

QOUMI MADRASSAH EDUCATION POLICY

Govt extends deadline

Mohiuddin Alamgir

THE government on Monday extended the deadline for submission of the education policy for the Qoumi Madrasahs by Qoumi Madrasah Education Commission until January 9.

The education ministry in a circular extended the deadline, said an official.

The education ministry

also extended the tenure of Bangladesh Qoumi Madrasah Education Commission until January 9.

The circular said that the tenure of the BQMEC was extended to facilitate preparation of education policy for the qoumi madrasahs to meet the requirements of the day.

The circular was signed by education secretary

Sohrab Hossain on Sunday.

The commission was asked to recommend mechanisms for providing official recognition to qoumi madrasahs and also for their management by the government.

A draft policy submitted by the commission on April 13, 2013 recommended that the government should accord recognition to

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certificates of qoumi madrasahs and for the creation of a qoumi madrasah education authority and an affiliation university for the higher qoumi madrasahs.

The education ministry asked the commission to review the draft policy and finalize it, said officials.

On April 15, 2012, the government appointed the 17-member commission

with Shah Ahmad Shafi as the chairman, though he was and continues to be the chief of Hefajat-e-Islam.

Shafi was and also continues to the chief of Hathazari Darul Uloom Mainul Islam Madrasah.

In the draft policy, the commission recommended a six-tier qoumi madrasah education, from primary to post graduate students.

The draft policy stipu-

lates that only women would run and teach at girls' qoumi madrasahs.

The commission became inactive due to sharp differences between two groups, one led by its chairman Shafi and the other by co-chairman Maulana Farid Uddin Masud and member-secretary Ruhul Amin, known as pro government.

On August 11, while addressing Islamic scholars

in the capital, prime minister Sheikh Hasina asked the commission to speedily complete its task.

About 14 lakh students are studying at 13,902 qoumi madrasahs, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics.

The government has no control over qoumi madrasahs run with donation from local communities.