

# NBR chief for better taxman-taxpayer ties

By Staff Correspondent

Chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) Dr Akbar Ali Khan, at a seminar Thursday, said the mistrust between the taxpayers and the tax officials would have to be removed to broaden the tax base of the country.

Dr Khan was addressing as chief guest a seminar on "Changes in Income Tax Ordinance 1984, Wealth Tax Act 1963 and Value Added Tax 1991 by Finance Act 1993" organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) yesterday afternoon.

Describing the relationship between the tax officials and the taxpayers as interdependent, he said an understanding between them would have to be developed for benefit of both.

The NBR Chairman said the taxpayers are like golden egg-laying geese. If the government were to raise tax collection, taxpayers would need protection from unnecessary harassment, he added.

"If the officials of the revenue department feel that their responsibility is to seize the property of the people, they won't be able to realise taxes," Akbar Ali Khan, who is also the Secretary of the Internal

Resource Division (IRD), said. Regarding the tax reforms of the government, he said the measures were designed on some broad philosophical base.

The seminar, chaired by Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, Member (Taxes) of the NBR, was addressed by former president of the ICAB M J Abedin as the keynote speaker, while M Yunus, former president of ICAB and PCCI, Jamaluddin Ahmed, former president of ICAB, present president M A Halim Ghaznavi and vice president Badrul Hasan participated in the discussion.

M Yunus referred to a number of double standards. He said the government was talking about industrialisation, but was reluctant to remove the constraints.

"Why is the government so eager to impose taxes on exports when it is talking about export-led-growth?" he asked.

M A Halim Ghaznavi, in his address of welcome, explained the role of the ICAB in assisting the government to formulate a taxation policy through its participation in various advisory committees. He also hailed the government for accepting a number of recommendations of the institute.



An emergency meeting of Executive Council of Awami League was held at the official residence of party chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday. — Star photo

## AL programme

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of the Anti-Terrorism Act, stopping repression on the opposition parties, autonomy of the Radio and Television, removal of Mujib's murderers from government service, permanent measures for flood protection and resisting the rise of communal forces.

The meeting also discussed the preparations for today's rally.

The meeting over, Hasina issued a statement calling on people of all strata to attend the grand rally in a disciplined manner and voice protest against the government's 'misdeeds'.

## 'Azam's return to politics will jeopardise independence'

By Our Correspondent

NATORE, Aug 19: Awami League Presidium member Abdur Razzak, MP told a rally here today that the country's independence would be jeopardized if Golam Azam, the alleged planner of a genocide during the Liberation War, returns to national politics.

People irrespective of religion fought the war, which Azam and his Jamaat-e-Islami party opposed, Razzak told a rally of the Ekattur Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Jatiya Samannaya Committee, held this afternoon in front of the local press club.

## Pak court to hear plea to disqualify 3 ex-PMs

LAHORE, Aug 19: A Pakistani High Court today agreed to hear a plea seeking disqualification of three former premiers, including Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, from contesting the October elections, reports AFP.

The three have been accused of exploiting their authority for political ends, court officials said.

Admitting the petition, filed by lawyer Wahab Al-Khatri, for regular hearing, Judge Abdul Majeed Tiwana of the Lahore High Court ruled that proceedings would start on August 25.

Al-Khatri accuses Bhutto, Sharif and former caretaker premier Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi of making politically-motivated allocations of residential and commercial plots during their rule.

He also accuses Sharif of doling out funds from a state-managed Islamic Welfare Fund, called Battul Mal, for political considerations.

The petitioner is also seeking disqualification of two former chief ministers of Punjab, Ghulam Haider Wyne and Manzoor Ahmed Watto on similar charges.

According to an official report submitted to the court, Bhutto allotted 621 plots of land in Islamabad during her 1988-1990 government while Jatoi who succeeded her allotted 59 plots during his brief caretaker premiership.

## 4 die in separate incidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least four persons died in separate incidents yesterday in and outside the city.

Of the dead, two reportedly committed suicide while the others were killed in road mishaps.

At Mohammadpur in the city, police acting on an information went to 16/16 Noor Jahan Road and found the body of a maid, Baby, 14, hanging from the ceiling, police said.

The master of the house said that he was not at home when Baby committed suicide.

Our DMCH Correspondent reports: A young housewife also committed suicide at Savar yesterday.

Kulsum, 25, wife of one Kasuluddin and mother of two children, reportedly hanged herself from a tree yesterday afternoon.

Her neighbours, however, claimed that Kulsum was beaten to death and hanged from a tree. Police found bruises all over the body of the victim.

In a road mishap a young rickshaw-puller identified as Raza Mia, 30, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding Demra-bound bus near Katchpur Bridge yesterday.

Babul, an electrician was hit by a bus Wednesday evening. He was rushed to the Orthopaedic Hospital and succumbed to injuries there.

## Ghali calls for 3000 more troops

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 19:

Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali called Wednesday for some 3,000 additional troops to beef up the UN peacekeeping force in Somalia to disarm warring clans in the African country, reports AFP.

In a report to the Security Council, Boutros-Ghali said, "This additional troop strength enable the military component to be more effective, more rapid and more widely."

## Utpal Dutta

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One of the leading lights in his field, Dutta had also acted in some of the films directed by Satyajit Ray, one of which being the award winning Agantuk. His role in Padma Nadir Majhi directed by Goutam Ghosh under Indo-Bangla joint production brought him fresh laurels.

Dutta is survived by his wife Sobha Sen, also a front rank stage and film artiste and literally a comrade in arms in Dutta's left theatre movement of which he was a living legend. Their only daughter Bishnupriya Pal, has also gained recognition in the theatre world.

Immediately after the news of his death spread, a pall of gloom descended on the stellar and stage world and in the cultural field. Cine and theatre personalities and people from all walks of life rushed to his residence.

## Implement policies

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proper representation of private sector in various public agencies to ensure partnership with the private sector. This would also ensure accountability and transparency of these public sector bodies," Rahman said. PDB, DESA, WASA, T&T Board, Water Development Board, Bangladesh Railways, Petrobangla, port authority are some of the organisations that were identified by the business community for joint collaboration.

The convention also recommended that bonded warehouse facilities should continue for all industrial operations. This facility is essential for export, deemed export and local industries to maintain necessary raw material inventory and reduce strain on the working capital needs and cost.

The FBCCI chief also demanded total exemption of income tax to make Bangladesh exporters competitive in the international market and stressed on the need for diversification of exports.

The recommendations also included protection to domestic industries and checking of un-planned liberalisation. The convention also felt that an action programme for sector-specific reform is needed for private sector development.

Non-performing industries with investment of over Taka 500 crore need immediate support for recovery, the FBCCI observed.

It also called for a speedy privatisation of public enterprises to stop wastage of the money.

The convention also suggested that a review on the recent expansion of the VAT net should be made to ascertain its impact on small entrepreneurs and observed that the VAT administration should be streamlined to avoid harassment of the taxpayers.

# The Midnight File

## Rocket attack on Kabul: 3 die

ISLAMABAD, Aug 19: Three people were killed and 22 wounded in a guerrilla rocket attack on the Afghan capital Kabul, the official Kabul radio said today. The city was hit by 10 rockets on Wednesday afternoon and later at night, the radio monitored in Islamabad said. It said the rockets came from the south of Kabul in areas controlled by the hardline Hizb-e-Islami Party of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, reports Reuter.

## Scam: JPC postpones final report

NEW DELHI, Aug 19: A parliamentary committee due to report this month on its investigation of India's 1.28 billion dollar stock market scandal today postponed its final report for the third time. The Chairman of the 30-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) investigating the scandal, Ram Niwas Mirdha, told reporters he would submit his final report in the next session of the lower house of Parliament due to start in November, reports Reuter.

## India to develop rocket technology, says Rao

NEW DELHI, Aug 19: India will develop its own rocket technology so that its space programme will be unaffected by Russia's denial, under US pressure, of expertise transfer, Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao said Wednesday, reports AFP.

Rao told parliament that India would not allow Moscow's July volte-face on the supply of cryogenic rocket technology to hamper the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) programme.

Comments notwithstanding, the... programmes are going on quietly," said the 72-year-old premier, who also holds the defence portfolio, in reference to

## Salam Talukder returns today

By Staff Correspondent

Secretary General of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Abdus Salam Talukder returns today after a month-long private visit to the United States, family sources said.

He underwent heart treatment during his stay in the US, the source added.

A party source said the return of Barrister Talukder, who is also the LORD Minister, would expedite preparations for the national council on September 1-2.

## BNP

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of government to the parliamentary form since the party had already voted for a switch to the parliamentary system at the beginning of the current Fifth Parliament.

The absolute powers of the chairman, after his/her election by the councillors, would remain intact, he said, adding that the position and status of the Secretary General would also remain unchanged after the amendments.

## Peak hour rates

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The proposal was considered at a recent meeting of the cabinet where it was agreed that all industrial plants which operate three shifts should get benefit from such exemption. However, a final decision would be taken after the three ministries concerned work out a procedure in this regard.

## Gas Line Disconnection Drive is in Force

With a view to realising the arrears, the special drive for gas line disconnection of all defaulting consumers, including govt & autonomous establishments, has been started from 31-7-93. In this first special drive of 1993-94 financial year, total 657 gas connections have been disconnected up to 18-8-93.

All esteemed consumers are requested to pay the arrear gas bills immediately and show the payment receipt to the disconnection squad on the place of gas use. On production of the bill payment receipt by the disconnected consumer at the concerned zone/office of the company by 7-00 pm on the day, steps will be taken for immediate restoration of his line.

If the reconnection is not taken within 3(three) months of disconnection, the gas line will be permanently disconnected with cancellation of gas supply contract.

Pay the gas bill in time and abstain from any sort of illegal gas use.

Non-performing industries with investment of over Taka 500 crore need immediate support for recovery, the FBCCI observed.

It also called for a speedy privatisation of public enterprises to stop wastage of the money.

The convention also suggested that a review on the recent expansion of the VAT net should be made to ascertain its impact on small entrepreneurs and observed that the VAT administration should be streamlined to avoid harassment of the taxpayers.

The convention also urged the government to ensure remunerative pricing of agricultural products because continuing fall in crop prices would sharply affect purchasing power of the masses.

Editor: S. M. Ali  
Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam  
Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Porana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dharmodini B/A., Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257, GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.

## Cambodian troops disarm 400 Khmer Rouge rebels

PHNOM PENH, (Cambodia)

Aug 19: Government forces pounded Khmer Rouge positions again Thursday in heavy fighting that has forced the fanatical Communist guerrillas to surrender weapons and evacuate their homes, reports AP.

It was the second day of co-ordinated attacks in the north-western province of Banteay Meanchey, part of what the government called the biggest assault on the Khmer Rouge since the UN peacekeeping mission began in Cambodia 17 months ago. Government forces were on the offensive in two other

provinces in the northwest, authorities said.

UN peacekeeping mission spokesman Eric Falt said Thursday night that the government had fired 600 artillery and mortar rounds at the main target, the Khmer Rouge logistics and arms center of Phum Chat, in the past 36 hours.

He said government soldiers already had disarmed 400 Khmer Rouge guerrillas in Banteay Meanchey, and 300 Khmer Rouge families had been forced to seek refuge in and around the nearby town of Thmar Puok.

The Government appeared late Thursday to be in control of everything but Phum Chat in the two districts that have been under heavy fire since dawn Wednesday, he added.

Falt said that after the assault began Wednesday, the Khmer Rouge had brought reinforcements overnight into Phum Chat.

The reinforcements brought the Khmer Rouge strength up to between 400 and 500 guerrillas versus 2,000 to 2,500 government soldiers, Falt said.

He had no information on casualties.

The offensive, which Falt said also had been going on in the central province of Kompong Thom, has left the Khmer Rouge isolated.

## Mahila Dal confce Sept 9

The conference of the Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal (JMD) will be held on September 9 at 10 am at the Institution of Engineers here. A 32-member preparatory committee with the State Minister for Women's Affairs and General Secretary of the Mahila Dal Sarwar Rahman as convener was formed for the purpose.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will be present at the conference. Eight sub-committees have also been formed for successful holding of the conference, reports BSS.

## Huda expelled

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Mahbubur Rahman who deserted Ershad at the end of his nine-year rule, also joined forces with Shamsul Huda Chowdhury along with 30 others former JP stalwarts.

Some 20 leaders spoke in the 10-hour long meeting at the Gulshan residence of the acting chief Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury. The meeting was adjourned till seven this evening.

Source who attended yesterday's meeting said the adjournment came at around 9 pm after a stormy debate. A number of ranking leaders, including Moudud Ahmed, MP, Advocate Fazle Rabbi, MP and Munirul Huq Chowdhury, MP opposed the resolution delegating power to the acting chief to take such a major decision.

Some members proposed that the power should be delegated to a body of four leaders comprising Mizan Chowdhury, Moudud Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain and Kazi Zafar Ahmed. The matter may be settled this evening.

The meeting also decided to hold an extended meeting of the party on September 4-5 and expedite the district conferences as early as possible.

The leaders spoke both for and against the present leadership and stressed the need to invigorate party activities after the disgraceful downfall of Ershad in 1990.



Police clashed with demonstrators in New Delhi yesterday during a protest by industry workers opposed to the Indian government's economic reform programme. Four thousand people took part in the demonstration chanting slogans and courting arrest by breaking a ban on street protests in parts of the capital. — AFP photo

## 57.39 pc pass Dakhil Exams

The results of the Dakhil Examinations under Bangladesh Madrassah Education Board was announced here yesterday, reports BSS.

A total of 56,278 students including 7,912 girls appeared in the examination from 238 centres of which 32,296 came out successful. The percentage of pass is 57.39.

Out of the successful candidates, 1,770 have got first division, 13,983 second and 16,543 third division.

In the general group of Dakhil Examination, some 52,195 students appeared and 29,781 came out successful. The percentage of pass is 57.06.

In Science group, a total of 2,863 students appeared and 2,030 became successful. The percentage of pass is 70.90.

In Mujabid group of the examination, 1198 students appeared and 476 came out successful. The percentage of pass is 39.73.

## Nurses' strike continues

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ary measure" for overall development of the nursing profession.

"It's an office order, not a government notification or structural change of the nursing service," said a press note issued last night by the Health and Family Welfare Ministry.

It said the office order had created misunderstanding and resentment among nurses and they went on countrywide strike.

The Director General of Health Directorate issued the order in consultation with the Nursing Directorate after identifying existing problems in higher education, training, promotion, realistic adjustment of job structure, creating relevant facilities, overall development of the profession, modernising training and necessary steps for development of skills for the members of the service.

The DG on Tuesday held a meeting, chaired by Nursing Director Dilruba Begum, with representatives of different organisations of nurses and discussed various aspects of the matter.

In the meeting, the note said, the DG stated clearly that it was an office order, not a notification, and the Nursing Directorate was not taken under control of the Health Department by the order.

## Bangladeshi peacekeeper electrocuted

NAMPULA, (Mozambique),

Aug 19: A Bangladesh peacekeeper in Mozambique who was electrocuted doing routine work two weeks ago, has died in hospital in neighbouring Zimbabwe, the Mozambican Aim news agency reported Wednesday, reports AFP.

Sarwar Hosain, a member of the 1,320-strong Bangladesh battalion serving in the UN operation in Mozambique was electrocuted doing routine cleaning work at an UNOMOZ barrack in the northern city of Nampula on August 2, said an UNOMOZ spokesman.

He was evacuated to a hospital in Harare, the Zimbabwean capital where he died Sunday night.

Another Bangladesh soldier, injured in a road accident in the same Nampula town is in hospital in Harare where he is reported to be recovering satisfactorily.

Bangladesh sent the largest battalion to the peacekeeping operation in Mozambique, where it is protecting the rail corridor from landlocked Malawi to the northern port of Nacala.