

3 fake HSC textbooks selling at book stores

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DISHONEST businessmen are selling fake textbooks of three important Higher Secondary Certificate courses.

The National Curriculum and Textbook Board released the latest version of the three textbooks – Bangla Sahitya Path, Bangla Sahapath and English for Today – in the first week of July, while many book stores were found selling the old textbooks, largely different from the latest edition, with the covers looking like the new ones.

At the higher secondary level, the board publishes and distributes these three textbooks on its own and the rest textbooks are being published and distributed by the private publishers with its approval.

Guardians alleged the fake textbooks were now available at renowned book markets, including at Bangla Bazar and Nilkhet in the capital and in districts and upazilas. Having already printed the older versions, booksellers are now trying to unload their stock by re-packaging them.

Board officials said that some dishonest businessmen were selling the three textbooks faked avoiding the holographic mark, which would help identify the fake ones.

The board member (textbook), Ratan Siddique, said that they were keeping an eye on the publishing houses and book stores. 'We had handed over one person to police in Dhaka catching him red handed while publishing fake textbooks,' he said.

Board officials said that

they observed that fake textbooks were available at book markets in Dhaka, Comilla and Bogra. 'We have information about fake textbooks are being published from Chowmuhani and Bogra,' an official said.

Ratan Siddique said that the board would send a letter to superintendents of police of all the 64 districts to carry out drives against illegal trade of textbooks and sale of fake ones.

Allegations have it that the three compulsory textbooks for all students, released in the first week of July, are yet to reach some parts of the country, especially some places in the northern districts.

The two Bangali textbooks for this academic year were have been rewritten

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Continued from page 1 following the new curriculum, while the new English For Today contains a numbers of modifications.

Students and guardians criticised the government for not publicising the information about new textbooks keeping them largely unaware of the fraud.

'I was not aware of the fake textbooks,' said Munmun Rahman, a guardian shopping for the textbooks at Nilkhet. 'The government should have publicised the information.'

The education minister, Nurul Islam Nahid, while inaugurating the HSC textbook distribution on July 1, warned that law enforcers would take stern actions against printers and sellers of fake textbooks.