

Ministry cancels order to keep Zia, Khaleda, Tarique books in primary schools

Earlier directive drew comparisons with past ruling-party practices

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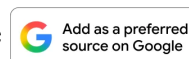
Star Online Report



The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education today cancelled its order requiring all government primary schools to keep three books in their libraries -- two on late president Ziaur Rahman and former prime minister Khaleda Zia, and one written by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman -- following criticism.

Primary and Mass Education Secretary Md Shakhawat Hossain confirmed the decision to The Daily Star. The ministry issued a notification today in this regard.

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Asked why the earlier instruction had been issued, he said it was intended to preserve history, as similar initiatives had been taken in previous years.



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Govt asks primary schools to keep Zia, Khaleda, Tarique books

“But it has now been cancelled in line with the head of government’s wishes,” he said.

In a June 3 letter, the ministry had asked the Directorate of Primary Education to ensure that a set of the three books was kept in the libraries of all government primary schools.

The books are: “President Zia: Rajnoitik Jiboni”, “Begum Khaleda Zia: Jibon O Songram”, and “Shobar Agey Bangladesh”.

The first two, written by Mahfuz Ullah, are on late president Ziaur Rahman and former prime minister Khaleda Zia. The third is listed as a book by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. All three were published by Jatiyatabadi Prokashona Sangstha.

After The Daily Star published a report titled “Govt asks primary schools to keep Zia, Khaleda, Tarique books”, the earlier order drew comparisons with Awami League-era practices of placing ruling party-linked materials in educational institutions.