday morning returned home with new textbooks, gifts that awaited them at schools across the country.

The government started distributing nearly 30 crore copies of textbooks to more than 3.73 crore students of class-I to class-IX despite the back-to-back shutdowns.

With due festivities, yesterday was observed as the first day of the new academic session, the Textbook Festival Day.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid inaugurated the festival by releasing balloons at the capital's Government Laboratory School at 11:00am. He handed books to students from four schools and one madrasa.

The students were happy to get the books from a minister. Some were skipping around in joy, while others were flipping through the books. Many parents and teachers also joined the fun.

The smell of new books hung in the air, with many of the students holding balloons and cheering. More than a thousand students from BCSIR High School, Dhanmondi Government Girls High School, Kamrunnesa Government Girls High School and Hafez Abdur Razzak Dakhil Madrasa attended the festival.

"I am very happy to get new books. I will start reading them as soon as I get back home," said Sumaiya, a student from Kamrunnesa Government Girls High School.

"We want to get books on time every year," said another from the same school.

A parent observed, "The quality of the textbooks has improved significantly. Getting books on the first day of the session will encourage them to learn more."

The government has printed about 29,96,75,938 copies

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of textbooks to distribute among 3,73,36,672 students of primary and secondary schools, ebtedai and dakhil madrasas and technical institutions.

Over 11.59 crore copies of 33 subjects are for over 2.31 crore primary students, 1.74 crore copies of 34 subjects for some 26 lakh ebtedai students, over 13.59 crore copies of 114 subjects for 92.58 lakh secondary and English version students, 16.63 lakh copies of 16 subjects for 1.86 lakh SSC vocational students and 2.86 crore copies of 71 subjects for 21.17 lakh Dakhil and Dakhil vocational students.

The education minister greeted the students in his speech: "We are delighted that we have been able to give the students books on the very first day, despite many obstacles like hartals and blockades enforced by the opposition."

He urged them to concentrate on studies to get the best possible education.

The government has been distributing books at the very beginning of academic sessions since 2010, and has so far distributed around 121.38 crore copies.

All the textbooks have been uploaded to the National Curriculum and Textbook Board website: [www.nctb.gov.bd](http://www.nctb.gov.bd).