

# Peer inspection of schools, colleges, madrassahs in the offing

**Staff Correspondent**

THE government has decided to introduce 'peer inspection' of schools, colleges and madrassahs by heads of similar local institutions, education minister Nurul Islam Nahid said Wednesday.

Speaking at a workshop, he said that the Directorate of Inspection and Audit will provide the guidelines for the new system of inspection of local schools, colleges and madrassahs.

DIA hosted the workshop to unveil the system of peer inspection.

The new method would replace age old system of inspection and audit of edu-

cational institutions by DIA officials, said Nahid.

Unveiling the plan at the workshop DIA officials described the new method as 'peer inspection.'

Nahid, said that under the proposed system, heads of similar institutions in each upazila would inspect nearby schools, colleges, or madrassahs with support from Upazila Nirbahi Officers and education officers.

He said that DIA would post on its website a dynamic website the forms, notices and instructions regarding the new method of inspection and audit.

The heads of institution would be provided the facilities for submitting their

inspection report online, he said.

Now, DIA officials inspect the schools, colleges and madrassahs to find out whether or not they properly spent their funds and government's grants for which the funds or grants were sanctioned.

The DIA officials also verify whether the institutions fulfilled the conditions of eligibility for affiliation/recognition by competent authorities and provide the advice for the improvement of the standard of education.

The DIA officials also supervise the academic activities of the government as well as non-government

schools, colleges and madrassahs.

DIA officials said that they could hardly inspect 1,700 to 1,800 out of about 36,000 schools, colleges and madrassahs across the country.

DIA officials face widespread allegations of irregularities over the inspection of schools, colleges and madrassahs, said officials.

Education secretary Nazrul Islam Khan said that the system of peer inspection would help the government ensure better monitoring academic and administrative performance of schools, colleges and madrassahs across the country.

In 1980, inspection and

audit of the institutions was introduced when the government allocated Tk 250 crore from its annual budget for 7,500 schools, madrassahs and colleges.

Now, the budgetary allocation increased to Tk 7,500 crore for 36,000 schools, madrassahs and colleges, said officials.

The education minister said that schools, colleges and madrassahs have their own earnings besides the money provided by the government.

'But we just don't know how they spend the money they generate from different sources,' the minister said, adding 'all the expenditures should be monitored.'