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NBR starts survey in city on Mar 29 to expand tax net

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) will launch a survey on March 29 to gather financial information about the Dhaka city dwellers, seeking to bring more people under the tax net.

It has already formed eight teams for the job. Each team will have three tax inspectors.

Similar surveys will be carried out down to the thana-level across the country. In the first phase, the teams will go from door to door in the capital and collect information about a person's income, assets and lifestyle in a prescribed form.

Business entities in the alleys will also be surveyed.

Those who already have tax identification number (TIN) will not be subjected to the inspection.

The NBR, the central authority for tax administration, has taken up the programme to gauge the tax situation. Currently, the rate of collecting direct taxes is not

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Bangabandhu killer Mohiuddin held in US

Move on to bring back the condemned ex-major

STAR REPORT

AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, condemned to death for killing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family, was arrested in the United States Tuesday, report agencies.

He left the country soon after Awami League (AL) came to power in 1996. He was tried in absentia and two years later, along with some other ex-army personnel, was convicted of assassination of the country's founding father.

Led by Sheikh Hasina, one of Bangabandhu's two surviving daughters, the then government took measures for extradition of the killers, but could not finish the job during its tenure. The process to bring them back froze after the BNP-led four-party alliance

formed government in 2001.

Officials of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raided Mohiuddin's house in Los

Angeles Tuesday morning and arrested him, AFP reports quoting an ICE statement.

Also sentenced to life for aiding and abetting the killing of the four national leaders on November 3, 1975, Major (retired) Mohiuddin went to the US on a visitor's visa and applied for permanent residence. But he was ordered to return to Bangladesh to face the criminal charges.

The immigration case dragged on for several years as he appealed a deportation order handed down by an immigration judge in 2002. Late last month, a judge in the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco allowed the order to stand.

"After the 9th Circuit denied his petition to review the case, (Ahmed)

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AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed

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PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

A convoy of vehicles participating in the colourful Saarc Car Rally 2007 flagged off at Cox's Bazar yesterday.

CA kicks off car rally for Saarc tourism

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhrudin Ahmed yesterday called for intensifying Saarc efforts to promote the South Asia region as a common tourist hub.

"South Asia has a rich history... it has been a melting pot of diverse cultures since time immemorial. We are home to all of the world's great religions... Saarc should increase its efforts to promote the region as a common tourist destination," he said while opening the Saarc Car Rally-2007.

The chief adviser said the car rally is taking place at an important juncture of our progress towards deeper regional integration.

The last Saarc summit in Dhaka had resolved that the third decade

of Saarc would be one of implementation, he said. "Our decision should, therefore, touch the lives of our peoples and bring about visible changes all around."

The CA said he believes the car rally will provide impetus to implementing earlier decisions taken on intra-regional growth of tourism.

He said the South Asian leaders over the years had tried to promote people-to-people contact by facilitating the travel between the countries of the region. Other similar initiatives by Saarc have included exchanges in the fields of culture, sports and fostering linkages between the professional bodies.

The CA said the Saarc leaders had also declared 2006 to be South Asia Tourism Year and the car rally

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53 Indian cops die in Maoist attack

AFP, Raipur

Maoist rebels in central India have killed 53 policemen in one of the worst ever attacks of their 40-year-old insurgency, officials said yesterday.

A large group of rebels hurled grenades, petrol bombs and fired indiscriminately at a jungle security post in Rani Bodhi village in Chhattisgarh state, one of several parts of the country in the grip of a left-wing rebellion.

"Thirty-seven special police officers and 16 personnel of state police died in the attack," Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh told AFP.

The attack is "one of the worst" carried out by the insurgents, said

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Canwar Pal Singh Gill, who was appointed security advisor to Chhattisgarh state government last April. Some local media reported the toll as high as 60.

Maoist rebels say they are fighting for the rights of neglected tribes and landless farmers. Tens of thousands of people have been displaced in Chhattisgarh and are now living in tent shelters as Indian counter-insurgency forces operate in the countryside.

The rebels, who launched their armed campaign in 1967, also operate in another 14 of India's 29 states. New Delhi refuses to negotiate with them.

"I will be visiting the area this evening for an on-the-spot

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Bangladesh Rifles personnel sell essentials at modest prices at makeshift stores on Dhanmondi Club Ground in the capital yesterday.

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7 private TV channels shut down

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday asked seven private television channels to immediately stop broadcasting for their alleged faulty inception.

An official order said the TV channels were airing their programme without permission and no objection certificate from the Ministry of Information.

The channels are STV US, Channel 8, Rupashi Bangla, Falguni Music, TV-5, Bijoy TV and My TV.

Operation of any television channel comes under the broadcasting policy laid down in the Rules of Business 1996, the order said.

As per schedule-1 of the Rules of Business 1996, the policy is under the authority of the Ministry of Information.

"So, it is compulsory to take permission from the Ministry of Information before up-linking any local TV channel or down-linking any foreign one in case of starting its broadcast," the order added.

Sources said buyers are now

scrambling to purchase these potentially highly profitable channels that were opened during the last BNP-led coalition government, while at least another 80 applica-

10 TV CHANNELS

Licences available in lightning fast speed

ASHFAQ WARIS KHAN

Ten private satellite television channels, all owned or backed by leading BNP figures including former ministers, received their licences at lightning speed during the last BNP-led government's rule, taking advantage of weak government regulations.

The events were in marked contrast to the long and arduous procedure applicants such as Channel i and Ekushey Television (ETV) had to undergo before the BNP-led coalition came to power.

Channel 1, partly owned and run by Tarique Rahman's close aide Glasuddin Al Mamun, applied and received its private satellite television licence from the information ministry within 26 days in 2005, sources said.

More startling is that three channels - Channel 1, Bangla Vision and

tions for TV licences are languishing at the information ministry.

Mosaddak Ali Falu, the now arrested former Prime Minister's private secretary and former Dhaka MP, initiated the process when he applied and received the broadcasting licence of ntv within 18 days from the information ministry in 2004, sources say. Falu also partly owns and is the chairman of another private satellite television channel, Rtv.

Channel 1, partly owned and run by Tarique Rahman's close aide Glasuddin Al Mamun, applied and received its private satellite television licence from the information ministry within 26 days in 2005, sources said.

More startling is that three channels - Channel 1, Bangla Vision and

Baishakhi - all with links to the BNP received their licences on the same day: January 31, 2005. They were also allocated their broadcasting frequency from Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) within a week.

Four other BNP linked channels that received licences have yet to start broadcasting. They are Focus TV, headed by the son of the now arrested former Parliamentary Adviser to the outgoing Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury. Desh TV, owned by former government secretary and BNP MP Mushfiqur Rahman, Islamic TV owned by Khaleda Zia's younger brother and former MP Major (retd) Sayeed Iskandar. SNTV, owned by the now

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ACC to sue 6 top corruption suspects Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will file cases against six top corruption suspects on Sunday, ACC Commissioner Abul Hassan Mannan said in a press briefing yesterday.

The ACC commissioner, however, declined to go public with the names at the moment.

"I cannot disclose the names as another commissioner is currently reviewing the draft First Information Reports (FIRs) that would be sub-

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320 election officers have to take exam again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The highly controversial 320 upazila/thana election officers, appointed in 2005 through the Public Service Commission (PSC), will have to appear in an examination next month to prove their ability to do the job.

"We have formally asked the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) under the University of Dhaka to prepare questions and hold the

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Raid on Arafat Rahman's firm Documents seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces last night raided the office of Coco Navigations, owned by former prime minister Khaleda Zia's youngest son Arafat Rahman and Tarique Rahman's business partner Glasuddin Al Mamun, at Banani and seized some documents.

The forces also raided the office of detained BNP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury in the same area.

Sources said the joint forces cordoned the area around 12 midnight and conducted the hour-long raid.

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If voted to power, AL would legitimise CG's activities

Says Hasina; wants polls as early as possible

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the AL, if voted to power, would legitimise the activities of the present caretaker government as it has earned the confidence and appreciation of the people.

She said the government should hold the polls while this confidence and respect is there.

Hasina made these remarks while replying to reporters' queries at Zia International Airport before leaving for the United States early yesterday.

UNB adds: Sheikh Hasina said it would be good for the caretaker

government and the country if

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GD ON GRAFT Bail sought for Tarique, hearing on April 4

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Defence lawyers of detained BNP Senior Secretary General Tarique Rahman yesterday sought bail from a Dhaka court in connection with the general diary (GD) filed with Kafrel Police Station for his alleged involvement with corruption.

Meantime, Tarique was given a one-month detention order on

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Rejoinder

The authorities of the Generation Next Fashion Ltd (GNFL) in a rejoinder on a news headline "Vast swath of Savar farmland washed with toxic waste" published on March 14 in The Daily Star said that

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BDR sets up 17 'open markets' as measures to check price hike

BSS, Dhaka

As part of the government's initiatives to check price hike of essentials, the members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday installed 17 makeshift open markets in the capital.

A large number of people thronged the markets as the paramilitary troops started selling essentials like pulses, potatoes, onions, garlic and ginger at fair prices by setting up makeshift stalls under canopies in open fields like Eidgah Maidan.

While visiting one of the markets at Dhanmondi Eidgah Maidan, BDR Director General Major General Shakil Ahmed said this kind of intervention could influence the market to ensure

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