

JIHAD IN TEXT BOOKS NCTB orders probe

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A COMMITTEE formed by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board Wednesday has been asked to submit a report within a month on whether textbooks contain lessons that could encourage extremism.

The 11-member committee has been asked to identify whether or not textbooks for schools and madrassahs published or approved by the NCTB contain lessons that could encourage extremism.

The NCTB ordered the probe following a report on the issue New Age published on August 4.

The report under the caption "Teaching jihad at

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schools, madrassahs: Textbooks, guidebooks give extremist interpretation' relates to

textbooks and guidebooks for class eight to 12.

'At the very first meeting of the committee Wednesday, we took the New Age report seriously to scan the textbooks and the guidebooks, committee convener Mia Enamul Hoq Siddique said Thursday.

'We will review what's the justification for teach-

ing Jihad as compulsory for Muslims,' professor Mia Enam, NCTB member for textbooks, told New Age.

The committee would, he said, also scan the guidebooks and referral books to find out whether or not they offer extremists' interpretations of Jihad.

He said that if necessary the NCTB would sue the errand publishers.

The home ministry would be requested to take action against guidebooks and referral books offering

extremists' interpretations of Jihad and their publishers, he said.

The New Age report raised the question what's the justification of teaching school and madrassah students the complex issue of Jihad.

The report showed that extremists' interpretations of Jihad were offered in textbooks for schools and madrassahs published by NCTB and the guidebooks and referral books printed by private publishers. 11