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THE DAILY STAR

New education policy okayed

Pry edn up to Class VIII, grading in exams

By Mustak Hossain

The Cabinet yesterday approved the National Education Policy redefining primary and higher education to bring some fundamental and qualitative changes in the system, sources said.

It will be placed before the Jatiya Sangsad.

Under the new education policy, duration of primary education will be increased to eight years from present five years by 2010. It will be increased to six years by 2003, seven years by 2006 and eight years by 2010.

All out efforts will be made to ensure the eight-year primary education for all irrespective of boys and girls, the sources said.

"It may take ten years to get full benefit of the education policy," one source said.

The traditional marking system will be replaced with grading system.

The present systems of holding Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination will be changed.

An 'assessment examination' at national level will be introduced in class five and a 'pre-public examination assessment' will be held after class VIII.

The new policy divides the whole education sector in three sub-sectors - general education, madrassah education and technical education.

The policy aims at introducing a scientific, secular and modern higher education system in the country to face the challenges of the 21st century.

The Honours course would be for four years and the Master's course for one year. The Degree course would be for three years, with compulsory 100 marks for English Language.

The teacher-student ratio will be reduced to 1:40 from the present 1:120 by appointing more teachers, the source said.

A Teachers Selection Commission (TSC) will be formed like the Public Service Commission (PSC) to appoint new teachers every year and

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improve the teacher-student relation, the sources said.

The Non-government University Act would be revised to cope with the needs.

A total of Tk 30,000 crore will be spent for the education sector under the policy till 2010, sources in the Education Ministry said.

The policy was framed after three years' discussion and evaluation.

A 65-members committee headed by noted educationist Prof. M. Shamsul Huq was formed in January 1997 to frame the National Education Policy. It submitted its report to the Ministry of Education in September 1997.

Later, the government formed another six-member committee headed by Prof. Anisuzzaman with four lawmakers as its advisers to evaluate the Shamsul Huq committee report.