

CURBING TAX EVASION

Wealth info of spouse, kids made mandatory

NBR also offers way to whiten money by paying only 7.5pc tax

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

From now on, taxpayers must state their dependants' wealth in income tax returns and have to pay Tk 50 tax more per square feet to buy realties with black money.

Besides, people who have ill-gained bank deposits or savings instruments will get the chance to whiten the black money, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) announced in a circular last Saturday.

The NBR circular detailed the changes in direct taxes introduced by the current national budget. The

changes require taxpayers to provide statements of their assets and lifestyle information with their income tax returns. Otherwise, the returns will not be accepted.

The budget made an amendment to the Income Tax Ordinance, 1984 making it mandatory for taxpayers to state the assets, liabilities and expenses of their own, their spouses, minor children and other dependants along with the income tax returns. The legal revision is aimed at scaling down tax evasion.

The deadline for return submission is September 30. Those who would fail to meet the deadline or

submit incomplete returns will be penalised.

An NBR source said many government officials have shady income and have amassed large sums through corruption. These corrupt government staffs often manage to dodge income tax payment against their ill-gained wealth using various crafty means. A most common one of these is claiming the unaccountable wealth to have received as gift or dowry from their in-laws.

According to the new pay scale, government officials will submit

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No consensus on Safta likely before Saarc summit

Morshed says at seminar on Saarc integration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday said he does not expect any major breakthrough in negotiations on the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (Safta) before the upcoming Saarc Summit.

"I don't hope the regional countries will be able to reach any major consensus before the summit," he observed in a tone of regret, inaugurating a seminar as the chief guest of the session in the city.

"We can hardly afford to waste any more time to take the FTA process decisively forward and trans-

late the commitments into action," Morshed emphasised. He also underscored the point that, as the trade liberalisation process begins, the Saarc countries have to ensure that the Safta does not suffer the same fate as the preceding South Asia Preferential Trade Agreement (Sapta).

"In charting our future course of action, we should also bear in mind the limitations in the scope of the Safta, which covers only trade in goods, leaving out services and investment," the minister added. The Safta was inked in January 2004

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PHOTO: STAR

A rickshawpuller looks at a closed eatery in Dhaka as Bangladesh Khadya Byabasayi Parishad, a combine of food traders' association, enforced a 48-hour strike from yesterday to protest "indiscriminate drive" against unhygienic food.

All 309 survive in Air France crash

AFP, Toronto

An Air France A340 jet with 309 people aboard overshot the runway at Toronto international airport and burst into flames after plunging into a muddy ravine, but with flames licking around the fuselage and smoke filling the cabin all passengers and crew managed to make a desperate escape.

Officials said 43 people were treated for minor injuries, and Canadian Transport minister Jean Lapierre described the escape as a "miracle."

It was the first crash involving the Airbus long-haul jet in 13 years of commercial service.

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PHOTO: STAR

Illegal occupants being evicted from 32 flats of the Tuberculosis Hospital staff quarters at Chankarpool yesterday. The flats were constructed in 1985 and had since then remained occupied by outsiders.

UNUSUAL VOTER RISE

EC pays no heed to EU allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The European Union's allegation about the unusual rise of around one crore voters on the list prepared in 2000 for the last parliamentary election of 2001 has remained unresolved for the last two years as the Election Commission (EC) shelved it to avoid controversy.

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'Media gag' imposed on EC MAI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A virtual restriction was imposed on Election Commissioner Mohammad Ali yesterday asking him not to speak with journalists about the ongoing affairs of the Election Commission (EC), following his disclosure on Tuesday of the schedule of polling for women reserved seats.

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Pro-BNP lawyers' conflict flares up

Huda dissolves 2 bodies, rivals cancel his membership

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Conflict between two groups of BNP's lawyer ministers and lawmakers flared up yesterday as Nazmul Huda-led faction dissolved

the Supreme Court (SC) units of two pro-BNP lawyers' associations, prompting the other faction to hit back at Huda group.

TH Khan and Aminul Haque-led

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NGO WORKERS KILLING US mission hopeful of justice soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US Embassy in Dhaka yesterday expressed the hope that the killers of two NGO workers would be brought to justice.

The embassy in a press release offered its condolences to the families and friends of Tapan Kumar Roy

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14 Marines killed in Iraq blast

Body of American journalist found

AFP, REUTERS, Baghdad

Fourteen US marines and one interpreter were killed in western Iraq yesterday when their armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb,

the US military said.

The military said one other marine was wounded in the attack which occurred during combat operations near Haditha, 260 km northwest of Baghdad.

The latest deaths bring the number of US military personnel killed in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion to 1,811, according to AFP tally based on Pentagon figures.

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Prayer Timing		
August 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-47	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation