

# Basic knowledge on ICT to 1,000 schools by next year

Says Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said the government would take an initiative to spread the primary knowledge on information and communication technology (ICT) to 1,000 secondary schools across the country by next one year.

The education ministry through its mobile ICT laboratory will carry out the work with a view to introducing the students of remote areas with ICT, he added.

The minister said this at the inaugural ceremony of mobile ICT van programme at Mohammadpur Government High School in the city.

"A bulk number of students out of 26,000 secondary

schools and madrasas in the country cannot even see a computer. The main aim of the programme is to give the students of remote areas a basic knowledge of computer and internet."

Teaching Quality Improvement-Secondary Education Project (TQI-SEP), a project of the ministry, will carry out the work.

Under the programme, a total of 17 minibuses and pickup vans furnished with modern ICT equipment, will visit different secondary schools to make the students familiar with different equipment as well as give them a basic practical knowledge on ICT.

The minister said the mobile ICT vans would go to

1,000 secondary schools within the next one year.

The officials concerned said each of the vehicles, which is being used by 14 Teachers Training Colleges (TTCs), is equipped with five laptops, five wireless modems, multimedia projectors, web cameras, scanners, multi-functional printers, handy generator, interactive boards and speakers.

A total of 350 teacher educators would lead the vehicles, they mentioned.

Nahid said, "We could provide computers only to around 1,000 schools and many of them even do not have trained computer teachers. Yet, we incorporated computer-related issues in the textbooks. These vehicles will

help them give a primary idea of a computer."

"The students, who are reading about computer in the textbooks, will have a chance to see it."

Asked about the education policy, the minister said the draft education policy would be placed in the cabinet within one or two weeks.

"The draft policy has already been prepared and it will be sent to the cabinet within one or two weeks."

Prof Noman-ur-Rashid, director general of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE), Nazrul Islam, project director of TQI-SEP, and Benzir Ahmed, headmaster of Mohammadpur Government High School, also spoke.