

## Copying Text Books

Hardly a year passes by when text books of the primary and secondary schools do not make news. Indeed, most such news items are of scandalous type. This year is no exception. Text books copied clandestinely have reportedly flooded the market. The end result is that the National Text-book Board, report has it, is likely to lose a royalty of Taka two and a half crore. In protest the listed publishers have threatened to stop printing as many as 60 lakh books.

Books are, reportedly copied from different areas of the country. What is more, they are printed on the board-prescribed paper. How? The answer is simple and straight. Paper worth 33 lakh Taka got stolen last year. The suspicion is that the copied books are printed on the stolen paper. And the report links a section of the publishers in Dhaka with the illegal printing of books from places outside of Dhaka.

What a pathetic story each and every year! Why can we not leave an area like this alone? After all, this involves young learners. When they come to know that their elders can go to any length for ensuring their illegal commission or omission—no matter if it means loss to the young learners' studies, it is difficult for them to accept the fact. Wrong policies, decisions and wrong-doings have caused the students enough suffering. Why cannot this be stopped once for all?

In any civilised society, great care is taken to protect the children's rights. When it comes to educating the young ones, efforts are expended at the highest level to ensure quality and a high standard of integrity. After all, education is sacrosanct. It must not get tarnished by any means. Year after year our young learners receive bad news about the books they are going to make guides for the entire year.

How can the authorities and others become so callous when the printing of books concern such a vast number of students? That commerce has taken over knowledge is nothing new. But one must at least be respectful to laws and moral standard. That professionalism is lacking in education explains the all-round decline of quality. Dishonesty does not pay. We surely can produce quality books but look at the text books. Because involved here are crores of Taka, there is a competition for making easy buck instead of raising the quality of production.

Not only does it concern production—material-wise but also in terms of subject and knowledge. Some of the text books are so poorly written and the subjects dealt with are so undermined that the very purpose gets hardly served. Why this happens is also not a secret. Known faces without the aptitude, instead of competent hands, are given the responsibility to write books. In the process the nation loses and some coterie's interests are served. This must come to an end if we really mean business. Keep education above everything else if the nation really wants to have a strong footing and respectable position in the comity of nations.