

## Nahid under fire at JS over MPO demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling alliance MPs yesterday in parliament lambasted Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid for not listing three schools at each lawmaker's constituency under monthly payment order (MPO).

They demanded the minister bring the schools under the MPO system. Otherwise, they said, it would be a reason of debacle for the ruling alliance in the next general election.

Responding to the lawmakers, the minister said he took a list of three schools from each lawmaker but those were yet to be brought under the MPO due to fund crunch.

Their demand would be fulfilled if the finance ministry allocates Tk 1,000 crore to the education ministry, he added.

"It is impossible to bring the institutions under the MPO system without the allocation," Nahid told the House that began after a two-day recess with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

"We have been holding

meetings with the finance minister."

In response to a query regarding the ongoing unrest at Jahangirnagar University, Nahid issued a strong note of warning saying, "I request the teachers to solve the problems through discussion. It is not a healthy culture to realise any demand by keeping colleagues confined."

The minister also said the government would request the president to apply the law bestowed upon him if the teachers did not resolve the problem through discussion.

Expressing his resentment, Awami League MP Matiur Rahman alleged that the education ministry was yet to bring three schools in his constituency under the MPO system even at the fag end of the government.

"We may face defeat in the next election on this issue," he said.

Another AL MP Imajuddin Pramanik said, "We have passed a budget proposal of some TK 2.22 trillion but the lawmakers would not get Tk 1,000 crore. It is not fair."