

Most students unlikely to get free textbooks today

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The majority of the students are unlikely to get free textbooks today while the government is returning to the previous national curriculum of 2012 for this academic year.

This year, according to the National Curriculum and Textbook Board, 40.15 crore copies of textbooks—62 lakh for pre-primary, 8.55 crore for primary and 30.81 crore for secondary students—will be distributed among about four crore pre-primary, primary, secondary, secondary vocational, ibtedayi, dakhil vocational, national minority and visually challenged students across the country.

Besides, 1.92 lakh copies of textbooks will be distributed among the students from five national minority communities.

The board chairman, AKM Reazul Hassan, told New Age on December 25 that on the first day of 2025 about 12 crore of the 40 crore copies of textbooks will be distributed among the students.

After the ouster of Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League regime on August 5, the interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus decided to print textbooks for 2025 as per the 2012 curriculum instead of the new curriculum of 2021.

Following the government decision, the board cancelled the previous tenders and floated fresh tenders for printing the textbooks after the evaluation of the textbooks as per the national curriculum of 2012.

Changes in the curriculum after the political changeover, revision of textbooks, cancellation of previous tenders and fresh tenders are the reasons behind the delay in printing books, said different printers.

'We included contributions of many leading people from different historical events,' professor AKM Reazul Hassan said, adding that Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Sher-e-Bangla Abul Kasem Fazlul Haque, General Muhammad Ataul Gani Osmani and Ziaur Rahman were included in the changed contents.

'We kept the graffiti made by the students following the July uprising as the back cover of the books. We dropped the political propaganda such as photos of the former prime minister and her quotations,' he added.