

No extension of tax return deadline

Tax offices will remain open on Oct 28, 29

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday decided against any time extension for receiving tax returns and asked all individuals to submit their self-assessed returns by the October 31 deadline.

The board also decided to keep open all the 410 circle offices in the 18 tax zones across the country on the next two holidays -- October 28 and 29 -- to facilitate taxpayers handing in the returns.

An NBR official said the move is meant to remove any confusion among the taxpayers about whether the deadline for submission of

2 lakh govt staff won't get Eid bonus under new pay scale

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

About two lakh government employees of different development projects are not getting Eid bonus under the sixth pay scale that came into effect from January 1.

A government order circulated on Tuesday said the new pay scale for these employees has come into effect from October 24.

The circular said these employees

14 Myanmar citizens held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Detective Branch (DB) of Police yesterday arrested 14 Myanmar citizens from the city's Mollah Boarding and Noor Hotel at Asadganj in Kotwali area for illegal entry into Bangladesh territory.

"The citizens had crossed the border at Teknaf three months back and came to the city from Teknaf three to four days ago to go to Saudi Arabia illegally with the help of a broker," said Senior Assistant Commissioner (DB) Mosharrif Hossain Meazi of Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

The 14 arrested Myanmar citizens had no passports or any valid documents, police said.

Noor Hossain and Fazlul Karim, two of the arrested Myanmar

EU wants to see some actions from ACC

UK envoy tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Anwar Choudhury yesterday stressed making the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) functional, saying the European Union (EU) wants to see some actions from the ACC.

"Poverty alleviation will not be possible without fighting corruption and the ACC has to be made functional to do this," he said at a seminar on 'Human Rights/Trade and Development Issues' in the capital.

The UK in its capacity as chair of the European Union arranged the seminar. Dr Stefan Frowein, ambassador and head of the European Commission delegation in Dhaka, was among the speakers.

In an oblique reference to the 'crossfire' issue, Anwar Choudhury said they understand that Bangladesh definitely needs to improve the law and order situation. But it has to be done by protecting human rights, and all the agencies concerned should honour human rights as crossfire is

not an acceptable solution.

The envoy welcomed Bangladesh's efforts to fight international terrorism, saying the UK would extend all support in this regard.

The EU expects all political parties in Bangladesh would get together and work collectively for the nation in implementing the poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP), he said.

"The PRSP is a national strategy that is owned by the country. So, whoever is in the government or will be in the future after the next general elections, we hope the government will follow it," Anwar Choudhury said.

"The next election is extremely important and everyone expects it to be a democratic and accepted one. We will continuously engage in helping the government in voter registration, preparing voter identity cards and in the election process. And there are many other areas where we will provide our support," the ambassador said.

Stefan Frowein said he has become quickly aware of the diversity

and richness of Bangladesh's culture.

It is not accurate to claim that any particular country is being singled out for criticism or that attempts are being made to create a negative impression about a given country, Frowein said. It is rather part of a wider process of working to ensure that all countries fulfil the international obligations which they have assumed, through the ratification of treaties and other mechanisms, in fields such as human rights and the environment, he added.

The EU and its member states share and project certain common values which are enshrined in the treaties that established the EU. Examples include a strong commitment to poverty reduction through development aid, and to promotion and protection of human rights and democracy across the world, he mentioned.

Ambassadors and diplomats from France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany and Italy were present at the seminar.

2 JP men killed in bomb attack

BDNEWS, Narail

At least two Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad) activists were killed in a bomb attack at Akdiarchar village in Narail yesterday evening.

The victims are Nazrul Islam, 50, and Swapan Boiragi, both residents of Kolora union in the sadar upazila.

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Final anti-govt agitation after Eid, says Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President and eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said the combined opposition will launch its final agitation after the Eid-ul-Fitr for an end to the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government's "misrule".

"Fourteen opposition parties, Jatiya Oikya Mancha and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh have united against the present government and this unity is of 14 crore people of Bangladesh," Dr Kamal said while addressing a pre-Iftar discussion at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium.

South and East zones of Dhaka city unit of Gono Forum and Jatiya Oikya Mancha organised the discussion.

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Indo-Bangla home secy-level talks begin today

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India will convey its concern to Bangladesh about the "presence and activities of Indian insurgent groups in the neighbouring country" during the two-day home secretary-level talks beginning in New Delhi today.

Indian Home Secretary VK Duggal and his Bangladesh counterpart Sarfaraj Hossain will lead their delegations in the talks.

Duggal is likely to vent "India's concerns arising from presence

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BALU KILLING CASE

Charge framed against outlaws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Speedy Trial Tribunal, Khulna, yesterday framed charges against eight operatives of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) for killing

Journalist

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PHOTO: STAR

This illegal kitchen market on encroached railway land in Malibagh in the capital often forces customers into buying near the running trains. The picture was snapped yesterday.

Flu strain spreads deeper into Europe EU slaps ban on live bird imports

AFP, Zagreb/Brussels

The deadly Asian strain of bird flu has spread to Croatia for the first time, a veterinary official said yesterday, deepening worldwide concern as China fought back against a third outbreak of the virus in a week.

Dead swans found last week in Croatia's rural northeast were carry-

ing the H5N1 strain that has killed at least 62 people in Asia in the past two years, a veterinary official said.

The results of tests carried out by a British laboratory were "what we were expecting", veterinary official Vladimir Savic told a news conference.

"It is the highly pathogenic H5N1."

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Maulana Masud charged with money laundering Mufti Hannan on fresh remand

STAR REPORT

Militant kingpin Mufti Abdul Hannan was placed on a five-day fresh remand in connection with the August 17 blasts and former Islamic Foundation director Maulana Fariduddin Masud was shown arrested and remanded in a laundering case yesterday.

The Supreme Court senior lawyers have meanwhile demanded that the chief justice should arrange security measures in and around the court involving plainclothes intelligence men with necessary equipment, reports BDNEWS.

The SC lawyers made the demand when Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassar Husain invited them to discuss secu-

city measures for the country's apex court.

MUFTI HANNAN

Hannan was remanded for five more days in connection with the blasts on Dhaka University campus.

The Bangladesh chapter chief of Harkatul Jihad was remanded for the fourth consecutive time since his arrest on October 1.

He was hauled before the Court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka on completion of his seven-day remand in the SC blast case.

Detectives showed him arrested in the DU blast case and sought 10 days' additional remand.

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PHOTO: STAR

Pedestrians take the risk of crossing the busy thoroughfare in the absence of a foot over-bridge at Bangla Motor intersection in the city yesterday.

Jhenidah outlaw shot dead in factional feud PBCP men kill Kushtia farmer

STAR REPORT

Rival armed cadres killed a top leader of Janajuddha faction of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) at Koatchandpur upazila in Jhenidah while members of the same outfit slaughtered a farmer in Kushtia.

Shaheen, 28, the second-in-command of the Janajuddha, was

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Sehri-Iftar			
Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar
22	27		5-26
23	28	4-41	5-25



Prayer Timing			
October 27			
	Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-41	4-47	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	4-00	4-15	
Maghrib	5-26	5-41	
Esha	7-30	8-00	

Source: Islamic Foundation