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Move to right history in school textbooks

Bangabandhu to be recognised as father of the nation, Zia as proclaimer of independence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Curriculum and Text Book Board (NCTB) is going to print primary and secondary textbooks recognising Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as 'father of the nation' and Ziaur Rahman as 'the first proclaimer of independence on behalf of Bangabandhu'.

The Ministry of Education has already approved the NCTB's script of the corrected history, where 'father of the nation Bangabandhu' has been written before the name of Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman in all textbooks from classes one to ten, ministry sources said.

NCTB Chairman Yusuf Farooq said a committee comprising the representatives of NCTB and education ministry has finalised the script of the corrected history for the primary and secondary textbooks and students will get the corrected history in their new textbooks from January 2008.

"The history of the Liberation War has already been incorporated in textbooks following the 'Documents of the Bangladesh War of

Independence' edited by Hasan Hafizur Rahman and published in 1982," Yusuf Farooq told The Daily Star.

All the social sciences, Bangla and civics and history textbooks for classes three to nine will be changed, he said, adding, "We are now preparing to print textbooks for 2008 where students will get the corrected history."

The NCTB has also inserted in the textbooks the name of Ziaur Rahman who declared the independence on behalf of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Right history

FROM PAGE 20

Bangabandhu on March 27, 1971.

With the change of governments in the past, the school textbooks were changed to rewrite the history of the country's struggle for liberation and independence war.

The successive governments, especially after the early 1990s, started distorting the history of the War of Liberation in the textbooks for primary and secondary levels. The BNP-Jamaat alliance government started effecting major changes in 19 textbooks after November 2001.

An organisation under the education ministry, NCTB looks after the renewal or modification and development of curricula, and the production and distribution of primary, secondary and higher secondary textbooks.