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Nahid to reporters after inaugurating the 42nd National School and Madrasah Sports Competition in Sylhet Stadium at Rikabidhar in his speech as the chief guest of the inaugural ceremony the minister said the present government was sincere to develop sports facilities for students along with providing them with advanced stages of modern education. He said more than 400 new schools were set up only in Sylhet in the four years of the present government.

Department of secondary and higher secondary education director general Fatma Khatoon chaired the inaugural session of the one-week national sports competition for school and madrasah students organised by the Bangladesh National School and Madrasah Sports Association in conjunction with the Sylhet education board.

Lawmaker Syeda Je-bunnessah Haque, Sylhet additional divisional commissioner Gaujam Kaimur Chosh, and education ministry joint secretary AS Mahmud took part in the opening ceremony as its special guests. The chairman of the education boards of Sylhet, Dhaka, Rajshahi, Comilla, Jessore, Chittagong, Barisal, and Dinajpur and Bangladesh Madrasah Education Board and Technical education board were also present.

A total of 672 boys and girls from 222 schools and madrasahs under the 10 education boards are taking part in 11 events of the competition, sources said.

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**insts, to be**

**enlisted**

**for MPO**

**says Nahid**

Staff Correspondent, Sylhet

EDUCATION minister Nur ul Islam Nahid said Saturday the government had no plan at the moment of enlisting any more educational institutions for the monthly payment programme because of financial constraints.

He, however, called on the non-MPO school teachers demonstrating in Dhaka since Monday to stop their agitation and assured them of considering their demand for including them in the MPO programme.

The non-MPO schools will be included gradually in the programme, said

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**NEWS**