

Joint body for text books

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The Ministry of Education has decided to constitute a joint committee for compilation, translation and consideration of text and basic books for higher levels of education in the country.

The committee, to be formed with representatives from the Ministry, the University Grants Commission, all the universities and the Bangla Academy, will be responsible for preparing a list of text books and deciding priorities for translation of basic books.

A high-level meeting, held recently in the Ministry, also decided to compile an illustrated dictionary for the students of primary and secondary levels, with words used and usable in the text books at those levels.

The meeting also decided to compile a Bengali pronunciation dictionary and introduce courses on Bengali pronunciation for teachers at all levels of education.

Teachers' training institutes have been asked to introduce courses on pronunciation for teachers, especially those of Bengali. The meeting observed that most of the teachers had influence of dialects in their pronunciations.

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Joint body for textbooks

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The meeting called for introducing Bengali courses in all administrative training institutes for improving the quality of functional Bengali in the governmental offices.

It called for establishing more than one institutions, both at the government and private initiatives, for teaching Bengali as a foreign language. It, however, maintained that the Ministry of Education and the Bangla Academy would keep an eye on the standard and procedures of training in this regard.

Apart from asking the

Bangla Academy to resume courses on typing and shorthands which it abandoned long ago, the meeting decided to gear up efforts to extend the typing and shorthand institutions to cover upazillas.

The meeting also decided to entrust the national curriculum and Text Book Board with the responsibility of preparing and controlling the standard of text books for the higher secondary level of education. So long, the responsibility was with private publishers.