

## Edn boards seek syllabus change before JSC, JDC exams

**Abdiquar Rahman Khan**

CHAIRMEN of nine education boards warned the government that there might be a setback in the pass percentage of this year's Junior School Certificate exams if the existing syllabus and allocation of marks in three subjects, including mathematics, was not changed immediately.

About 20 lakh Class VIII students of about 28,000 schools and madrassas will take the junior school certificate and junior dakhil certificate exams scheduled to begin on November 4 and officials of nine education boards will start setting question papers for the exams on August 16.

Such changes in English first paper, general mathematics and arts and crafts were supposed to be made in January when students are given new textbooks, syllabus and mark allocations but the chairmen of nine education boards in a letter dated August 5 sought immediate steps from the education ministry.

Mathematics is a tough subject for JSC examinees and the pass percentage in the exams mostly depends on maths results. In the exams halls, student might not be able to complete answering descriptive questions of geometry in the given time and it would be a cause of bad scoring in the subject, the let-

ter said. And finally it might be a cause of a fall in the pass percentage of JSC exams in the whole of Bangladesh. So our proposal is to decrease the number in the geometry section and increase it in algebra and arithmetic sections.

'Please, hold a meeting immediately with the officials of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board and the National Curriculum Coordination Committee and take necessary steps in this regards,' said the letter signed by Taslima Begum, chairman of the Dhaka education board and the inter-education board coordination committee.

The education minister, Nurul Islam Nahid, on Sun-

day said that they would hold a meeting soon in this regard.

The education board's letter also said that it could be tough for students to answer the three questions on unseen passages in the given time in the exams halls. The chairmen proposed two unseen passages instead of the existing three, according to letter.

There is also a shortage of teachers for answer script evaluation in the public exams for the arts and crafts subject. There is almost no teacher in schools to teach art and crafts although students will have to face a 50-mark exam in November.

Zannatul Ferdous, a mathematics teacher at Viqarunisa Noon School, said that

some class teachers in February had noticed the problems in the syllabus and marks allocation. She said that it had been formally discussed with officials of education boards but no action yet.

Nazrul Islam Rony, secretary general of a non-government schoolteachers' association, said that there was no teacher for arts and crafts but the subject had been introduced and made compulsory. It is nothing but a foul play with the life of nearly 20 lakh JSC and JDC students.

The government for the first time introduced the JSC and JDC exams in 2010 and it is mandatory to have a certificate for promotion to Class IX.