

Dev projects to make madrassah education modern taken

The government has taken up a number of development projects to make madrasah education modern and suitable to the needs of the hour, reports BSS.

Recent steps taken for madrasah education showed that the government has no intention to close down any madrasah, instead it has been trying to improve the quality of madrasah education.

With a view to facing the challenges of the next millennium by madrasah students, subjects like English, Bengali, Mathematics, General Science, Agriculture, Computer Science, along with religious education have been included in the curriculum by Bangladesh Madrasah Education Board (BMEB).

Sources at the Education Ministry said vested quarters have been spreading baseless information regarding the stand of the present government about madrasah educa-

tion to gain their evil political and material interests.

"The fact is that the government has increased allocation for madrasah education significantly during the last three years to bring its physical and qualitative improvement," a top official of the Ministry told BSS.

He said in 1995-96 fiscal, Taka 204.48 crore was spent for the pay and allowances of madrasah teachers and employees while the amount was raised to Taka 329.01 crore in 1998-99, which is 60.90 per cent higher than that of 1995-96.

The government bears 80 per cent of total salary and allowances of 1,12,497 teachers and employees of 6,132 recognised madrasahs, which are included in Monthly Pay Order (MPO) as on June 1999, BMEB sources said. They added that the total number of the recognised madrasahs in Bangladesh is 6,847.

Statistics from Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS) indicated that the annual cost per student in the madrasahs is nearly double of the cost per student in the schools.

"The annual cost per student in madrasahs is Taka 6,900 while Taka 2,841 in schools," and recent BANBEIS estimate said.

Following different allegations against certain madrasahs, the government has recently cancelled recognition and stopped MPO of 251 madrasahs after on the spot inspection and proper verifications.

The reasons for which recognition of madrasahs was cancelled and MPO stopped included lack of required amount in Reserve and General Fund, lack of required number of students, non fulfillment of conditions of distance and unsatisfactory examination results.