

তারিখ: ৮ জুন ২০০৯
পৃষ্ঠা: ১

None to drop out due to textbook crisis: Nahid

Amid criticisms of problems the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) are ridden with, including political appointments of writers, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid Sunday said experts and academics are working to resolve the problems for publishing standard textbooks, reports UNB.

"Corrected and improved-

standard textbooks will be available from January 2011," he told a function where speakers pointed out sub-standard books stuffed with mistakes and political appointment of writers among the problems facing the educational arena.

The Education Minister also assured that no one would be allowed to drop out due to textbook crisis

henceforth.

He informed that the government is publishing 20 crore textbooks for primary and secondary levels to resolve the existing crisis.

"The textbooks are being reached to each student on January 1 in 2010 and the government is working to meet their ends," he said while addressing as chief guest at a seminar titled 'Human Rights in Textbooks: What do the Children Learn?' at the Cirdap Auditorium.

NCTB correct history incorporating committee's Chairman Prof Montaz Uddin Ahmed, Prof Abdullah Abu Saced, NCTB education experts Selina Hossen and Prof Zafar Iqbal, NCTB senior technical expert Prof Ziaul Hasan, former adviser of the immediate-past caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury and Segupta Yesmin Emily MP, among others, spoke at the function.

Dhaka University teacher Associate Professor Showmitra Shekar presented the keynote at the seminar, organized by Manusher Jonno Foundation with its Executive Director Shaheen Anam in the chair.

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None to drop out

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The Education Minister urged the teachers to be sincere with their profession as he said they are the nation-builders.

Prof Montaz Uddin Ahmed said the curricula of the textbooks should be changed immediately for the sake of country image and maintaining communal harmony.

Prof Ziaul Hasan dug out politics behind churning out substandard books from this vital institution as he said, "The politically appointed writers of the NCTB made the textbooks substandard."

He urged the government not to allow inefficient writers for NCTB as he said they badly hamper the reputation of the NCTB to society.

Lawmaker Segupta Yesmin Emily said the country's existing bureaucratic tangles hamper the development works in the education sec-

tor.

"There is no scope to work without bureaucratic instrument. If so, the bureaucrats become almost non-cooperative," the ruling-party MP alleged.

Deputy Editor of daily Prothom Alo Abdul Kaiyum urged the government to direct the teachers not to enter classroom with stick.

"The innocent students become seriously nervous as well as it's a violation of human rights," he said, disapproving of the traditional practice of pedagogy as reports say students are still mercilessly flogged even in many reputed schools in the capital city.

Prof Zafar Iqbal urged the government to allocate more funds for publishing colorful and lucrative textbooks for the students so that they could learn from their own interest.