

# Govt to bring more schools under MPO

*Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid tells JS*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is trying to find ways to increase the number of schools under the monthly pay order (MPO) system, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told parliament yesterday.

"Our lawmakers have been demanding that more schools be brought under MPO. We will find out a way anyhow in this regard. And we are carrying out efforts to have a solution," he said while participating in the discussion on the proposed budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Joining the budget discussion, ruling Awami League MPs including Whip Atiur Rahman Atik, too, came up with the same demand.

About the much talked debate regarding



quality of education, Nahid said it was not true at all that the quality of education did not improve.

"The government's strong move is continuing to further improve the standard of education," noted the minister adding that the government now focused on technical education and the training of teachers to this end.

The number of students in technical and vocational education marked a rise from 1 percent to 13 percent out of the country's total students over the last seven years, according to Nahid.

He added that the government set a target to further increase the number of the

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students to 20 percent by 2020 and to 30 percent by 2030. "We will have to raise their number to 60 percent," he said, adding that gender equality was ensured in the education sector. Now there are some 51 percent female students at primary schools, 53 percent at secondary schools and 45 percent at the higher educational institutions, mentioned the minister.