

# Govt proposes tougher rules for MPO

*One lakh new post of teachers and staff proposed*

**Mohiuddin Alamgir**

THE government is likely to set new standards in terms of enrolment of students and performance in public exams for schools to retain Monthly Pay Order (MPO) facility.

A draft of the new MPO guideline prepared by Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education unveiled on Saturday at a programme in capital also proposed increasing teachers and staff at school, madrassah and colleges.

The government is going to change the MPO guideline although top education ministry officials are uncertain when the new changes come into effect.

According to the proposed guidelines, a secondary  
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school and college will need to have 60 and 40 SSC examinees respectively, for urban and rural areas respectively, and 70 per cent pass rate. Current MPO guideline of 2010 say urban and rural secondary schools and colleges need to have 50 and 30 SSC examinees respectively, and 50 per cent pass rate.

Dakhil madrassahs require 40 and 30 Dakhil examinees respectively, and 70 per cent pass rate. At present, madrassahs of urban and rural area need to have 30 and 20 examinees respectively and 50 per cent pass rate.

MPO for teachers of recognised non-governmental educational institutions was introduced in 1981. The government at present takes care of the basic pay of a teacher at a non-government school up from 50 per cent when the programme started.

There are criteria in terms of school facilities,

number of students, and performance, on the basis of which a school is entitled to MPO.

There have however been allegations that the criteria are not followed strictly. In many areas, political consideration and skewed evaluation processes determine entitlement to MPO, according to a World Bank report released last year.

In July 2013, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education cancelled the monthly pay order of 273 non-government teachers after corruption had been identified in the enlistment process.

The education minister Nurul Islam Nahid admitted about misuse of criteria, 'I found a school where five science teachers are teaching only a single student,' he said.

He said the revision would be finalised after consultation with all.

The government spends about Tk5,000 crore a year

for 4.7 lakh teachers and employees of more than 27,000 MPO-entitled educational institutions.

The draft also proposed increasing the numbers of subject teachers and staff to 16 from the current 9 in junior schools, to 22 from 16 in secondary schools, and to 25 from 24 in intermediate college.

It also proposed increasing the posts of teachers and staff to 22 from 20 in dakhil madrassahs, 32 from 29 in alim madrassahs.

DSHE officials said about over 100,000 posts of teachers and staff will be created as result of the increase of positions. Of them, about 24,000 posts will be created with junior secondary schools, 25,300 posts with secondary schools, 1,400 posts with intermediate colleges, and 50,000 posts with dakhil and alim madrassahs.

'We will need enough skilled teachers for ensuring quality education so the new posts will be cre-