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Clarification On Madrasah Education

Reports carried by a section of the press point at alleged moves by the government to "abolish" madrasah education in the country. The administration need not be seen even by remote implications of some actions taken by the education department, trying or even contemplating to do anything that might go against its best intentions or actions on the ground. Reported cancellation of grant-in-aid of some madrasahs, withdrawal of recognition or denial of its renewal to some institutions have led to such an impression being left among a section of people.

The administration's response to such charges can be a simple and direct : that not long ago the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina herself openly declared at a public meeting that the administration had not only no plans to abolish madrasah education in the country. Rather it would do its best to promote it. The statement came in the wake of complaints from some quarters that the government had been planning to heavily restrict the spread of madrasah education ending up eliminating it from the country's education system. The Education Minister also later echoed the Prime Minister's views on madrasah education in refutation of the charges brought against the administration.

Now that similar charges are seen appearing again, the effective way to meet them is to forcefully reiterate the administration's stand on the question that the complaints or protests on this count are wholly irrelevant because, as earlier announced, the government has no such plans whatsoever. The needed clarification on the issue should come without delay to allay the fears and suspicion expressed in some quarters leading them to conclusions that may go against the good will and policy of the administration concerning madrasah education.

There obviously is no scope for any controversy to be set in train on the issue, against the administration's quite clear assurances offered on madrasah education that it will be kept going with no interruption whatever from the administration's side.

Incidentally, it has been seen the administration often damages its own case by unnecessarily delaying a riposte or rejoinder to criticism or the charges brought by the political opposition against it. It impinges on its credibility besides strengthening the sense of protest and frustration among people. We hope the government's response to what a section of the press and people say government is going to do about madrasah education will come without further delay and set at rest all fear and suspicion on this account.