

ERROR IN TEXTBOOKS

Progressive organisations threaten to lay siege to education ministry

Staff Correspondent

LEADERS of progressive organisations on Sunday threatened to lay siege to the education ministry on January 31 if the government does not withdraw all the error-ridden textbooks for 2017 academic year by the deadline.

At a sit-in in front of National Curriculum and Textbook Board at Motijheel, the demonstrators also demanded dismissal of the NCTB officials responsible for dropping the progressive writers' literatures and inclusion of sectarian contents in the textbooks.

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi, Ganagagan Mancha, Jubo Union, Chhatra Union, Pragati Lekhak Sangha, Ranesh Dasgupta Chalachchitra Sangshad, Adivashi Jubo Parishad, Garments Trade Union Centre, Hawkers' Union and Kendrio Khelaghar Asor jointly organised the sit-in under the banner of 'Pragatishil Gana Sangathan Samuha'.

This year, the NCTB had distributed around 36.21 crore textbooks, containing misspelled texts and controversial graphics, contents and literature, among 4.26 crore primary and secondary level students.

The textbooks were also subjected to widespread criticism for inclusion of

sectarian elements and dropping secular and humanist contents.

The progressive organisations were in the streets protesting against distribution of the controversial textbooks.

Udichi general secretary Jamshed Anwar Tapan announced the fresh programme on behalf of the organisations at the sit-in participated by few hundred protesters.

'We would lay siege to the education ministry on January 31 unless the government withdraws all error-ridden textbooks for the

2017 academic year immediately', he said.

They organisations would also organise mass campaigns to garner support for their demands of withdrawal of all error-ridden textbooks.

'We would wage movement against the 'intentional' inclusion of sectarian lessons in textbooks', Jamshed said.

The leaders of the progressive organisations lambasted the ruling Awami League saying that the party had established a hand-in-hand relation with radical Islamic groups that resulted

in inclusion of sectarian elements in the textbooks.

'The government is now compromising with the spirits of War of Independence to cling to power', Chhatra Union president Lucky Akhter said.

Sraban Prakashan publisher Robin Ahsan alleged that the government was inspired by the Islamic groups including Hefazat-e-Islam and Islami Andolan Bangladesh, which had long been demanding the revision of the curriculum for inclusion of sectarian contents and dropping of secular and Hindu writers' literatures.



Several organisations hold a rally in front of National Curriculum and Textbook Board Bhaban at Motijheel in Dhaka on Sunday, protesting at adding of sectarian content in textbooks. — New Age photo