

Safeguard tax

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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

DCC's budget

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This year the DCC allocated Tk 15 crore for mosquito control as it did the previous year.

A Tk 1098.91 crore development expenditure has been set on expectation that the government and other development agencies will finance different projects.

According to the budget, Tk 100 crore will come from the government block allocation, Tk 150 crore from special allocation, Tk 619.43 crore from either the government or foreign funded projects and private investments, and Tk 9 crore from other sectors.

In his budget speech, DCC Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka reemphasised formation of a metropolitan government to meet the requirements of the city dwellers in a more convenient way.

Brig Gen Ziaul Hasan, commander of the army's Bandarban 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 Thanchi.

He said the DCC would intensify drive for tax collection and widen the tax net.

Khoka said corruption has been prevailing in several departments of the city corporation since the British era and it is not anybody's job to remove corruption from the DCC offices overnight.

He also urged the government to draw a plan for Dhaka for the next 50 years.

Holding tax is the single largest source of revenue earnings for the DCC. This year the corporation expects Tk 230 crore from holding tax. Last year, the DCC realised Tk 158 crore holding tax.

The projects, to be implemented under the government and foreign funds and private investments in the current fiscal, include Tk 30 crore landfill project at Aminbazar under solid waste management programme, Tk 85.02 crore for four wholesale kitchen market development project and Tk 300 crore for Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover.

The new budget also allocated Tk 40 crore for supermarket-cum-housing complex project at Banani and Tk 30 crore for construction of a commercial market and building at Gulshan-2.

Khoka announced his first DCC budget of Tk 677.34 crore for the 2002-03 fiscal year, followed by Tk 762.96 crore, Tk 922.01 crore, Tk 1,247.72 crore and Tk 1,505 crore for the following years.

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 C.J. 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).

Shops

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800pm. But any decision should come from the advisory council.

He told the shop owners' delegation that the proposal would be placed at the next meeting of the advisory council.

A delegation was led by Amir Hossain of Bangladesh Shop Owners Association (BSOA) and Helal Uddin of Dhaka Metropolitan Shop Owners Association (DMSA).

Against the backdrop of country-wide nagging power crisis, the caretaker government restricted the shopping time up till 7:00pm from February 25 this year. But the shop owners have been demanding one-hour extension of the timings.

The adviser disclosed that the restrictions on the shopping centres helped save 300MW to 400MW electricity across the country.

The leaders of the shop owners at the meeting said they had to incur huge losses due to curtailing the business hours. They claimed that normally 30 percent of their business takes place in the period between 7:00pm and 8:00pm.

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 kidnap. 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.

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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 Assam (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.

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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.

MAMUN'S ARMS CASE

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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

4 hurt

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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.

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 (retd) MA Matin told the reporters that corrupt politicians, even if engaged in their party reform process, would not be spared.

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