

Strict monitoring, plenty of scope

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of accidents or suicide, torture of people or animals and victims of rape cannot be shown or aired.

DON'TS FOR AD INDUSTRY

The advertisement industry will have to restructure significantly to follow the policy, which bans direct or indirect inclusion of the Liberation War, the Language Movement and the Independence Day in any advertisement to "uphold their dignity".

Radio and television cannot broadcast any advertisement without obtaining a clearance certificate. The advertisers will collect the certificate from the "respective organisations" on their own and give it to the broadcasters.

The policy, however, does not say from which authority advertisers will have to take the certificates.

Nationally important establishments like parliament, Prime Minister's Office, Bangabhaban, court, cantonment area, Shaheed Minar and the national mausoleum cannot be shown in advertisements for any product.

Professional advice should be avoided in advertisement. Advice and identity of doctors cannot be used in advertisement of medicines and healthcare products.

Many commercial advertisements relating to health and sexual health products cannot be aired, as the policy does not allow them.

Most private television channels currently run such advertisements during off-peak hour.

The cabinet secretary said the policy would be applicable for both state-run and private media.

The information ministry will implement the policy until the formation of an independent broadcast commission, he said, adding that it was not possible to fully implement the policy until the formation of the commission.

A law will be enacted for the full implementation of the policy.

"After enactment of the law, the chairman and members of the commission will be selected through a search committee, comprising members of mass media and other professional bodies," he added.

The president will appoint the commission chairman and members.

The commission will oversee issuance of licence of radio and TV and check unjust, unfair and unwarranted infringement of privacy. It will also monitor whether the broadcasters are following the policy and the rules.

The commission, upon getting specific allegations, will investigate the accused person or organisation and send recommendations to the government under the rules (yet to be formulated).

The government will then take action according to the law (yet to

be enacted).

MEDIA CONTROL?

Talking to The Daily Star, Boishakhi Chief Editor Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul said the draft, especially the contents and advertisement sections, shows that the government wanted to control the media.

According to him, all these issues can be settled through discussions with the independent commission.

He urged the government to immediately form the commission.

"We can modify the draft upon discussion with the commission, which will be truly independent, not like the Election Commission," said Bulbul, who is also president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists.

Sanaullah Lablu, chief operating officer of Radio ABC, said, "If the draft policy is implemented, it will create an uncomfortable atmosphere for the media."

"How will one determine if someone has given false or misleading information on talk shows?" he said.

Mozammel Babu, chief editor of Ekattur Television, said there was no need for formulating a policy that may curb media freedom.

"We had some objections regarding the draft. But we don't know whether the government considered those," said Babu, who is also managing director of Ekattur.

Capacity 85, passengers over 200

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Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), the shipping department, Madaripur district administration and police are to enforce loading regulations at the terminal, but all of them apparently failed at their job.

With around 200 passengers on board, the launch sank in the mighty Padma yesterday morning.

GSM Zafar Ullah, deputy commissioner of Madaripur, said though the Eid-ul-Fitr passed six days ago, the rush of capital-bound people was still on. He claimed that the Eid rush management committee was vigilant at the terminal.

Asked how the vessel under watch left for Mawa ferry terminal with so many passengers, he said, "I really don't know how it happened. It's merely an accident. I heard the launch boarded at Kathalbari of Shariatpur on its way to Mawa."

Saiful Haque Khan, a BIWTA deputy director for marine safety and traffic management at Dhaka

river port, said the traffic management inspector was supposed to ensure safety of the vessel.

Talking to this newspaper, BIWTA Chairman Samsuddoha Khandaker said, "No marine safety and traffic management inspector of BIWTA was present at Kawrakandi terminal when the vessel departed. There is only one inspector at Mawa office who visits Kawrakandi off and on."

The Eid rush management committee was in a lax mood as the festival was celebrated six days ago, he mentioned.

He suspected that strong waves caused by gusty wind might have caught the vessel in a turbulent whirlpool.

However, Dhaka Met office said it did not record any such gusty wind in that area yesterday.

Requesting anonymity, a shipping department official said they cannot ensure safety of vessels across the country with only four inspectors.

According to sources at

Department of Shipping, fitness (survey) certificate of Pinak-6 expired on April 30, but it kept plying without any renewal. It secured a 45-day provisional fitness on May 1 and then again on July 18.

The vessel was registered (no-15127) with the department on November 8, 2003, with a capacity of 85 passengers. It was first named as Bismillah-2. Later it was renamed Ruposhi-2 and finally MV Pinak-6 in August 2007.

Though Moniruzzaman Khan Khokon is the owner of the launch as per official documents, it is now run by one Kalu Miah, said sources.

Mahbub Uddin Ahmed, chairman of Bangladesh Inland Waterways Passenger Carriers Association, said since MV Pinak-6 is not a member of the association, they do not have any detail of the vessel owner.

Some 86 small vessels (100 feet x 20 feet) ferry passengers between Mawa and Kawrakandi launch terminals round the clock.

Truce collapses

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With UN figures indicating most of the 1,865 people killed in Gaza so far were civilians, the world has stepped up its demands for an end to the bloodshed.

Israel had declared a seven-hour "humanitarian window" in Gaza amid international outrage at the third deadly attack on a UN school sheltering displaced Palestinians and mounting pressure for the bloodshed to end.

The Israeli ceasefire in Gaza had exempted the area around the southern town of Rafah, where the UN school was struck on Sunday, and fighting continued there.

Troops were working on destroying a cross-border tunnel in the area.

A separate strike killed Daniel Mansour, a commander in the Islamic Jihad group, a close ally of Gaza's militant Palestinian Hamas rulers, the group said.

The British Foreign Office said it was "urgently investigating" claims that a British aid worker had been killed in the Gaza town of Rafah.

Jerusalem was the scene of what police said were two suspected terrorist attacks, amid clashes between Palestinian youths protesting over the Gaza conflict and Israeli security forces.

Meanwhile, Israeli army spokesman Peter Lerner said the Israel Defence Forces were close to completing their mission to destroy the network of tunnels leading into Israel.

Prime Minister Netanyahu said Israel had "no intention of attacking the residents of Gaza".

He said the Gaza campaign was continuing. "What is about to conclude is the IDF action to deal with the tunnels but this operation will end only when quiet and security are restored to the citizens of Israel for a lengthy period."

Hamas said it did not trust Israel's motives for declaring yesterday's unilateral ceasefire.

The attack on a UN school, killing at least 10 people and injuring dozens more, was denounced as a "moral outrage and a criminal act" by UN chief Ban Ki-moon.

The Israel Defence Forces had been "repeatedly informed of the location of these sites," said Ban.

The IDF began withdrawing forces from Gaza on Sunday in what the military described as a "new phase" in the 28-day conflict. "The troops are in the midst of redeployment to other parts of the border," said Lerner. "Indeed we are releasing troops from the front line but the mission is ongoing. Ground forces are operating. Air forces are operating."

Efforts to forge a truce resumed in Cairo on Sunday, with Middle East envoy Tony Blair and US special envoy Frank Lowenstein flying in, along with a Palestinian delegation which included representative of the main militant groups in Gaza, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. However Israel declined to send a team to join the talks, in an indication it wants to proceed on its own terms, diminishing prospects for an early breakthrough.

[Reports from The Guardian, Mail Online and AFP]

US supports trial for war crimes

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judicial process where the evidence is presented, where witnesses are cross-examined, where both sides have an opportunity to be heard and that is what is being done here [Bangladesh]. It is the process that the American government strongly supports," he said.

The Pakistan army and its local collaborators killed three million people and violated around a quarter million women during the Liberation War in 1971 and after about four decades, the government set up tribunals to try the perpetrators, to bring an end to the impunity they had been enjoying.

Two tribunals have so far delivered judgments in nine war crimes cases. Six other cases are now pending with the courts. One convict has already been executed.

"These are historic cases," Rapp told journalists in front of the Old High Court building.

The trials of war criminals are important for the survivors of the horrible crimes that happened

during the war and it is extremely important that these trials have begun and were done well.

"They [trials] are also important for all the world because what happens in every country when people face up to the past and reveal the truth also sends the signals to others."

During his previous visit to Bangladesh in May last year, Rapp had said, "Though there have been improvements and progress, I still have concerns about the process, and further improvement could help ensure that international standards are met."

In the course of the trial, some of the judges had been threatened and even their houses had been attacked but they continued serving, Rapp said yesterday, adding, "I very much salute their service and their courage."

The houses of at least two judges of the war crimes tribunal came under attack last year when the BNP-Jamaat alliance, which has always questioned the transparency of the trial, carried out anti-government movements. The home

of a Supreme Court judge, who dealt with appeals in a war crimes case, also came under attack at the same time.

Earlier in the day, the ambassador held a meeting with officials of the investigation agency of the tribunals at its Dhanmondi office and learned about the agency's ongoing activities and future plans.

Rapp also held talks with the prosecution team at the Old High Court building. During the nearly hour-long meeting, he wanted to know whether the prosecution had set priorities of the cases to deal with.

Rapp also held a meeting with the defence lawyers of the war crimes accused Jamaat leaders at a city hotel last night.

He also visited the Liberation War Museum in the city's Segunbagicha. He arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning on a three-day visit.

Rapp is expected to hold meetings with the law minister and foreign minister today and will brief the media on his tour at 5:00pm at the American Centre in Dhaka.

KEYPOINTS

Dead bodies of murders, accidents and suicide can't be broadcast

Misleading and untrue information must be avoided

Ban on broadcasting anything that may hamper friendly relations with foreign countries

Spirit of liberation war must be upheld in news and programmes

Respect should be shown to all religious sentiments

Language of advertisements can't be hurting to religious and political sentiments and secular spirit

Presentation of BSTI certificate a must in broadcasting advertisements of BSTI-enlisted goods

No scene can be shown in advertisements which are not environment friendly

Parliament, PMO, and important state establishments can't be showed in any advertisements of goods

Liberation war and language movement can't be included in the commercial advertisement

Mandatory screening of nutrient values of food and beverage's advertisements

No scene or statement which may create hatred and division among casts and religions can be broadcast

Muhith, Quader debate over Sinohydro

HASAN JAHID TUSER

Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday had a lively debate over whether the Chinese company Sinohydro should be allowed to get the \$780 million river-training job of the Padma Bridge project.

At the cabinet meeting yesterday, the finance minister said the government should consider re-evaluating the bids for the river-training job.

Muhith pegged his argument on news reports on the company's slow progress in completing the Dhaka-Chittagong highway expansion and its poor quality of work, cabinet sources told The Daily Star.

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader then said the company was an expert in river training and the government should complete the bidding process quickly and start the bridge construction.

He noted that the company was listed with the World Bank and there was no question about its quality of work. He said Sinohydro could not finish the highway expansion job in time as there were 11 mosques, 20 madrassas and a number of schools on the highway which had to be moved.

The moving resulted in delays, he said, adding that 80km of the expansion job had already been done, the sources added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina supported Quader's views and said her government would be working for the people.

Sources said Sinohydro bid Tk 8,778 crore, about Tk 4,000 crore less than its nearest rival, for the Padma Bridge river-training job. Korean Hyundai and Belgian Jan De Nul were the other two companies that placed bids.

The bids of the three companies are under evaluation.

According to communications ministry officials, Sinohydro got the highway expansion work bidding unusually low price. But it has been refusing to continue with the work, demanding money from the ministry.

Did BGMEA play its due role?

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concern Tazreen Fashions was largely responsible for the suspension of the GSP facilities. As if that was not enough of a shock, the collapse of the Rana Plaza only compounded the issue.

The suspension of the GSP status was clearly indicative of serious shortcomings insofar as labour rights and workplace safety in the sector were concerned. It was a blow for the country since the United States happens to be the single largest export market for Bangladesh. Meanwhile, there is the fear that the European Union, where 59 percent of the country's exports are headed, might at some point be influenced by the US decision.

On July 8 last year, the Bangladesh government was compelled to sign a Sustainability Compact with the EU, promising an improvement in labour rights and workplace safety standards. It was humiliating, but necessary.

Irony has been a striking feature in the garments sector despite the recent tragic incidents. Where after the Tazreen Fashions fire tragedy of November 24, 2012, Delwar Hossain, managing director of the Tuba Group, was not seen in public, he was spotted voting at the BGMEA election only a few months later. That he enjoyed the protection of the BGMEA was made clear.

But the pressure of public opinion compelled the BGMEA at one point to advise Delwar Hossain to surrender to a court. Once he complied with the instruction, the court, not granting him bail, sent him to jail on February 9 this year.

Such manoeuvrings have repeatedly called the BGMEA's role into question. Its sense of responsibility has been found lacking, as seen by its inability or unwillingness to pay compensation to the victims of the Tazreen Fashions fire and the Rana Plaza collapse.

Following the Tazreen incident, BGMEA in December 2012 announced a cancellation of the membership of 850 errant and non-compliant factories in phases. But then came another instance of irony: the decision to cancel membership was simply not implemented. Five months later came the Rana Plaza disaster. At the BGMEA election in March 2013, even errant factory owners cast votes.

That said, the BGMEA was expected to ensure a payment of compensation to workers after every factory disaster. It was a job it did not or would not do properly. And this time, through the Tuba affair, the BGMEA is allegedly engaged in a contrived drama to have the detained Delwar Hossain, owner of the group, freed from imprisonment.

It may be mentioned that the group did not clear three months' arrears in wages and bonuses to 1,600 workers of five units of the group before the Eid festival. According to the high-ups of the group, the affected five units have the capacity to export \$30 lakh worth of garment products a month.

The five units exported \$36 lakh worth of jerseys for the FIFA World Cup in Brazil

between January and March this year.

Surprisingly, the group cleared the salaries and bonuses of the workers of Tuba Fashions Limited, another unit of the company, before Eid. But the management simply ignored the workers of the five units in question. The workers were pushed into a situation where they had to resort to a hunger strike to realise their demand.

The hunger strike commenced a day before the Eid festival got underway. It has gone on despite an assurance by the BGMEA of two months' salaries being paid to them.

The workers, for all the right reasons, asked for immediate and full payment of their dues. That means the Tuba Group needs Tk4.14 crore to fulfil the demand.

The BGMEA, under pressure from the workers, at an emergency meeting on Saturday decided to arrange funds from big garment groups in order to tide over the immediate crisis.

It may be noted that before Eid the BGMEA said it had tried to manage funds from the bank to pay the workers. Interestingly, the bank made it known that the BGMEA leaders had not talked to the bank manager about the loan.

The BGMEA has thus been tying itself in knots. According to the Foreign Exchange Branch of Jamuna Bank at Motijheel, neither the Tuba Group nor the BGMEA had applied to the bank for loans to be paid as salaries to the workers.

The BGMEA leaders, it may be noted, at a press briefing on July 31 said they had been trying for a loan from the bank to be paid to the workers. The plain truth is that the BGMEA did not seem to be serious in its approach to the issue. It could have come up with a salvation package before Eid, given that the workers of the Tuba Group had been agitating for the payment of dues since long before Eid.

The indifferent, less than serious role of the BGMEA in the whole sordid episode brings its sincerity and its reputation into question. Had it played a proactive role in a resolution of the crisis before Eid, conditions would not have come to this pass.

29 missing

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"We had gathered at a house at Naziratek in Cox's Bazar Sadar area before getting on to the boat. We were told to pay our money to the brokers only after reaching Malaysia," Shaheen added.

A team of police went to the spot where the boat sank but found no one, said Md Mahfuzur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Cox's Bazar Police Station yesterday.

Police were trying to detain the culprits behind the incident, he said.

Asked about the rescue operation, the police officer said he had no idea about it.

"It's the local administration's job," the OC said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSP)
Directorate General of Food
16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000

Memo No. MFSP-04/2014/39
Date: 04/08/2014

Request for Expressions of Interest
(Consulting Services-Firms Selection)

Bangladesh
Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSP)
IDA Credit No. 5265 BD

Assignment Title: Design and Supervision Consultants (DSC)
Reference No. MFSP-17-SBCC-CF-SD-1

The Government of Bangladesh has received for financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for the consultancy services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include design and supervision of the construction of public food storage facilities with a capacity of about 535,500 MT in the form of modern grain storage silos (two for wheat and six for rice) in up to eight different strategic pre-selected locations; the implementation of social and environmental management plans for the silo construction sites etc. The duration of the consulting services will be 48 months or any other period as may be subsequently agreed by the parties in writing.

The Project Director, Directorate General of Food, now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. EOIs would be reviewed on the basis of the following short listing criteria:

a) Registration of consultant (firm);

b) Age of the consultant (firm);

c) Availability of key professional staff;

d) Annual turnover of the consultant (firm) expressed preferably in US\$ equivalent;

e) Experience of the consultant (firm) in design and supervision of construction and operation of large grain handling and logistics facilities, preferably including storage;

f) Experience of the consultant (firm) in other similar/complex works/assignments;

g) Support service of the consultant (firm).

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers* updated January 2011 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. In case of a Joint Venture (JV), all members of the JV will be evaluated jointly for the purpose of short listing and shall be jointly and severally liable for the assignment and shall sign the contract in case of award is made to that JV group. Interested consultants should clearly indicate the structure of their "association" and the duties of the partners and sub consultants in their application. Unclear expression of interests in terms of "in association with" and/or "in affiliation with" and etc. may not be considered for short listing.

Keeping one expression of interest per firm as principle, a consultant firm may decide whether it wishes to participate as a sub consultant or as an individual consultant or as a partner in a joint venture. Please note that a firm shall submit only one EOI in the same selection process either individually as a consultant or as a partner in a joint venture. No firm can be a sub consultant while submitting an EOI individually or as a partner of a joint venture in the same selection process. A firm, if acting in the capacity of sub consultant in any consultant or JV, may participate in more than one EOI, but only in the capacity of a sub consultant.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality Based Selection (QBS) method set out in the consultant guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 9.00am to 5.00.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to: Md. Gazi Ur Rahman, Project Director (Joint Secretary), Mongla Silo Project, 3rd Floor, Room No-321, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: 9513955, Fax: 9513956, Email: gazieur60@gmail.com. (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by 03 September 2014.

Ahmed Hossain Khan
Director General
Directorate of Food

GD-2995