

RUN-UP TO BUDGET FY06

Tax evasion getting tough

Beefed up monitoring, quarterly targets, punitive measures on the cards

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is stepping up tax evasion curbing measures to boost revenue collection, so as to feed the bigger than usual budget it plans for the next fiscal year.

According to sources at the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the government may have its eye on a revenue to the tune of Tk 47,000 crore in FY 2005-06, which is 8.82 percent higher than the current fiscal year's Tk 43,189 crore revenue target.

To make tax evasion really

PUTTING TEETH INTO NBR CIRC

Of the probable Tk 47,000 crore overall revenue target for FY06, the NBR might be assigned to collect Tk 35,600 crore, sources said.

In order to realise the task the NBR in FY06 will be assigned with quarterly revenue collection targets. The target for the first quarter will most likely be Tk 7,300 crore, second

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Protest and savagery at DU



From left, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal cadres brandishing sticks chase Bangladesh Chhatra League members outside the Dhaka University Teacher-Student Centre after a bomb went off near a JCD rally yesterday, JCD General Secretary Shafiul Bari Babu rescues his BCL counterpart Nazrul Islam Babu from confinement with an ambulance, and students besieging the vice chancellor's office, demanding his resignation, draw graffiti.

Opposition for pro-liberation force alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top leaders of the mainstream opposition parties yesterday called for launching a grand alliance of all pro-liberation and progressive parties to rescue the country from the grip of black money holders and anti-liberation forces.

Speaking at the biennial national council of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu), the leaders said it is high time to unite to resist the communal and anti-liberation forces who have captured state power taking advantage of the split among pro-liberation forces.

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil said, "Unity among the like-minded pro-liberation parties is a must now as anti-liberation forces including 'rajakars' have united and are ruling the country. We must forge unity to put an end to this situation."

Transit, port use, gas export to benefit Dhaka

Says Indian secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should take the advantage of its unique geographical location for reaping economic benefits through providing transits, allowing gas pipeline and access to ports for India, said visiting Indian Secretary of the External Affairs Ministry Rajiv Sikri.

"Let us sit together and start dialogue for resolving all the matters for enhancing friendly relations," he called upon Bangladesh officials during an open discussion following his speech at Bangladesh Enterprise Institute in the city yesterday.

On the question of India's river linking projects which is supposed to bring severe negative impact on Bangladesh, he said the matter is still at a conceptual stage and nothing would be done without

Sardar Amjad may join AL today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Sardar Amjad Hossain, a former leader of the Jatiya Party (Ershad), is likely to join the Awami League (AL) with several hundred of his followers today.

He will meet AL President Sheikh Hasina in an informal meeting on the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum premises in the capital.

After his expulsion from the JP last year, Amjad formed the Jatiya Party Coordination Committee.

"Ershad is no longer capable of leading a party or doing something good for the country. He suffers from indecision and now he has no vision", Amjad told The Daily Star last night.

Meanwhile, leaders and workers of AL in Bagmara and Mohonpur upazilas brought out processions to welcome Amjad's joining the party.

Iraq governor found dead after abduction

4 Americans, 4 Italians killed in aircraft crashes

AGENCIES, Baghdad

The kidnapped governor of Iraq's Anbar province has been found dead along with his suspected captors after a clash with US forces. The body of Raja Nawaf was found tied to a gas canister in a house west of Baghdad, a government spokesman said.

A US military spokesman said a helicopter had flown Nawaf's body to the city of Qaim on Monday where his family had identified him.

No details are available about how the governor was killed.

He was kidnapped on 10 May. A group claiming to have seized him said it would hold him captive until US troops pulled back from Qaim.

Meanwhile four Americans and four Italians were separate incidents of plane crash in Iraq Monday night and Tuesday morning. The Americans along with an Iraqi were killed when an Iraqi Air Force plane went down in eastern Iraq on Monday, a spokesman for Iraq's Defense Ministry confirmed on Tuesday.

The plane, a six-seater Comp Air turbo-prop usually used for reconnaissance, went down near the town of Jalawla, 150 km northeast of Baghdad, near the Iranian border. It is believed to have crashed in a sandstorm, the spokesman said.

"All five on board were killed — an American and an Iraqi officer and three other Americans," he said.

The US military in Baghdad said it had no further information beyond a statement it released late on Monday saying an aircraft with four US military personnel and an Iraqi on board had crashed in eastern Iraq.

It is believed to be the first Iraqi Air Force plane to have crashed since the Air Force was re-established in April 2004, following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

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Villepin new French PM

REUTERS, Paris

French President Jacques Chirac named loyalist Dominique de Villepin, 51, his new prime minister on Tuesday. He replaced Jean-Pierre Raffarin who quit earlier yesterday. Villepin is a former interior and foreign minister who angered the United States but won French hearts with his fierce opposition to the US-led war in Iraq.

He now has the task of reshaping government policy after voters showed their distaste for Raffarin's economic policies and high unemployment in Sunday's vote on the EU charter.

In a short statement, Raffarin defended his record over the past

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A long queue of traffic on the city's main thoroughfare, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, remains stuck for around 30 minutes yesterday noon for the prime minister's security, when she distributed food among the destitute nearby to mark the 24th death anniversary of her husband, Ziaur Rahman.

Bimstec meet today to review 6 areas

UNB, Dhaka

Senior foreign ministry officials of the seven-member Bimstec meet in Dhaka today to review cooperation in six priority areas and make recommendations as Bangladesh assumes the chair of the forum for next one-year.

The economic grouping set up in June 1997 comprises Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan will open the meeting at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

The two-day foreign secretary

level meeting will discuss the Bimstec free trade area (FTA) as the negotiations are expected to complete by December for utilising potentials in trade and investment in the Bimstec region.

The six priority sectors are trade and investment, technology, tourism, transport and communication, energy and fisheries. It will also discuss follow up of the decisions of the first Bimstec summit held in Bangkok last July.

Bangladesh is the lead country for trade and investment, India for transport, communication and

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Tk 41cr budget okayed for JS Secretariat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat Commission yesterday approved a Tk 41.29 crore budget for the secretariat for the next fiscal year.

The Commission at a meeting with Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar in the chair, which was held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, also agreed in principle to provide a p e r s o n a l

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Prayer Timing		
June 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		