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Bangladesh celebrates textbook festival

Staff Correspondent | Updated at 01:24am on January 02, 2019



Students of Azimpur Girls High School rejoice after getting textbooks for new academic year on the first day of the year on Tuesday. — Sony Ramany

The countrywide celebration of National Textbook Festival which kicked off on Tuesday saw free distribution of books among 4.26 crore school, madrassahs and vocational institution children across Bangladesh.

Students for the academic year of 2019 received the first instalment of textbooks.

The distribution of books will continue and a total of 35,21,97,882 free textbooks would be distributed among 4,26,19,865 primary and secondary level students.

As per the National Curriculum and Textbook Board the highest number of 18 crore books will be distributed among the students of secondary (Bangla version) followed by 9.88 crore books for primary (Class 1 to Class 5), 3.7 crore books for Dakhil and 2.25 crore books for Ibtedayi levels.

A total of 68.56 lakh books will be distributed among pre-primary, 28.81 lakh books among SSC (vocational), 12.47 lakh books among secondary (English version), 12.35 lakh books among technical, 2.76 lakh books among children of minority groups and 1.4 lakh books among Dakhil (vocational) level students this year along with 1.2 lakh supplementary agriculture studies and 5,857 braille books.

The education minister Nurul Islam Nahid inaugurated the festival centrally for secondary level students at Azimpur Government Girls' School and College playground on Tuesday morning where he also distributed free textbooks among the students of 10 schools.

He said that since 2010 they were distributing free textbooks among students and till date they have distributed a total of 296,07,89,172 free books.

They were also distributing books written in five more languages for five minority groups of people and in the last three years free textbooks in Braille were also distributed among people with visual disabilities, he added.

The ceremony was attended by the ministry's Secondary and Higher Education Division secretary Sohrab Hossain and Azimpur Government Girls' School and College principal Professor Md Hasibur Rahman among others.

The primary and mass education minister Mostafizur Rahman in another ceremony inaugurated the festival centrally for primary level students at Dhaka University central playground in the morning.

New Age correspondent in Bogura reported that deputy commissioner Foyez Ahammad inaugurated the festival from the city's Thanthania Model Government Primary School playground to distribute books to 12 upazilas.

New Age correspondent in Feni reported that on the day 34.65 lakh books had been distributed among 3.62 lakh primary and secondary level students of 1,164 educational institutions through the festival.

New Age correspondent in Magura reported that this year 14.55 lakh books would be distributed among secondary and five lakh books would be distributed among primary level students while the festival took place at different schools.

As per NCTB printing and distribution cost of these textbooks stood at Tk 1,082 crore.

Earlier on December 24, prime minister Sheikh Hasina formally inaugurated the festival.



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