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## English to help enhance standard of edn: Shahid

Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam said on Tuesday that the introduction of English as compulsory second language from Class I to XII would help enhance the standard of education in the country and provide Bangladeshi students with better access to international exposure.

Talking to BSS at his official residence in Dhaka on Tuesday evening the Education Minister said so long English was being taught as a compulsory second language subject from Class III to XII.

The recent decision to introduce English in Class I and Class II, Sheikh Shahid said, would benefit the children to learn the alphabet at the beginning of their academic career along with Bengali.

Under previous system, Sheikh Shahid pointed out, the sudden introduction of English from the level of Class III had created problems to the students as they used to get less time to prepare themselves for the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations, where English had already been a compulsory subject.

Sheikh Shahid said, since English had not been taught at the beginner's level, a trend was being developed among the guardians to get their children admitted in the Kinder Gardens.

The Education Minister, however, said the Government would continue its emphasis on Bengali, the state language. He said the introduction and application of Bengali in all spheres of national life would continue as usual and there would be no relaxation in this respect excepting in case of correspondence with foreign countries.

Sheikh Shahid pointed out that as an independent state, we must learn an international language in the wake of our growing international relations.

Replying to a question, the Education Minister said the Government would provide necessary English text books for Class I and II from the next session.