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## *English medium at secondary level from next year*

The government is going to introduce English medium side by side with Bangla from Class VI to Class X to be effective from next year, says Media Syndicate.

According to official sources, a decision to this effect was taken at a high level meeting of the Ministry of Education held recently. The introduction of English medium will also be made in the higher secondary level from the next academic session and will be optional for the students. Bangla, as a medium of instruction, will remain in tact.

According to sources, the National Curriculum and Text Book Board (NCTB) will arrange translations into English side by side with Bangla and also engage themselves in writing English books for students from Class VI to Class X from next year. Presided over by Education Secretary, the meeting was attended, among others, by Chairman of Dhaka Education Board, Latifur Rahman, Director of Secondary Education Moezuddin, Principal of Dhaka College, Abdus Sattar, Headmaster of Government Laboratory School Muhammad Zahirul Haque, Principal of Vikarunnessa School and College Hamida Ali and Member, NCTB (Curriculum) Mohammed Ali. The government is making all out efforts to make education vocation-oriented and upto international standard. This step is being taken to make the students proficient in English language, the sources said.

The sources further said, the examinees of secondary and higher secondary levels will be able to appear in English medium side by side with Bangla from 1996. The Board will prepare questions both in

English and Bangla.

It was also decided, the sources said, to have two separate sections in the same class for the students to facilitate imparting of lessons both in English and Bangla. According to sources, an inter-ministerial meeting is likely to be held soon to take decisions for introduction of English medium from Class I to Class V and opening of English medium schools.

It was further decided in the meeting to fill up the shortage in the number of teachers by appointing efficient English teachers to teach English. The government will give approval to the appointment of retired able male and female teachers and officials upto the age of 65 who obtained their degree in English medium and who have the practice in teaching in English medium institutions.