

# Safeguard tax

**FROM PAGE 1**  
and the International Monetary Fund.

As per the Universal Self Assessment system the tax officials will receive returns of taxpayers without any question and the tax officials will have to take approval of the NBR for inquiring into any taxpayer's return.

Under the UTIN system, a person having TIN as well as business identification number (BIN) after getting registered with the VAT authority will be given a UTIN in a manner prescribed by the NBR.

NBR officials said the new system will make the process of income tax return submission easier and stop tax evasion or concealment.

The NBR yesterday issued a number of ordinances and statutory regulatory orders (SROs), which adjusted taxes on different products and services as well as amendments in the tax related rules and regulations.

An amendment has been made in the Income Tax Ordinance 1984, which empowered the Central Intelligence Cell (CIC), a body of the NBR, to ask for bank account information of the taxpayers.

As per the amendment the CIC will carry out investigation to prove tax evasion or concealment or any other irregularities relating to taxes and collect evidence in support of tax offences or tax frauds for recovery of tax with penalty and to suggest prosecutions.

**ADJUSTED TAXES**  
Duty on high-definition television (HDTV) sets imported through baggage rules has been increased by 233 to 500 percent in the current budget.

The budget imposed Tk 15,000 per set duty on 21-inch Plasma, LCD, TFT or similar type of televisions while the duty will be Tk 20,000 for television sets between 22-inch and 29-inch sizes. The previous duty on such television set was Tk 2,500 and Tk 6,000.

The same SRO says Tk 35,000 per set duty has been fixed for 30-inch to 42-inch HDTV and Tk 50,000 for sets the size of 43-inch and above.

Taxes on different qualities of cigarettes have been increased by 6-17 percent as the budget restructured the price ranges of cigarettes. According to the new price range, taxes on low quality cigarettes will be increased by 12 percent, medium quality by eight percent, high quality by six percent and premium quality by 17 percent.

NBR sources said the government's annual revenue from the tobacco sector is now about Tk 3,000 crore and they hoped that the new tax structure will add another Tk 350 crore revenue.

Import duty on mobile phone sets has been fixed between Tk 100 and

Tk 300; it was Tk 500 in the proposed budget. The approved budget also lowered taxes on SIM cards to 20 percent from 60 percent of the proposed budget. The budget, however, brought the SIM card providers under the VAT net.

Specialised physicians, immigration advisers and lawyers will have to pay 4.5 percent VAT on their fees while dental clinics will have to pay 2.25 percent VAT on their earnings. Earlier, the budget had proposed 15 percent VAT on them.

Import stage VAT on telecommunications machinery and computer monitor (import and production stage) has been withdrawn in the final budget.

The duty on computer and accessories was fixed at five percent from the proposed 10 percent. To support the local industries, the government withdrew 10 percent supplementary duty on skin cream at production stage and 20 percent supplementary duty on air conditioner parts at import level.

The budget exempted import duties on newspaper only for newspaper uses. Newspaper owners can enjoy zero tariffs in importing newsprint following quotas fixed by the information and commerce ministries.

Commercial importers, however, will have to pay 25 percent duty as per the previous approved budget.

The appeal tribunal fee has been increased to Tk 1,000 from Tk 500.

## Mahbub

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newspapers brought out stories that the ACC has appointed a "corrupt person" as its chief prosecutor.

Advocate Mahbub, also a former BNP lawmaker, sent his resignation letter to the ACC Chairman Lt Gen (ret'd) Hasan Mashud Chowdhury at around 12:00noon by his personal secretary.

In his resignation letter, he thanked the ACC chief for appointing him as the chief prosecutor. The letter that he read out for The Daily Star over phone said that he has support for the ongoing anti-corruption drive by the government and the ACC and his support will continue in future.

Mahbub said that he is planning to leave for Bangkok within a week to have a medical check up.

Media reports at different times hinted at his involvement in corruption. The now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption sought wealth accounts from him in 1994, but he did not submit that. He, however, claims that the chapter had been closed by the highest court.

## Danish detective

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days back and security forces are still conducting search operations to rescue him as well as to capture his abductors.

Meanwhile, joint forces yesterday arrested two more indigenous people that included a local journalist, Ma Maw Pru, on suspicion of having links with the abduction. Over 20 people have been arrested so far after the kidnapping. The other arrestee is Aung Sa Thui Karbari.

As the security forces continue to interrogate the arrestees, one of the arrestees had confirmed that Sumon is still alive and in good health, a source in the security forces said.

The source also said that at one time the security forces came very close to the abductors, but failed to capture the criminals as they cleverly took an unanticipated detour.

Troops in hundreds have been dropped off helicopters at Madak, Yangrai and different points near the border to make sure that the abductors cannot cross the border and flee to Myanmar.

Brig Gen Ziaul Hasan, commander of the army's Bandabari region, yesterday inspected the rugged terrain of the bordering areas in a military helicopter. Superintendent of Police Mohammad Abdul Kader also visited different police camps at Thanchhi.

## Ulfa offers talks, but strings attached

AFP, Guwahati

One of the main rebel groups fighting central government rule in northeastern India said Sunday it was ready for new peace talks with New Delhi but stuck by its demand for independence.

The separatist United Liberation Front of Assom (Ulfa) called on India to organise a referendum under United Nations supervision to assess public reaction to independence for the oil, timber and tea-rich state of Assam.

"We have all along been willing to hold talks for a respectable solution to the problem," the outlawed group said in a statement in its fortnightly newsletter, Freedom.

"We once again reiterate that if any proposal (from New Delhi) for a respectable solution to the problem is routed through the People's Consultative Group, we are ready to consider," it said, referring to a now defunct civilian panel it nominated two years ago to hold talks with New Delhi.

## Yunus

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micro-loans go to women, who use them to start their own profit-making enterprises, mainly in agriculture, crafts, or services."

Grameen Bank now has 2,422 branches, employs more than 20,000 people, and has given loans of more than \$6 billion since its founding. Borrowers own most of the equity in the bank. The company has been profitable in all but three years since it was founded, it said.

The other persons bracketed with Prof Yunus are Zheng He (1371-1433), Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), Mayer Amschel Rothschild (1744-1812), John Jacob Astor (1763-1848), John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937), Thomas Edison (1847-1931), Milton Hershey (1857-1945), W.K. Kellogg (1860-1951), Joseph Horn (1861-1941) and Frank Hardart (1850-1918), Henry Ford (1863-1947), Ray Kroc (1902-1984), Madam CJ Walker (1867-1919), Estée Lauder (1907-2004), Ernest Gallo (1909-2007), Thomas Watson Sr. (1874-1956), Thomas Watson Jr. (1914-1993), Sam Walton (1918-1992), Earl Graves (1935), Andy Grove (1936), Ralph Lauren (1939), Martha Stewart (1941), Azim Premji (1945), Richard Branson (1950), Oprah Winfrey (1954), Steve Jobs (1955), Bill Gates (1955), Jeff Bezos (1964), Michael Dell (1965) and Pierre Omidyar (1967).

Earlier on May 22, a special court sentenced Harris to three years' imprisonment for not submitting his wealth statements to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) within the stipulated timeframe.

**MAMUN'S ARMS CASE**  
Mamun pleaded not guilty and demanded justice yesterday after Judge Abul Bashir of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court read out statements from 26 prosecution witnesses in connection with the arms case.

In his written statement, Mamun mentioned that the joint forces arrested him along with three others from a house at Paltan on January 31 and later they were blindfolded, handcuffed and taken to an unknown place.

After being kept under custody for a long time, he was forwarded to a Dhaka court on March 26. And he was implicated in an arms case, even though it was false, fabricated and concocted, goes the statement. Mamun appealed to the court to acquit him of the charges of the arms case.

Earlier, the court had recorded statements of 26 prosecution witnesses including the complainant and IO of the case.

The court fixed today for hearing on arguments of the case.

**HUDA'S EXTORTION CASE**  
Detained Nazmul Huda was shown arrested yesterday in the case filed against him for extorting Tk 10 lakh from a construction firm owner.

Metropolitan Magistrate Shafique Anwar passed the order after the IO of the case Mohammad Yunus submitted a petition to show Huda arrested in the case.

Two other accused in the case are Nazmul Huda's wife Sigma

## Indoor politics

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impact of party politics.

On reforms proposed by different parties, he said the reforms must be implemented to make democracy a success. Reforms are also needed to establish democracy within parties. "The reforms are not for old and failed political leadership."

He said enough time is still left and it would be possible to complete the parliamentary elections by 2008. "It must be kept in mind that we've started with a broken house. There was political crisis and the crisis was (also) there to run the caretaker government."

The adviser said the process of separating the judiciary from the executive has started as the related rules came into force from yesterday.

Meanwhile, Communications Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin told the reporters that corrupt politicians, even if engaged in their party reform process, would not be spared.

## Parties unwilling

**FROM PAGE 1**  
journalists and held discussion on proposed electoral reforms. Some other NGOs are scheduled to meet the EC this week.

In a bid to complete the tasks for electoral reforms by July, Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda on April 4 at a meeting with the law adviser asked the government to withdraw the embargo on indoor politics allowing the EC to hold talks with the political parties.

While the possibility of completing the tasks for electoral reforms by July seems very slim, Election Commissioner Sohul yesterday said there will not be any problem if the task for electoral reforms is delayed.

He said they are now confident about doing the massive task after success of the pilot project to gather field level experience for simultaneously preparing the voter list with photographs and national identity cards.

"We will be able to complete all the tasks within the stipulated time for holding the parliamentary election. We will also have to do some tough tasks like including Bangladesh expatriates and enclave dwellers in the electoral rolls," he said.

The EC will have to demarcate the constituencies too.

The EC yesterday held a meeting with the field level election officials of the Sipur pilot project to review the experiences gathered in the project conducted from June 10 to June 30.

# Charges pressed

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showing 18 people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrant against Harris and order to attach his properties. The charge sheet will be placed before the court for hearing on its acceptance.

On February 4, the joint forces seized two briefcases with the currencies from the house of Harris' Gulshan residence.

The briefcases were opened on April 2 in the presence of Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali Reza and the foreign currencies were found, sources said.

According to the statement, Harris hoarded foreign currencies worth about Tk 5.64 lakh with a plan to smuggle those abroad.

On April 9, Gulshan police filed the case against Harris under the Money Laundering Act.

Earlier on May 22, a special court sentenced Harris to three years' imprisonment for not submitting his wealth statements to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) within the stipulated timeframe.

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## 4 hurt

**FROM PAGE 16**  
bang, injuring Shabbir and three others.

People of the village near the Uttarkul border outpost of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) got panicked thinking it an attack by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

The mortar shell might have been lying abandoned since July last year, when the BDR and BSF during their fortnight-long gunfight traded several thousand gunshots and mortar shells, a BDR official said.

## B Chy-led LDP

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at the event, demanded political reforms in national level also including reforming the parliament, Election Commission and the electoral process.

He also proposed that the posts of advisers to governments should be abolished, and said campaign posters of candidates in national elections should be allowed to have photographs of the candidate and of the chief of the party he or she represents.

Badruddoza elaborated on the draft reform proposal addressing national issues and suggested that the independence of the Election Commission needs to be ensured.

He also proposed more power for the speaker of the parliament and suggested that 100 more seats should be added to the parliament.

## Tarique's wife

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Criminal Investigation Department (CID) official Captain Zinia are the other members of the team.

Tarique, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General, submitted his wealth statement to the anti-graft body on June 10. There, he mentioned that his wife has inherited huge wealth from her parents.

Asked about the interrogation, Zahurul said the details could not be disclosed for the sake of fair investigation.

"We asked Tarique's wife and mother-in-law about the wealth statement that was submitted to the ACC. Nothing more can I disclose at the moment," he told the reporters, coming out of the house No. 80 on Road No. 5.

Advocate Ahmed Azam Khan, one of Tarique's lawyers, said the taskforce members came to examine the documents of Zubaida Khan, especially the five houses that she co-owns with others.

Huda and Alena Khan.

Wahidur Rahman Azad, a construction contractor of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD), filed the extortion case against Huda and two others on June 26.

According to a case filed with Tejgaon Police Station, Huda called Wahidur Rahman Azad, the complainant, to BSEHR (Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights) office in February 2003 and demanded Tk 10 lakh in cash.

Huda also gave an alternative to Azad, asking him to construct a conference room for the organisation.

Azad said he agreed to build the conference room due to continuous pressure from Huda and it cost him Tk 5.5 lakh.

On completion of the work in three months, Azad demanded the money he spent for the work from Huda, Sigma and Alena but they threatened to create problem in getting his payments from the RHD if he demanded the money, alleged the plaintiff.

Huda is a member of the national committee of the BSEHR, Sigma is its secretary general and Alena Khan is its executive director.

**HARRIS' RELATIVE REMANDED**  
A Dhaka court yesterday placed the driver and a brother-in-law of Harris Chowdhury on five-day remand.

Metropolitan Magistrate Jagannath Das Khokon passed the order after ACC Assistant Director Shafiqul Alam Siddiqui produced Harris Chowdhury's driver Abdus Salam and brother-in-law Mohammad Masum before the court with a seven-day remand prayer for each for interrogation.

The case was filed with Dharmdondi Police Station against Orion Group Chairman Obaidul Karim, Harris and three others involving a luxury car worth about Tk 3 crore.

# Thousands of Thais protest against coup

AFP, Bangkok

More than 10,000 anti-coup protesters, organised by allies of ousted premier Thaksin Shinawatra, marched through central Bangkok on Sunday to demand that the junta step down, police said.

The protesters marched peacefully through Bangkok's historic district, wearing yellow headbands in honor of Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej while carrying banners reading "Junta get out!"

The marchers wanted to end their protest outside the home of Prem Tinsulanond, the king's top royal adviser who has been accused by Thaksin's allies of masterminding the coup last September.

But 2,000 unarmed police blocked the road about 200 metres (220 yards) from Prem's home.

"We cannot allow them to approach his house because someone could try to cause trouble," Manit Wongsomboon, a police major general, told AFP.

Thaksin's allies have staged nightly protests since late May to demand that the junta step down and that elections be held immediately. Sunday's demonstration was the largest in two weeks.

Army-installed Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont earlier Sunday cast doubt on whether elections would be held as promised by the end of the year. Just two weeks ago he had suggested that polls could be held in November.

## Forest boss Gani

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the forest boss before it and sought a seven-day remand in a case filed with Uttara Police Station for illegally possessing four passports.

Arrested on May 29, the forest boss was earlier taken on remand for 12 days under the Emergency Power Rules and for possessing four passports illegally.

In the forwarding statement the IO mentioned that Osman Gani was taken on a three-day remand in the case earlier, but he did not divulge comprehensive information about the illegal possession of passports.

The IO also said Gani needs to be taken into fresh remand to find out about his involvement in corruption and whether he possesses more illegal passports.

Joint forces so far recovered 289 tolas of gold ornaments from his locker at a bank and from his Uttara residence they seized Tk 6.95 lakh in cash, savings certificates worth over Tk 5 lakh and ownership documents of flats and plots.

Meanwhile, the same court granted a seven-day fresh remand against Ali Kabir Haider, conservator of forests for Dhaka division, after Jatrabari police produced the arrestee before the court and placed a seven-day remand prayer in a case filed under the Emergency Power Rules.

The police produced him before the court upon completion of his five-day remand in the same case and requested for a fresh remand to gather information about his ill-gotten money.

## Reformists

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changes in the reform proposals unveiled on June 25.

Major Hafiz, also a former minister, said one of the changes suggests that no one should be elected district level president and general secretary for more than three terms.

Earlier, they declared that none would be allowed to become chairman or secretary general more than twice.

Lauding the party chief for her stand in favour of council, BNP Joint Secretary General Ashraf Hossain said, "I couldn't agree more [with her]. No one had any chance to give their opinions as there was no council in the last 14 years."

He maintained that the proposed reforms would be implemented according to the party constitution.

Queried if the reform proposals have reached the leaders down to the grassroots level, Ashraf, a close aide to Mannan Bhuiyan, said they could not yet send the proposals to everyone due mainly to the ban on indoor politics.

"I would like to thank her as she has finally acknowledged the need for holding a council," Ziaul Haque Mollah, former lawmaker from Bogra, told reporters after meeting Bhuiyan yesterday.

About Khaleda's comment that everyone would have to be allowed to speak at the council, Engineer Shahiduzzaman, another former lawmaker, said, "First, we'll have to find out if all the councillors are still alive as it's been 14 years since the last council took place."

Khaleda Zia is confident the councillors will still prefer her at the helm if the council were held in a democratic way, said sources close to her.

However, the pro-reform leaders believe the next council will reject her and choose a new leadership in the light of the proposed reforms. They are convinced that maximum councillors will side with them to ensure intra-party democracy.

## University

**FROM PAGE 16**  
requirements for setting up a public university. The education ministry will approve it within a few months. It will be a university with many branches. All educational institutes run by the armed forces will be incorporated into this university."

Bangladesh Army runs different educational institutes, including the Staff College, National Defence College, and Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST). Most of these institutes impart graduate and post graduate degrees mainly under Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), National University, Dhaka University and Chittagong University.

The committee visited the MIST campus in Dhaka Cantonment and primarily decided to set up the main campus of the university there as the MIST already has sufficient structural facilities, UGC sources said.

"The MIST offers different courses in science, civil engineering, electrical engineering and MBA. In addition to these, new courses will be launched at the BUP," a committee member said.

He also said the top posts including that of vice chancellor will be filled with armed forces personnel.

Around 40 percent seats at the university will be reserved for armed forces personnel as well as their family members while the rest will be open for all.

The education ministry will permit setting up of the university after the UGC approves the draft proposal submitted by the committee.

The Board of Armed Forces appealed to the education ministry and the UGC seeking permission to set up a public university.

## 8 held

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the business for the last two to three years and staying at the Wari house as tenant for last six months.

They said a portion of the seized addictive drug was to be given to the drug peddlers of Agargaon BNP slum market and Kamalapur areas on the same night while the rest to other peddlers in the capital in three days.

Earlier on May 31, narcotics department officials seized 2.6 kg heroin worth over Tk 2.6 crore and a huge quantity of contraband Yaba tablets raiding a students' mess at Shiddeswari in the capital and arrested two youths including a student of Stamford University.

## Talukder Khaleque

**FROM PAGE 16**  
relief and disaster management is also the president of Khulna City Awami League. Law enforcers picked him up along with seven others on the night of June 28 from a house at Gagan Babu Road in Khulna sadar thana. The arrestees also included M Makbul Hossain, superintendent of drug and narcotics control department.

The law enforcers also seized two decks of cards and Tk 22,500 during the raid at the house.

The arrestees were shown arrested under sections 3 and 4 of Gambling Act 1967 and sent to jail on June 29.

# Kuwait may regularise

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Kuwait but the manpower recruiting agencies estimate the number at around 30,000.

"Although we did not receive any official letters from Kuwait, we are convinced that the country now prefers to regularise the workers instead of extending the amnesty period," the official said requesting anonymity.

The official said that Bangladesh has always tried to convince the Kuwaiti government to consider the irregular workers' case on humanitarian grounds.

Since the declaration of the amnesty in April, Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait has been in touch with the Kuwaiti authorities about the issue of irregular workers, he said adding that the Kuwaiti authorities have responded to the requests positively. Moreover, the foreign ministry discussed the issue with the Kuwaiti embassy in Dhaka.

Sources in the foreign ministry and expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry said that the workers become illegal due to various reasons including change of jobs for higher wages and for living there without renewing job contracts.

Manpower migration experts say that high cost of migration and low wages force many migrant workers in the Middle East countries including Kuwait to change their jobs, which turn

them into illegal workers.

In many cases, the employers do not pay as per their commitments forcing the workers to leave their jobs and join new ones leaving their passports with former legal employers, they observed.

Kuwait has stopped hiring Bangladeshi workers in the last quarter of 2006 without showing any reason.

Manpower agencies said a section of Bangladeshi workers there are involved in illegal visa trade, forging of work permits and even in immoral activities. All these might have prompted the Kuwaiti authorities to go for such a step, they added.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Labour Minister Sabah Khaled Al-Hamd Al Sabah during a recent meeting with Labour and Employment Adviser Anwarul Iqbal in Geneva said that both the countries are facing various difficulties in labour recruitment for illegal activities of some recruiting agencies.

He told the labour and employment adviser that Kuwait is going to formulate a law on employing foreign workers and only then will start discussion with Bangladesh on new recruitment from Bangladesh.

# Britain on 'critical'

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Saturday, shattering glass doors just yards from passengers at the check-in counters. Police said they believed the attack was linked to two car bombs found in London the day before.

One of the men in the car was in critical condition at a hospital with severe burns, while the other was in police custody, said Scottish Police Chief Constable Willie Rae. Five bystanders in Glasgow were wounded, although none seriously, police said.

Rae said a suspect device had been found on a man wrestled to the ground by officers and hospitalised