

Tight leash on NGOs in the making

Proposed guideline puts bar on political activities; foreign funding to be scrutinised

REZAUL KARIM
A new guideline to strictly control the activities of the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) is almost ready. Among many new straps, the NGOs will not be allowed to take part in any political activities and have to follow books approved by the education boards for their non-formal education programmes. Their discretion to receive foreign funds would be curtailed, as they would be required to get approval from the government to get funds from donors. A cabinet committee headed by BNP Secretary General and LGRD and

Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has prepared a series of recommendations to frame the guideline. The committee at its seventh meeting yesterday came closer to finalising the guideline. The BNP-led alliance government, which accused some NGOs of partisan role in the last general elections, embarked on regulating NGO activities after it came to power. Briefing newsmen, Bhuiyan yesterday said the government has no intention to control the NGOs, rather it wants to simplify the rules and regulations so that the NGOs can work at ease. He said the recommendations would be finalised at the next meeting of

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Govt to enforce rules on rally at Shaheed Minar

Permission of DU VC a must

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government yesterday decided to strictly enforce the existing rules that require approval from the Dhaka University authorities for any rally or demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar. "The government has no plan to ban rallies at the Shaheed Minar. It simply wants to enforce existing rules that require any group or individual to seek prior permission from the Dhaka University vice-chancellor for holding any rally there," an official present at yesterday's meeting of the cabinet committee on law and order told news-

men requesting anonymity. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, who chaired the 28th meeting of the committee, however, sidestepped the question as to why the government has not let students, civil society members and cultural activists hold rally at the Shaheed Minar over the last two weeks. The meeting at the Cabinet Division conference room of the Bangladesh Secretariat, meanwhile, instructed law enforcement agents to track down the outlaws and recover the arms looted from a police camp in Sirajganj last week. Law, Justice and Parliamentary

Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed, Food Minister Abdullah Al-Noman, Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Education Minister Osman Faruq, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar, Cabinet Secretary Dr Sadat Hossain, Home Secretary Omar Faruq, Inspector General of Police Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury and high government officials attended the meeting among others. The outlaws issue apart, the meeting reviewed overall law and order situation now prevailing in the country, particularly the issue of growing public displeasure over the restriction on any kind of assembly at the Shaheed Minar. Emerging from the hour-long meeting yesterday evening, Mannan Bhuiyan told waiting newsmen that law enforcing agencies had been asked to recover the arms looted from a police camp in Sirajganj on September 16, the third day of an ongoing special drive against the outlaws. "We've also instructed non-uniformed (plainclothes) forces to be active too. Strict instruction has been given so that innocent people are not harassed in the name of tracking down the real culprits."

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CJ did not request for ad hoc judge, says Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday denied that the chief justice had made a request to the president for appointment of a judge to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on an ad hoc basis to start hearing on the leave to appeals regarding the Bangabandhu Murder Case verdict. "The chief justice in his letter to the president mentioned that the hearing on the petitions cannot be held due to problems arising out of constitutional bindings," Moudud said quoting the chief justice's letter. "The chief justice said the problem would remain even if an ad hoc judge was appointed."

He was speaking at a press briefing at his secretariat chamber to clarify some reports published in different dailies, which he said quoted him wrongly. "Some lawyers are misinterpreting article 98 of the constitution regarding the ad hoc appointment of judge," he said. "According to this article, only one ad hoc judge could be appointed, but as is the current situation, at least two judges need to be appointed on an ad hoc basis to make a bench of three to hear the petition." At present, only the chief justice

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India romp to semifinal

AFP, Colombo

Virender Sehwag and skipper Sourav Ganguly smashed rapid-fire centuries at the Premadasa Stadium as India crushed England by eight wickets to qualify for the semi-finals of the ICC Champions Trophy yesterday.

Sehwag set up the victory with a career-best 126 off 104 balls, while Ganguly completed the job with a 109-ball 117 not out as the opening pair made a challenging England total of 269-7 look small with their big hitting.

India, who won the day-night match with 10.3 overs to spare, will now meet South Africa in the first semifinal on Wednesday.

This was not the first time India had won a tall-scoring match against England, having successfully chased a 326-run target in the

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PHOTO: AFP

Indian opening batsman Virender Sehwag acknowledges the crowd's applause on completion of a scintillating century against England at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

Bangladesh take on NZ today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will take on New Zealand in their final Pool 1 match of the ICC Champions Trophy at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo today.

The inconsequential contest commences at 10am BST. Bangladesh Television and SET Max will cover the clash of the two unequal opponents live.

The match has left only an academic interest after world champions Australia had confirmed their berth in the semifinals from the group with two comprehensive victories.

New Zealand, the winners of the previous edition two years back, are expected to take out their embarrassing 164-run defeat against their

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Fayez set to become DU VC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof. SMA Fayez is set to be appointed Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University.

Cabinet Secretary Dr Sadat Hossain yesterday said the government has nominated Prof. SMA Fayez of the Department of Soil, Water and Environment of Dhaka University as the next vice-chancellor of the university. Order has been given to the education ministry in this regard, he told newsmen.

Sources said the ministry has already placed the nomination before President Iazuddin Ahmed who is also Chancellor of Dhaka University. He is likely to sign the

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PHOTO: STAR

Auto-tempos queue up in front of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) at Mirpur in the city yesterday for special route permits, as the government decided to allow 1,000 more two-stroke three-wheelers to ply city roads until December 31.

Thousand more polluters get back on roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The absence of adequate alternatives to fill transport vacuum has forced the government to let an additional 1,000 two-stroke three-wheelers to ply city roads till December 31.

The government had banned movement of 12,500 two-stroke three wheelers in the capital from September 1.

Moreover, the authorities failure to provide the affected owners and employees of the two-stroke vehicles with 500 CNG three wheelers by September 1 has also prompted

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TIB proposes two-wing anti-corruption body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday proposed a structure for the independent anti-corruption commission.

The proposal envisages the commission comprising a chairman and two members who would be appointed for a five-year term by a five-member constitutional council.

The council member would be appointed by the president on the advice of the prime minister, the leader of the opposition in parliament and the chief justice.

The proposed commission would have two wings - operations and corruption prevention - to be headed by the members. Chairman of the TIB trustee

board Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid placed the proposal on the concluding day of a two-day National Integrity Workshop at the CIRDAP auditorium yesterday, attended by politicians, policymakers, lawyers, researchers and journalists. The proposed commission would be empowered to take steps against false, fabricated and motivated complaints. "If false and motivated complaints are filed with the commission to harass people, the commission would identify the complainant and sentence him or her up to five years' imprisonment and fine Tk two lakh," the TIB proposed.

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Israel threatens to blow up besieged Arafat HQ



PHOTO: AFP

Palestinian women hold up a portrait of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat during an anti-Israeli demonstration in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain el-Helweh in southern Lebanon yesterday.

AFP, Ramallah

Israeli troops threatened to blow up Yasser Arafat's besieged headquarters late Saturday, telling the 250 people trapped inside to leave it before they dynamite the Palestinian leader's offices, an AFP correspondent at the scene said.

Soldiers voices boomed in Arabic over loudspeakers, demanding everyone inside the building to "come out immediately one by one with your hands up because a huge explosion is going to happen," the correspondent reported.

Tanks stood menacingly just 10 metres from Arafat's office at the end of the second full day of a standoff with the Jewish state, which is demanding Arafat hand over 20 "terror" suspects, some of whom count among his top lieutenants.

The army called on Palestinian residents in the area to evacuate their homes, the correspondent said. "They have called on us to give up

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Students brace for backlog as campus turmoil lingers

SHAMEEM MAHMUD

Scores of educational institutions have plunged into an abyss over the last three months, putting the future of thousands of students at stake. Dhaka University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), the country's two premier universities, were closed July 28 and September 8 respectively.

About 35,000 students of these two universities are feared to face academic backlog once they reopen, sources said. And many more are poised to meet a similar fate in many other educational institutions.

Unstable situations have disrupted academic activities of Jahangirnagar University and Rajshahi University, two other public universities. Meanwhile, academic activities of the Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Chittagong have remained suspended since September 9 when the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) enforced an indefinite strike demanding resignation of the director of the institution.

To make matters worse, three major educational institutions in Sylhet - Murari Chand (MC) College, Madan Mohan (MM) College and Sylhet Government

College - were closed for an indefinite period on September 9 following a violent incident on the MM College campus that left a JCD activist killed. Dhaka University has been closed since July 28 and scheduled to re-open on October 3 after 67 days of unscheduled vacation while BUET authorities yet to decide its reopening that remained close since September 8 in a volatile campus situation. Earlier, on August 11, BUET resumed its academic activities after over two months of closure following killing of Sabequn Nahar Sony on June 8. BUET Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof. Alee Murtuza said the university might reopen early next month. At Jahangirnagar University, the Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUTA) went for a non-cooperation with the incumbent VC from September 16 demanding elections to the VC panel, senate, syndicate and deans and removal of the proctor. JUTA will stay off work on September 23, followed by a one-hour work abstention everyday from September 24 to 28. While talking to The Daily Star, some JU students expressed their anxiety that the ongoing teachers' agita-

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