

New curriculum for Class I-IX from 2013
 Staff Correspondent

THE government is going to implement a new curriculum for students from Class 1 to IX, with effect from 2013, putting in place a uniform education system up to Class VIII for the first time for Bangla- and English-medium schools and madrassahs. The education minister, Nurul Islam Nahid, on

Continued on page 4 Col. 5

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Continued from page 1
 Sunday announced that the new curriculum would be implemented from the next year by introducing 111 textbooks.

The curriculum was being changed after about 17 years to keep pace with the modern world and infuse ethical values in students of all education systems, the minister said at a press briefing at the secretariat. The curriculum was last revised in 1995.

Students from Class VI to Class X will have to take least three new subjects — Bangla- and global studies, job and life-oriented studies, and information and communications, technology. Two new subjects — career studies, and finance and banking — will be compulsory for students of Class IX and Class X.

The new curriculum has been developed in keeping

with the Education Policy 2010 aimed at building a modern Bangladesh. We have given much importance to the teaching of ethical values so that students can learn to love the country and respect their elders, Nurul Islam said.

He said that the government would distribute 27 crore new books to primary and secondary students.

The changed curriculum will establish a uniform education system for students of Class VI to Class VIII to ensure that Bangla- and English-medium schools and madrassahs have compulsory Bangla, English, mathematics and Bangladesh O global studies with the same syllabuses having a total of 650 marks.

The new optional subjects include ethnic minority languages and culture for Class

VI to Class X students and population and development studies, human resource development, human rights and gender studies and tourism and hospitality for Class XI and Class XII students.

Bangladesh and global studies has been made mandatory for all students, replacing social science from Class VI to Class X. Ethics will be included in religious instructions, the minister added.

There are now 200 marks for Bangla — 100 for the first paper which focuses on literature and 100 for the second paper which focuses on grammar.

From 2013, there will only be 150 marks in all for the two papers with marks for the second paper halved for Class VI to Class VIII students. In English, marks will be reduced similarly to 150 for the classes.

Class XI and XII students will also have information and communications technology as a subject but there will no course on Bangladesh and global studies.

'We will visit 200 schools to see the implementation of the new curriculum. There may be some errors in the new books but we will try to correct them in a year,' Siddiqur Rahman, who led a team of 525 experts and educationists in developing the new curriculum, said.

He said that the new curriculum would be implemented on an experimental basis in 2013 so that lapses could be identified.

As for teachers for new subjects, the minister said that the existing teachers were being trained so that they could continue taking classes initially until subject-wise teachers were recruited.