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# Text books not available

By A Staff Correspondent

School text books from classes six to eight are not available in the market although about a month has passed since the current academic session. The school Text Book Board however claims that there is hardly any shortage of text books in the market.

This year the Text Book Board appointed leading publishers to produce the text books for class nine on all subjects. These are all reprints and now available in the market. Some publishers also admitted that most of the books

for class six seven and eight are not available. The books on mathematics for class six and seven are likely to be released within the next two days, one publisher said.

Unsound planning and inadequate facilities for the production of text books delay publications and such a situation of book scarcity occurs almost every year. If the Text Book Board, the lone producer of school text books in the country undertakes preparation well in advance the books can be published in due time, some publishers pointed out.

The Text Book Board undertook publication of text books for primary classes, from class one to class V at a cost of Taka 20 crore. Paper worth about Taka six crore for printing of the primary books was supplied to the board free of cost. Nearly 60 per cent of the primary books could be supplied by the board till date all over the country, the rest is yet to be made available. The primary books are all supplied to the students free of cost since the last five years.

The Text Book Board publishes five lakh sets of text books for class six, four lakh sets for class seven and three lakh sets for classes eight and nine. The books are published by the publishers appointed by the Board. The Board controls both quality and price of books published and charges the publishers eight per cent royalty.

If the scarcity of text books in Dhaka city is so acute the problems of students in rural areas is easily understandable. Effective measures are required to immediately stop recurrence of such a situation each year.