

## 3 stages of secondary education suggested

The National Education Advisory Council (NEAC) has suggested three stages of secondary education—lower secondary for three years, secondary for two years and higher secondary for two years, reports ENA.

The recommendation came in the revised preliminary draft of the interim Education Policy now being deliberated by the NEAC for final approval.

According to the draft higher secondary stage will be considered as the last one for general education. Final examination will, however, be held at the end of each stage under the control of district education authorities.

The draft said that the higher secondary stage should gradually be attached to the secondary schools. It will stop financial wastage and increase administrative efficiency and upgrade the standard of education, the draft noted.

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The NEAC also recommended conversion of existing cadet colleges and residential model schools into general higher secondary and secondary schools.

The NEAC met in its 14th session at the Jativa Sangsad Bhavan on Saturday afternoon with Mr. Abdul Baten, Minister of State for Education in the chair.

The draft observed that the cadet colleges and residential model schools are not in tune with present social conditions and contribute towards disparity in education. Education in such institutions is very expensive, the draft noted.

The draft recommended that a student will be awarded a certificate of success by the school authority when he leaves the school. An examinee, according to the draft, will receive a pass certificate in

any particular subject he gets through at the final examination of any three stages, but he must attain eligibility for entering the next higher stage.

The draft said that a student will be able to get admission into schools at any age. There will be no compulsion for continuing academic career without break. Even irregular students will be able to enjoy scholarships like the regular ones, it said.

Bengali will be the medium of instruction at the secondary level, the draft suggested. English will be taught as a second language from class VI and a third foreign language subject may be introduced from Class IX, it noted.

The draft, however, suggested that the syllabus of English should be made easier and the system of awarding grace marks in this subject should be abolished.