

The Bangladesh Times

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Crisis of text books

School students have been made to suffer again this year because of non-availability of text books. Books even to the primary classes in many cases are yet to be distributed although the academic year has run into its second month. A Times report has further highlighted the problem stating that the students of class nine will not get their text books until their first terminal examinations because books of some subjects are yet to be printed. Worried students, teachers and guardians find the situation highly unpalatable. A very vital time of the academic year of the school students will be lost for no fault of them.

The Times report has also exposed the reasons for the delay in printing and the distribution of the text books. What is interesting is that the causes which led to the crisis of text books appear to be not insurmountable and they could have been taken care of given a little advance planning and thinking by the authorities responsible for making the books available. A lack of coordination between the Text Book Board, the owners of printing presses and the power supply authorities seems to have created the situation.

Timely publication and distribution of text books for school children, however, is too serious a matter to be allowed to be disturbed for lack of coordination or efficiency. We are sure the authors who were selected to prepare the manuscripts could have been forced to supply them earlier to make timely printing possible. The Text Book Board should take actions against authors who have failed to submit the manuscripts in time. The manipulation by a section of the press owners who first printed note books and then the text books causing the delay is almost unpardonable. Harsh actions against these printing press owners may improve the situation in future. The Board needs to be more careful and strict in getting the jobs done by the authors and the printing presses.

The Board and other relevant authorities should sort out the problem of rationing of the power supply to the printing press which have been given the task of printing the books. It is unfortunate that the issue of text book is repeated year after year. Higher official authorities require to look into the affairs of coordination between the text book board and others who are jointly in charge of ensuring books to school children on time.