

## Call to hand-over primary text books on time

Prime Minister's Adviser for Primary and Mass Education Professor Jahanara Begum on Monday asked the concerned officials to hand over the text books to the students on time to expedite the primary education, reports BSS.

She was speaking at a coordination meeting on distribution of text books at primary level for the academic year 2003 at the conference room of the National Curriculum and Text Book Board (NCTBB).

The adviser asked the concerned officials of the board and representatives of printing industry to work relentlessly so that the books can be handed over to the students on time at any cost.

Professor Jahanara said the standard of primary education has now come under question. The teachers should come forward to protect the standard of primary education, she added.

Presided over by NCTBB Chairman Professor Kabir Uddin Ahmed, the meeting was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoq Milan, Secretary of the Primary and Mass Education Division Professor Tahmina Hossain and Director General of Mass Education Department Mosaddequl Islam.

"We lack commitment. We are thinking for ourselves only, not for the country and the nation," the adviser said and called upon the teachers to be more sincere and attentive in a bid to build an educated nation.

The state minister said the primary text books for the year 2003 must reach the schools by November 30.

Milan said he would take necessary steps so that the presses, which have been engaged in printing the primary text books, do not face power problem.

He said a good number of primary schools are in bad shape and many teachers don't take classes. The primary teachers should be more careful about it, he added.

The government has given the highest priority on education, and despite that if the rate of literacy is not increased, it will be painful, he said.

The state minister advised the teachers to concentrate on increasing literacy rate as well as to monitor the statistics of drop out.