

Registration must for online mass media

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Secretariat, Cabinet Secretary Shafiqul Alam said the draft policy was formulated so that the online mass media could work in a well-organised manner upholding the national history and the spirit of Liberation War.

The new draft policy contained detailed guidelines for smooth running of online mass media, including radio, TV and newspapers, he added.

The cabinet secretary said each mass media outlet would have to be registered with the National Broadcast Commission. However, online media outlets already registered under the Press and Publications Act, 1973 would not require re-registration.

"The authorities concerned of the online media will have to inform the commission about their previous registration," Shafiqul Alam told journalists.

He said the government, in consultation with the commission, would formulate rules of procedures for smooth implementation of the Act. The Commission will be empowered to frame the guidelines for issuing licences to broadcasters.

The commission will also make recommendations to the government for giving licences to television, radio, internet TV or other digital broadcast stations and it will issue licences upon the government's approval.

Shafiqul Alam said the commission would issue show cause notice, initiate investigation, recommend the government for further proceedings against online media outlets if they broadcast something in violation of the National Broadcast Policy, 2014.

The commission would be able to take action against online media outlets if they violated the code of conduct and breached discipline, he said.

The commission will also be given the authority to take measures against any online media outlet if any of its contents pose a threat to security, territorial integrity, peace, public order and unity of the country; if it is vulgar, false and malicious or if it is against the spirit of the Liberation War and distorts national history.

The cabinet meeting also approved a proposal for an amendment to the Nationalised Private Primary Schools (fixation of conditions for services) Policy 2013.

Following the amendment to the policy, the teachers of the recently nationalised private primary schools will be included in the revenue sector provided they have teaching experience of 21 years or more along with Certificate in Education course certificate, Shafiqul Alam said.

The meeting approved in principle the draft of the Bangladesh Sugar (Road Development Cess) Bill, 2017.

The cabinet secretary said the Bangladesh Sugar (Road Development Cess) Ordinance was first promulgated in 1960.

The meeting also gave final nod to the Groundwater Management in Agricultural Activities Bill, 2017. The proposed law empowered the Upazila Parishad as the local government body to form and supervise the upazila irrigation committees.

After conducting field inspections, Shafiqul Alam said, the committees would issue licences to farmers and other interested people in exchange of fees to be determined by rules.

In case of using groundwater without any licence, the punishment will be a maximum fine of Tk 10,000, defaulting which the accused will have to spend seven years behind bars.

The meeting approved a proposal for ratifying the statute of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security, a specialised organisation under the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The cabinet adopted a condolence motion at the deaths of around 160 people in recent landslides in Chittagong, Khagrachhari, Rangamati, Cox's Bazar and Moulvibazar and those killed in the recent fire incident at a tower in London.

Ministers, state ministers and secretaries concerned were present at the meeting.

Elephant tumbles from hill, dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A wild elephant apparently fell from a hill and died in Dariarnagar suburb of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The elephant fell about 150 feet before hitting the ground around 3:00am yesterday.

Sarder Shariful Islam, assistant director of the Directorate of Environment (DoE), quoting locals said a herd of six elephants went to the hills near Veterinary University campus and one of them took the tumble.

The elderly male elephant died on the spot.

Ali Kabir, divisional forest officer of Cox's Bazar South Forest Division, said the area was known as a sanctuary for elephants. The hills had been cut and houses were built there, he said.

The upazila livestock official conducted an on-the-spot autopsy, Kabir said.

It was buried there.

The scent

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"You've paid for the Tube or the car park, you've handled keys and coins and you've ended up having a bacon sandwich.

"You pay with the £10 note and it's given in turn to the woman who's wearing some terribly expensive hand cream."

Among the scents mixed into the perfume are cotton, soap, leather, hand cream, human sweat and tobacco. The master perfumer was commissioned to make the notes of a previous era.

The new £10 note, which features Jane Austen, is made of polymer, as well as the recently introduced £5.

The polymer note, set to be unveiled in July on the 200th anniversary of the writer's death, depicts her with a slightly plump face, a lace bonnet and serene expression; it was painted after she died in 1817 at the age of 41.

Austen's portrait will replace Charles Darwin on a new set of plastic, unrippable notes.

More than 35,000 people had signed a petition calling for the new £10 notes to feature a female face after Elizabeth Fry, the Quaker prison reformer, was replaced by Winston Churchill on £5 notes.

BJP picks

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becoming the second Dalit to be India's head of state.

The president is voted in by an electoral college comprised of federal and state lawmakers, and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is thought to have the support it needs to push its candidate through.

"Ram Nath Kovind has always fought for the betterment of the Dalits and other backward castes," BJP chief Amit Shah said at a press conference to announce the party's candidate.

"The BJP ... hopes that a person born in a poor family of low-caste Dalit community will be a consensus candidate for the president's post."

Kovind's nomination follows huge protests last year by members of the historically marginalised Dalit community, who make up around 17 per cent of India's population.

The protests broke out after four young Dalits were stripped naked and publicly flogged after being falsely accused of killing a cow, an animal Hindus consider sacred.

The outrage was compounded by the savage beating of a pregnant woman and her husband after they refused to allow higher-caste men to graze cattle on their land.

The BJP has traditionally enjoyed the support of upper-caste Hindus but has been wooing low-caste voters to broaden its nationwide appeal.

Kovind, a two-time parliamentarian and current governor of Bihar, is a lifelong supporter of the Hindu nationalist BJP and a relative unknown in Indian politics.

He has also headed groups that work to improve the conditions of Dalits, previously known as untouchables, who lie at the bottom of India's deeply entrenched social hierarchy.

If elected, he will be India's second Dalit president after K R Narayanan, who served from 1997 to 2002.

Muhith comes

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Muhith was present in parliament when the lawmakers gave their opinions on the proposed budget.

A senior AL lawmaker even called upon the Speaker to amend the constitution so that MPs can vote against the passing of a budget in parliament.

"Honourable Speaker, take measures to amend Article 70 so that MPs can vote against the budget. Then you will see that the finance minister will not be able to stay rigid in his position," AL MP Rafiqul Islam said.

According to Article 70, a person elected as a member of parliament with nomination from a political party shall vacate his seat if he resigns from that party or votes in parliament against that party.

"We just follow what the chief whip and other whips ask us to do during the passing of the budget. Otherwise, we don't have any role in the budget. The finance minister will have to evaluate lawmakers' suggestions regarding budget. Otherwise, the budget process [passing and implementation] will never become transparent to people," MP Rafiqul Islam said, while delivering his speech on budget.

"We are bound to vote in favour of the budget. If this trend continues, we will not be able to establish democracy in real sense," he added.

MP Rafiqul Islam pointed out that Tk 8,000-Tk 10,000 crore had been looted from banks. The finance minister should recover the looted money instead of increasing VAT, he said.

He asked Muhith to scrap the pro-

posed excise duty on bank accounts and not to cut interest rate on savings certificates.

AL MP Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said, "Finance minister once said Tk 4,000 crore was nothing when the money was looted from banks. But now he is saying Tk 1 lakh is good enough to have the excise duty imposed upon."

The politics of the ruling Awami league are for the betterment of people. "Scrap the proposal to increase excise duty. Otherwise, people will develop negative idea about the [ruling] party," he said.

The government would be able to collect only Tk 400 crore as excise duty but that would infuriate many people. AL MP Mahbul Alam Hanif said.

Pointing to the siphoning of money from banks, he said Tk 1,000 crore was given to Basic bank.

"But whose money is this? They will loot money from banks and we will have to supply capital to banks!"

The government should immediately take action against those who are looting banks, Hanif said.

AL MP Abul Kalam Azad also raised the demand for scrapping the increased excise duty and urged Muhith not to lower the interest rate of savings certificates.

Savings certificate is a source of livelihood for senior citizens. "Do not take that away," he said.

"You [finance minister] are carrying the burden of loan defaulters. Failing to stop money laundering, you are putting the burden of excise duty on lower middle class," Azad said.

Rangamati still alarmed

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them have only one dress and they get drenched whenever it rains as they have to stay on the veranda.

Army, police, Border Guard Bangladesh and Red Crescent are operating the shelters.

"I have been wearing the same clothes for days. It feels disgusting," Oli Sharif, a man who is staying at a shelter set up at Rangamati College, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The scenes at the other 18 shelters were similar.

Mohammad Harun, who is staying at the Bangladesh Open University shelter centre, said many of them were falling sick as they could not sleep properly due to lack of space.

"It's so packed with people that sometimes it's hard to even stand up here," he said, urging the authorities concerned to consider the issue.

Talking to The Daily Star, many people who arrived at the shelters yesterday said they feared there might be more landslides amid the pouring rain. They urged the government to ensure the supply of other necessary items like medicine, brush, soap, towel, blanket, etc.

The district administration was grappling with the crisis, said KM Ikhtiar Uddin Arafat, spokesman for the dis-

trict administration disaster control room. Rain would only increase the sufferings of the people, he added.

He said they called upon different organisations to provide the affected people with relief materials.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Manzurul Mannan, deputy commissioner of Rangamati, yesterday told reporters that the number of people at the 19 shelters was over 2,900.

A day after the disastrous landslide struck the district last week, he had some 700 to 800 people were at the shelters.

The death toll from the landslide in the district rose to 118 yesterday from 115, he said at a press briefing at his office.

He said Tk 80 was being spent and 420 grams of rice was being cooked every day for each of those staying at the shelters.

He also said the supply of goods through Kaptai water channel was made free of cost so that the supply remained normal and there was no hike in the prices of essentials.

He said some unscrupulous traders created an artificial crisis and charged people extra, taking the opportunity.

Rangamati's road communication with Chittagong would be restored in a

couple of days for the movement of light vehicles, Mannan added.

Reaz Ahmed, director general at the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), said the government was prepared to provide shelter and food and other necessary items to those who lost their homes in landslides.

After the landslide, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief allocated 1,472 tonnes of rice and Tk 1.42 crore cash for distribution among the affected people in Chittagong, Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari.

The 666 tonnes of rice allocated for Cox's Bazar after the cyclone, Mora, is being distributed, he added.

"If needs arise, we will allocate more," Reaz Ahmed told The Daily Star.

According to the DDM, 2,124 people took shelters at 19 shelter centres in Rangamati, 388 people at five centres in Bandarban and 180 people at two shelter centres in Khagrachhari.

"Those taking shelters in the centres are being provided cooked food. If necessary, they will also be provided with clothes or baby food. The district administration has been instructed accordingly," Reaz Ahmed said.

[Our reporter Porimol Palma contributed to the report]

Reporter's Diary

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Homes built with hard earned money and once filled with pure happiness have been razed to the ground or have become unliveable. Money, gold ornaments, mobile phones, books, certificates and land documents have gone under the soil.

Many of those now staying at shelters or with relatives are too scared to go to their damaged houses where they saw their loved ones die right before their eyes.

The devastation and then continuous downpours raising fear of fresh mudslides forced around 3,000 people to move to the shelter centres where they are physically safe for now.

But where they will go from shelters is not clear yet. Will they again start living on the hill slopes amid the risk of landslides? Will they be rehabili-

tated to safer places? The authorities have to think, decide and act fast.

In the 19 shelters, people are passing days in tears, grief and pain and thinking about the uncertainties that lie ahead. They only get cooked rice twice a day and some medicines provided by the administration.

They have no additional clothes and nothing to sleep on. No arrangements are there for them to bathe or use toilet properly.

Then there are children, women, injured and elderly persons who need additional attention.

Meanwhile, Eid is approaching. Many of us will buy new dresses and have feasts and fun with our family members. But what will this Eid bring for the landslide victims whose main concerns would be getting safe places, three-time meals, clothes, healthcare,

etc?

Many of the homeless wanted to know from me what they would do, where they would go and how they would survive. I had no answer.

Words are never enough to describe what I saw in Rangamati. All I can say is that it is no less than a humanitarian disaster.

And I can urge you all to stand by them with whatever you have.

Perhaps, we can make small contributions; we can set aside something from our Eid budgets or from Zakat money.

We have limitations and our help would not be enough to ease their pain and loss. But it is quite sure that trying to do something for the cause of humanity is way better than just sitting back and blaming others or making complaints.

Man drives van into crowd

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quoting witnesses.

However, the Bangladesh mission in London could not confirm the identity of the victim, reports our diplomatic correspondent.

"We are in contact with the police and community. No one could give us the particulars yet," Khondker M Talha, deputy high commissioner at the Bangladesh High Commission in London, told The Daily Star.

Our UK correspondent adds: Witnesses said the man who died had been taken ill outside the Muslim Welfare House, a few hundred metres away from Finsbury Park Mosque.

A small crowd had gathered round to try and help him when the van was driven into them around 12:20am.

The Finsbury Park Mosque in north London said the van "deliberately mowed down Muslim men and women leaving late evening prayers" at the mosque and the nearby Muslim Welfare House shortly after midnight.

Others linked the attack to an increase in anti-Muslim hate crimes, particularly since the London Bridge rampage on June 3 that left eight people dead, which was claimed by the Islamic State.

"This was an attack on London and all Londoners and we should all stand together against extremists whatever their cause," said Neil Basu, senior counter-terrorism officer for the Metropolitan Police.

He added that it had "all the hallmarks" of a terrorist attack.

It unfolded as a man was receiving

first aid from members of the public in an unrelated incident. The man later died, though it is not yet clear whether his death was linked to the attack, Basu said.

Ten people were hurt, all of them Muslims, with eight of them requiring hospital treatment. Two of them were in a very serious condition, police said.

A witness, Abdiqadir Warra, told AFP that the van "drove at people" and that some of the victims were carried for several metres along the road.

"He was shouting: 'All Muslims, I want to kill all Muslims!'," another witness, Khalid Amin, told BBC television.

COMMUNITY IN SHOCK

The use of a vehicle to mow down pedestrians drew horrifying parallels with the June 3 attack, when three men drove a van into pedestrians before embarking on a stabbing spree, and with another car and knife rampage in Westminster in March.

This time, however, the attacker appeared to have deliberately targeted Muslims.

"Over the past weeks and months, Muslims have endured many incidents of Islamophobia and this is the most violent manifestation to date," said Harun Khan, head of the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), an umbrella body.

After the London Bridge attack, the mayor's office reported a 40 per cent increase in racist incidents in the city and a fivefold increase in the number of anti-Muslim incidents.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said it was a "horrific terrorist attack" aimed at "in-

nocent Londoners, many of whom were nencing prayers during the holy month of Ramadan".

EXTRAORDINARY CITY

It was the third major incident to hit the capital in the past few weeks, after the London Bridge attack and last week's devastating fire in the Grenfell Tower block, in which 79 people are thought to have died.

"This is an extraordinary city of extraordinary people," May said in a statement outside Downing Street, after chairing an emergency government meeting on the attack.

"It is home to a multitude of communities that together make London one of the greatest cities on earth. Diverse, welcoming, vibrant, compassionate, confident and determined never to give in to hate."

The Finsbury Park Mosque was once a notorious hub for radical Islamists but has changed markedly in recent years under new management.

Its former imam, Abu Hamza, was jailed for life in New York on terrorism charges in 2015.

Despite the change in leadership and the focus on bolstering inter-faith relations, the mosque reported that it had received a string of threatening emails and letters in the wake of the terror attacks in Paris.

Some locals came onto the street in support of the mosque yesterday, holding up signs saying "We love our mixed community" and "Leave our Muslim neighbours alone".

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation

BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.		
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.		
4	Procuring entity district	Chittagong.		
5	Invitation for	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Laboratory equipment at Mongla Oil Installation, Mongla, Bagerhat.		
6	Invitation Ref No.	BPC: (MOI) 42.29/14		
7	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method, Single Stage One Envelope System.		
8	Budget & source of fund	BPC, POCL, MPL & JOCL (own fund).		
9	Project name	Construction of Mongla Oil Installation, Mongla, Bagerhat.		
10	Tender package No.	BPC (MOI): GD-2 (Laboratory Equipments).		
11	Tender publishing date	20-21 June, 2017.		
12	Tender last selling date & time	25/07/2017.		
13	Tender closing date & time	26/07/2017 at 11:00 hrs.		
14	Tender opening date & time	26/07/2017 at 11:30 hrs.		
15	Name & address of the office	Cashier, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong.		
	Selling tender document (principal)	Cashier, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong.	Meghna Petroleum Limited, 58/59, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong.	Oil Company Limited, Jamuna Bhaban, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong.
	Selling tender document (others)	Padma Oil Company Limited, 4, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chittagong.	---	Jamuna Oil Company Limited, 2, Kawan Bazar, Dhaka.
	Receiving tender documents	Project Director, MOI, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong.		
	Opening	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong.		
	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	N/A		
16	Eligibility of tenderer	<p>The tenderer shall have the following experiences:</p> <p>a. The tenderer shall have a minimum of 05 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services.</p> <p>b. The tenderer shall have successfully completed minimum 01 (one) number supply contract of similar goods and related services not less than Taka 50 (fifty) lac within last 05 (five) years i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper.</p> <p>* Others qualifications as specified in Tender Document.</p>		
17	Brief description of related services	N/A		
18	Price of tender document	BDT 3,000.00 (Taka three thousand) only.		
19	Identification of lot	Complete work.		
20	Not No.	Single.		
21	Location	Plot No. 21, Mongla Port Industrial Area, Mongla Oil Installation (BPC Project), Mongla, Bagerhat.		
22	Tender security amount	BDT 2,25,000.00 (Taka two lac twenty-five thousand) only in favour of Project Director, Mongla Oil Installation, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.		
23	Completion time	03 (three) months from the effective date of contract signing.		
24	Association of foreign firm is	N/A		
25	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. Md. Mosaddique Hossain.		
26	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director.		
27	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong.		
28	Contact details of official inviting tender:	Mob: 01777703334, Fax: 880-31-618312, 612668, e-mail: mosadibpc@gmail.com		
29	(a) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			
	(b) If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue.			
	(c) This tender notice will also be available at Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) Website: www.bpc.gov.bd, CPTU Website: www.cptu.gov.bd & Padma Oil Company Limited Website: www.pocl.bd.com			

Engr. Md. Mosaddique Hossain
Project Director
Mongla Oil Installation
Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation

GD-1298