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Help for the new school-goer

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The new school year has just begun and a number of mothers are busy completing the admission formalities. After that will come the issue of buying school dresses and books.

These days readymade shirts and pants are readily available in different markets of Dhaka. In some areas local vendors also sell them from door to door. Depending on the material used the price of a shirt for a seven year old will cost Tk 8-12 at the most if bought from a vendor and a pant for a boy of the same age sells for Tk 12 or 50.

Mothers who have machines at home can easily make their children's dresses at home. It will be much cheaper and shall be more durable because when a garment is stitched at home it is done carefully.

Next comes the issue of books. Most books are cheap but for schools which prescribe Indian or foreign books cheaper used books can be purchased from the second hand book sellers at Bangla Bazar. The wayside shops in front of Balaka Cinema Hall and in different parts of the country also have them. Such books sell for half their original price.

At the beginning of the year in the months of January and February a number of books for the higher classes are not available in the market. Parents can take a visit to the second hand old books shop and buy such books at half the original price. This will save their children from going to school



without books and feeling lost.

Next comes the issue of tiffin. A number of lovely locally produced tiffin boxes and flasks are available in the market priced between Tk 10-20 a piece. If purchased from a vendor at different shopping centres the price is cheaper than if purchased from a shop.

Instead of buying suitcases for small school children, it is always more convenient to buy school bag of jute which can be put on the shoulders with long sling handles. These days such bags come in different designs with embroidery and applique work. These are very cheap. A mother can also make them at home and for extra protection stitch a plastic polythene sheet at the back for strength and protection.

It is always better to give a child tiffin prepared at home as it is fresh and hygienic. Why not give your child an egg sandwich, french toast, a few biscuits or a fruit? Remember to change the tiffin every day so that a child gets variety and is not bored with his tiffin. Above all, give a napkin to your child and boiled water to drink.

Be sure to check your child's copies when he returns home and see that he does his homework. If a child is regular in his studies from the beginning of the year he is sure to do well the whole year and will enjoy going to school. Help your child and help yourself to be a proud mother of a good student.