

Hasina questions reform move without 2 top leaders

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday questioned the ongoing move for party reforms without the chiefs of the two major political parties.

"Does reform mean Awami League without me and BNP without its chairperson? It's mysterious," she said while talking to reporters at Mawa Ferry Ghat on way to Dhaka from Gopalganj.

Hasina said, "There should be reform not only in Awami League and BNP, but also in all political parties including Gono Forum, Bikalpa Dhara, Jatiya Party, Workers Party, Communist Party, JSD and BSD."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Prayer Timing

June 14

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Tax dodging cases readied against 15

NBR chief reveals after meeting with taskforce; top politicians, businessmen among suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is going to file cases against at least 15 people, including top political leaders and businessmen for evading income tax.

Some of them are already behind bars under the ongoing government drive against corruption.

"We are at the final stage of filing cases against 15 to 16 people who dodged income tax as found in our investigation," NBR Chairman Badur Rahman said yesterday.

Talking to reporters after the first meeting between the NBR and the National Taskforce on Serious Crime and Corruption, he said, the cases to be filed under the income tax ordinance will have no legal flaws.

Earlier on May 23, the NBR filed a case against BNP leader Ali

Asgar Lobi for evading Tk 4.25 crore tax in the current fiscal year.

Relying to a question, the NBR chairman said, "Just wait and see what happens with the case against Lobi. And you can then get an idea about our work before filing such cases."

At yesterday's meeting, the taskforce members and NBR officials exchanged views on how the taskforce can gear up the drive against corruption with the help of the NBR.

The meeting also discussed loopholes of tax-related laws and provisions to have clear ideas about taxation system.

The NBR chairman said, "This is the first meeting between the NBR and the taskforce, and we are sharing our ideas so that the government's anti-corruption drive is strengthened further."

Asked if the NBR has any plan to file cases against chiefs of the two major political parties -- Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina -- on tax dodging allegations, he said NBR is doing nothing so far in this regard.

Relying to another question, the NBR chairman said, "This is not true that we are working only following the taskforce recommendations. NBR is also working on its own."

He also said the NBR has no intention to frequently ask people about their income tax. If anyone is found to file flawed tax return, it has the right to sue him or her.

The NBR is also against searching everyone's bank accounts. As per law, only suspicious accounts are being looked into, he added.

UN chief shocked at Ctg deaths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon yesterday expressed his deep sadness at the loss of more than 100 lives, the injuries sustained by over 100 people and the destruction caused by the landslides and flooding in Chittagong.

Ban extends his deepest condolences to the families of those who have been killed or injured in Monday's disaster, according to a press release issued from the UN resident coordinator's office.

Meanwhile, the United States has provided \$43,000 through its

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Iraq bombers hit Shia mosque

AP, Baghdad

Saboteurs blew up the two minarets of a revered Shia shrine in Samarra early yesterday, in a repeat of the 2006 attack that shattered its famous golden dome and unleashed a wave of retaliatory sectarian violence that still plagues Iraq. Sunni extremists of al-Qaeda were quickly blamed.

To ward off a surge of violence, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki quickly imposed an indefinite curfew on vehicle traffic and large gatherings in Baghdad. Before the curfew took hold, arsonists set fire to a Sunni mosque in western Baghdad, police said.

The assault on the Askariya Shrine, one of the holiest in Shia Islam, immediately stirred fears of a new round of intra-Muslim bloodshed, and prompted the 30-member bloc of radical Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr to suspend its membership in Iraq's parliament, threatening a deeper political crisis.

4 Rajshahi cops suspended for allowing Dulu to use mobile

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Four policemen of Rajshahi Police Lines were suspended yesterday on charges of giving opportunities to former deputy minister Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu to use mobile phone and exchange views with his party men in Natore while he was being taken to Rajshahi from Dhaka Central Jail on Monday.

The police have started a departmental probe into the matter, Rajshahi Police Superintendent

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Mahi-led group preparing reform proposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of citizens led by former lawmaker Mahi B Chowdhury yesterday said that they would present a reform proposal before the nation next month to bring positive changes in its political culture.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3