

Annual textbook festival canceled for 2025

Adviser to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education says primary-level books distribution will be done by January



Photo: Star/File

Professor Bidhan Ranjan Roy Poddar, adviser to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, today said the annual textbook festival, traditionally held on January 1, will not take place in 2025.

Books for students across all levels will instead be distributed by the end of January, the adviser said during a press briefing at the Divisional Commissioner's office in Khulna.



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Explaining the delay, he cited complications in the tender process for printing books abroad.

"The tender was cancelled on August 5 and a fresh one was initiated, leading to delays in the printing process. Despite this, we aim to distribute primary-level books by January," he said.

Addressing reporters, the adviser acknowledged the challenges posed by the new curriculum.

"The new curriculum will add some pressure on students, which is inevitable given the disruptions following the mass uprising. However, we must adapt and move forward," he said.

The adviser also revealed plans to expand the mid-day meal program to all primary schools within the next five years, starting with 150 upazilas in the first phase.

Highlighting the financial constraints in the education sector, he pointed out, "Bangladesh allocates only 2 percent of its national budget to education, the lowest in South Asia, compared to Unesco's recommended 6 percent. Enhancing the financial and social status of teachers is critical for progress."

He further emphasised the importance of foundational skills.

"A strong focus on literacy and proficiency in language and mathematics at the primary level is key to accessing global knowledge," he said.

The meeting, presided over by Divisional Commissioner Md Firoz Sarkar, included representatives from divisional-level offices and deputy commissioners from the 10 districts of Khulna Division.