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## Govt striving to improve standard of edn: Minister

Education Minister A S H K Sadeque yesterday said the present government is sparing no efforts to improve the standard of education in the country, reports BSS.

Taking part in the discussions on budget, he said that the budget for the 1999-2000 fiscal envisaged highest allocation for the education sector which is the reflection of the government's importance attached to this sector.

The education minister said the budget this time has given her allocation to the education sector and added that priority to education is given because this forms the backbone of all progress and prosperity of the nation.

He rebutted certain allegations made by some opposition members about the education sector and said these are untrue and baseless.

For instance, the minister said it has been told that the government has closed down many "Madrasas" and added that such observations are devoid of truth.

He said the government has taken action against many educational institutions including "Madrasas" for being fake and wondered whether those members want the "fake" institutions to exist. Mr. Sadeque said these actions have resulted in saving the government money.

The education minister said

allocations for different sectors in the education ministry including the "Madrasas" are increasing and this shows the seriousness of the government to improve the quality of education.

He said steps are also underway for establishment of six new universities in the next two years.

Sadeque criticised the opposition parties for spreading untrue facts about the performance of the government. He said the education sector of Bangladesh received award from the UNESCO for its performance and Bangladesh is one of five countries to receive the award. This would not have been possible without real reason he said.

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