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OIL IMPORT FOR 2023 BPC gets nod to buy 54 lakh tonnes

ASIFUR RAHMAN and MOHAMMAD SUMON

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs yesterday granted Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation permission to import 54 lakh tonnes of oil next year in a bid to secure supply of the key commodity amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine and geopolitical tension.

Of the amount, state run BPC, the sole petroleum importer and distributor, will buy 38.6 lakh tonnes of refined oil under government-to-government (G2G) arrangements.

The remaining 15.4 lakh tonnes will be imported as crude from state-owned Saudi Aramco and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, the committee decided, according to a finance ministry statement issued yesterday.

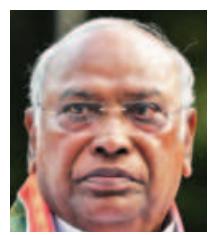
The officials of the BPC said the cabinet committee's approval was for importing oil only under government-to-government agreements from different countries.

"We will import more from private sources by announcing tender," said ABM Azad, BPC chairman.

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Congress elects first non-Gandhi chief in 24 years

AGENCIES



Mallikarjun Kharge

India's opposition Congress party yesterday declared veteran leader Mallikarjun Kharge its new chief, the first person from outside the influential Nehru-Gandhi family to hold the beleaguered party's presidency in 24 years.

Kharge, an 80-year-old from the lowest rung of India's caste system, is seen as a loyalist of the Gandhi family, which has produced three Indian prime ministers and is expected to retain its clout over the party.

The Congress hopes to revive its flagging fortunes with a new leader after losing two general elections and control of some state assemblies to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

As expected, Kharge overwhelmingly won the party vote held on Monday, defeating former UN diplomat Shashi Tharoor by securing 84 percent of the votes.

He will replace Sonia Gandhi, the party's interim chief who had agreed to temporarily helm the party when her son

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The new building of the Chandpur Govt High School being devoured by the Jamuna on Tuesday. The entire building went under water in just a day. River erosion in Sirajganj's Chowhali upazila has recently taken a severe turn, destroying homes, schools and other establishments.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

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BTRC DRAFT RULES ON OTT Govt given indemnity for its actions

ASUTOSH SARKAR and ZYMA ISLAM

The final draft of BTRC's regulations for digital, social media, and OTT platforms allows the government to order individuals to take down content, empowers it to order social media companies to block content, and grants it indemnity for its actions under the law.

The government can issue such orders if the content threatens the "unity, integrity, defence, security, or sovereignty of Bangladesh, [and its] friendly relations with foreign states" or "is against the Liberation War of Bangladesh, the spirit of the Liberation War, the Father of the Nation, the national anthem, or the national flag".

In addition, such orders can be made if the content "threatens the secrecy of the government" or "creates unrest or disorder or deteriorates the law and order situation" or "threatens public order".

The final draft was submitted yesterday before the High Court, through its lawyer Khandaker Reza E Raquib, in compliance with a directive the court issued on June 13.

From the get-go, the draft regulations had made it illegal to host content that can be deemed anti-state, and the final draft too upholds that, and in such situations the government can ask "intermediaries" to remove or block

access to these content within 72 hours.

The draft defines "intermediaries" as any person who on behalf of another "receives, stores or transmits electronic records or provides any service with respect to such records". This includes telecom service providers, network service providers, internet service providers, social media firms, web hosting services, search engines, online payment sites, and online markets.

The final draft empowers the government to issue take down orders to individuals or entities, within or outside of Bangladesh.

If the order is not complied with, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) could order access to the content to be blocked.

All these provisions are also applicable for "publishers of news and current affairs content or a publisher of an online curated content".

While granting the government indemnity, the draft states, "If any person is affected by any order or instruction issued under the provisions of this regulation [...] in good faith, then he may not file any suit for compensation against the minister or an employee of the government, or the chairman, other commissioners, or any officer, employee or consultant of the commission."

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DENGUE CASES 27,000-mark crossed; 7 die in 24 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least seven dengue patients died and 864 others were admitted to different hospitals across the country in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday.

With the new cases, the total number of dengue infections crossed the 27,000-mark this year, which is the third-highest yearly total of dengue cases since the first outbreak of the disease was reported in 2000.

The total number of dengue cases now stands at 27,802, including 7,739 recorded outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

Meanwhile, the total number of deaths this year rose to 106, which is the second-highest yearly deaths since 2000.

Of the 106, 62 died in Dhaka, 22 in Cox's Bazar, 12 in Chittagong, five in Barishal, two in Khulna, and one each in Narasingdi, Mymensingh and Feni.

A total of 23,612 patients have recovered thus far.

Some 3,227 dengue patients, including 1,079 from outside Dhaka,

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Bond star Daniel Craig receives same medal as 007

AFP, London



James Bond actor Daniel Craig on Tuesday received the same honour held by his fictional character, as he is set to retire from the role.

The 54-year-old British actor who played Bond for the fifth and final time in 2021 film "No Time To Die", was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George, a rare honour that author Ian Fleming bestowed on his fictional agent.

Craig bowed his head and smirked as Princess Anne, wearing naval uniform, put the order on its ribbon around his neck during an investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle.

The actor received the honour for his outstanding contribution to film and theatre. Craig was in the British capital for the European premiere of whodunnit drama "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery", which closed the BFI London Film Festival on Sunday.

"We've been expecting you", the royal family's official Twitter account captioned its photograph, quoting a line famously used by a Bond villain.

James Bond was said to have received the

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With winter knocking on our doors, the Boithakata floating vegetable market on the Belua river in Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila has come back to life. Traders row to the spot every Saturday and Tuesday to sell seasonal veggies to buyers from all across the country. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: KM HABIBUR RAHMAN

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(খ) ঘৰ্য কৰের সময় মেয়াদ উভ্যৰ ঘৰ্য কৰে তা বিকল ঘৰ্য কৰে বিকল ঘৰ্য কৰে।
এই বিজ্ঞাপনটি ঘৰ্য প্রশাসন অধিবেক্ষণ কৰে অনুমতি কৰে প্রকাশিত।