

meritorious secondary school students and 53 Headmasters in 27 upazilas under 21 districts of the country.

It has been found in the survey that 75 percent students could not buy books, as those were not available in the shops. On the other hand, 16 percent students said that they could not buy books due to their exorbitant price. 49 percent of the students said that they were compelled to buy notebooks while buying the prescribed books from the market. The survey shows that on an average, an excess amount of Taka 6 per book was taken from the students. For some students, the excess amount was as high as Taka 20.

From the survey conducted among the Headmasters, it has been found that 38 percent of them are of the opinion that there are both factual and spelling errors in the new books. 68 percent of the teachers were of the opinion that examinations could not be taken on time due to non-availability of new books.

The survey shows that 60 percent of the Headmasters and 92 percent of the students are of the view that they had to suffer irreparable loss due to non-availability of books.

The last chapter of the report discusses the changes brought about in the new books. It says that 24 out of 43 books for classes six to nine did not undergo any change except for the cover. These books were: Mathematics, Science, Islamic studies, and Agriculture for class six, English, Mathematics, Social science and Agriculture for class seven, English, Mathematics, Social science and Agriculture for class eight, and Mathematics, Geometry, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Higher Algebra, Higher Geometry, Agriculture, Civics, Economics, Business entrepreneurship



TIB: Press conference on the Report Card Survey

and Home Economics for class nine.

Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid, Professor Muzaffer Ahmad and Manzoor Hasan acted as advisors in this report card survey on textbook crisis while Sydur Rahman Molla led the research team. Those who rendered assistance included Ekram Hossain, M Anwarul Amin, Mohammad Abdul Alim, Mohammad Imam Uddin, Samapika Haldar, Taslima Akhtar, M Rezaul Haque, M Sakhawat Hossain and Quazi Tarique-ul- Alam.

Misappropriation of over Taka 1 million: Corruption case against 3 PDB officers

The Bureau of Anti-corruption has filed cases against 4 people including 3 PDB officials at Double-mooring thana of Chittagong for misappropriating over Taka 1 million by showing excess transport cost. This case was filed for giving work orders of Taka 14 lakh 48 thousand against the maximum requirement of Taka 4 lakh. The defendants are Superintending Engineer of Chittagong PDB Kazi Bashiruddin Ahmed, PDB Director Kazi Humayun Reza, Additional Director Abul Hossain and Managing Director of Lucky International Shahjahan Sayeed.

Source: Bhorere Kagoj, 1 February 2001

Extortion in Ghats

The prices of consumer goods jump several times due to different types of extortion. While transporting commodities, tolls have to be paid at places such as the transport owners' association, political parties and the police. Although other categories of toll-collection have declined in recent days, extortion by the police continues unabated. In case of transporting commodities from North

areas plundered the rest. The General Secretary of Bangladesh Economic Association Professor Abul Barakat gave this information while presenting the keynote paper at a seminar.

Bengal to Dhaka, the police have to be paid Taka 1500 to Taka 2000 at each point. And if tolls are not paid, then harassment and false cases are inevitable.

Source: Daily Manabjamin, 11 February 2001

Plundering rice and wheat

Widespread looting of wheat and rice sanctioned for rural infrastructure maintenance (TR) and rural infrastructure repair (FFW) programs is taking place at Kurigram district. The existence of most of the TR projects can not be found. The concerned people have walloped the money after selling the food-grains to the traders. During the current season, 955 metric tons of food-grains have been sanctioned against 581 projects in the TR sector, while 1,999 metric tons of food-grains were sanctioned against 172 projects in the FFW sector. Half the amount was rice and the other half wheat. But the existence of most TR projects could not be traced out despite collection of sanctioned food-grains.

Source: Daily Janakantha, 8 February 2001

Pictures of corrupt people

Names and pictures of 14 corrupt government officials have been published by some newspapers of the United Arab Emirates. Apparently, this measure has been taken to combat corruption in that country.

Source: Daily Protham Alo, 18 February 2001

Cashiers in police stations

There are unwritten posts of cashiers in the police stations of the capital city for the purpose of extortion. In some police stations, this post is even auctioned. These cashiers collect tolls from those residential hotels where the business of prostitution takes place. Whenever there are disagreements regarding rate of toll, the police immediately swing into action. This picture also holds true in case of sellers of drugs like phensydil. The amount collected as toll is then divided by the cashier, which reaches the pockets of police officers of different ranks. Recently, a sum of Taka 8 lakh changed hands for appointment of a constable to the post of a cashier.

Source: Daily Ittefaq, 18 March 2001