

## BANGLABAZAR RAIDED Over 57,000 textbooks seized: 1 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The taskforce on textbook seized over 57,000 secondary school textbooks from two publishing houses at Bangla Bazar on Thursday night and detained one of the owners.

Officials from National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), along with members of Rab and Police seized the books, most of which were not approved by the NCTB, from the warehouses of Pustak Bhaban and New Bishwa Bichitra on Pari Dasroad.

Sources said the taskforce raided three warehouses of Pustak Bhaban and four of New Bishwa Bichitra and seized 57,300 books of class VI to X.

The books were stored there despite directives from the authorities concerned to sell all textbooks to ease the prevailing textbook crisis.

Earlier, a NCTB monitoring team on Wednesday seized illegal textbooks worth around

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## Textbooks

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Tk 30 lakh from Farazi Printers, a publishing house at Bangla Bazar. It also seized huge quantity of low quality newsprint kept there for printing secondary school textbooks.

Meanwhile, nine special committees of NCTB yesterday began visiting book markets in six divisional cities to measure the actual demand for secondary school textbooks.

They will submit reports to the NCTB and the education ministry on Sunday after their two-day visit to book markets, said NCTB sources.

The committees were formed on Thursday night to help NCTB find out how many more textbooks need to be printed in addition to 2.62 crore textbooks.

Following their recommendations, NCTB might take initiative to float tender for printing more books to solve the prevailing crisis of secondary school textbooks.

The publishers failed to hoard 24 types of textbooks in the third phase of book supply following strict monitoring by the taskforce.

However, the taskforce is yet to make headway in ensuring supply of 14 other textbooks in the first phase and 38 textbooks in the second phase to the market.

Publishers said the textbook crisis will not end even after ensuring supply of 2.62 crore textbooks as the actual demand for textbooks is over five crore.

The NCTB formed the special committees following demands from the publishers.