

## JS meet told Madrasah edn won't be stopped

Madrasah education is an integral part of the national schooling system and there is no question to stop it, a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education Ministry was told on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The parliamentary watchdog urged the people not to be misled by the propaganda of those who are out to reap political benefit by giving misleading information about madrasah education.

The meeting was informed that after the present government came to power, more allocations were given for madrasah education than in the past and effective steps taken for its development.

Steps have also been taken to include science and vocational education in the madrasah curriculum.

The present government, since it took over, spent about Tk 143 crore for the development of madrasah education. A training centre for Madrasah teachers has been built at Gazipur at a cost of Tk 10 crore.

Besides, Tk 24 crore was spent for constructing 92 cyclone centre-cum-madrasah in the coastal areas, the meeting was told.

An amount of Tk 342.72 crore has been allocated under the fifth Five Year Plan for the development of 1,744 madrasahs, and work on 370 has already started.

A total of 216 madrasahs were brought under MPO, which is 16 times the number of colleges given MPO.

Recognition of some madrasahs was withdrawn or suspended as they failed to meet the government's guidelines. Other educational institutions are also subject to similar action in case of failure to meet the conditions.

The standing committee was assured that those madrasahs would get recognition again if they fulfil or promise to fulfil the guidelines.

Presided over by Committee Chairman Nurul Islam Nahid, the meeting was attended by its members Education Minister ASHK Sadique, Whip Abdus Shahid, Prof Abdul Quddus, Kazi Sirajul Islam, Begum Razia Matin Chowdhury, Begum Rawshan Ershad and M Masiur Rahman.

Education Secretary Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed and senior officials concerned were present.