

Most students yet to get free textbooks

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Majorities of the students across the country did not get free textbooks on the second day of the year on Thursday.

National Curriculum and Textbook Board officials said that they sent 6 crore of the 41 crore copies of the textbooks to upazilas till Tuesday for distribution and on Wednesday about 4 crore more books were scheduled to be distributed to different upazilas.

The board chair AKM Reazul Hassan told New Age on Thursday that they did not know how many books were distributed among the students till Thursday.

He blamed slow pace of works of the printers for the delay.

This year, according to the NCTB, 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.

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

While education ministry officials were expecting to distribute all books to the students by January 30, some of the printers said that it would take the entire February month to distribute all books as they got little time to print.

The education adviser, Wahiduddin Mahmud, on Wednesday expressed regret to students and their guardians for not distributing all free textbooks on the first day of this year.