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HC declares tax evasion case against Tuku illegal

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday declared null and void the tax evasion case against former state minister for power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Tuku.

A two-judge bench headed by Justice M A Rashid pronounced the judgment.

National Board of Revenue filed the case, accusing Tuku of evading over Tk 3.80 crore in income tax from 1999 through 2007.

Earlier on August 29, the High Court, upon a petition, stayed the

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37 Pak judges sent into retirement

All of them refused to approve emergency rule

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's government has formally retired 37 judges, including the former chief justice, who refused to approve President Pervez Musharraf's emergency rule, the attorney general said yesterday.

The judges declined to take a fresh oath of allegiance after Musharraf imposed the state of emergency on November 3, citing as one major factor the judiciary's

"interference" in government.

Pakistan's opposition parties, including those led by ex-premiers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif have called for the judges, led by outspoken chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, to be restored.

"Thirteen judges of the Supreme Court and 24 judges of the high courts of Lahore, Peshawar and Sindh stand retired with the issuance of notification by the law ministry," Attorney General Malik

Muhammad Qayyum told AFP.

Qayyum said the judges were not entitled to any post-retirement benefits.

"However, the government will soon enact a law to enable these judges to get these benefits," he added.

He said the retired judges would also have to vacate their official residences for their successors.

Many of the judges however say that they remain under effective

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

BB mulls waiving agri loans in Sidr-hit areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday said the central bank is measuring the possibilities of waiving agriculture loans in the Sidr-hit districts in the country's southwest region.

"We will assess the ways of waiving bank loans as well as its implications in the banking sector and then submit a proposal to the government authorities concerned," Salehuddin told newsmen in reply to a query in reference to a similar request to banks and NGOs made by the army chief.

The BB governor was briefing the newsmen at his office on his recent visit to two Sidr-hit districts-

-Barisal and Khulna.

The central bank has also set a target of distributing Tk 1,700 crore as agriculture loans in the two regions to recover agricultural damage in the area due to cyclone Sidr.

On waiver of loans given by NGOs, Salehuddin said the non-government organisations are discussing the issue among themselves and the government hopes that they will reach a decision soon.

The central bank governor, however, said only credit facilities will not be a successful way to recover economy. He stressed the need for proper and timely supply of fertiliser, seeds and irrigation for

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

SAARC FMs MEET BEGINS SATURDAY Regional Development Fund, connectivity high on agenda

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The Saarc foreign ministers' meet beginning here on Saturday is expected to give a concrete shape to the proposed Regional Development Fund, intra-region transport connectivity and telemedicine network.

The two-day meeting will also review progress on various other proposals, including the setting up of Saarc Food Bank, Investor Protection Agreement and South

Asian University, and a plan for the next Saarc summit.

"Saarc has moved from declaratory to implementation stage, and we hope the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers can look at these and move towards implementation," Indian Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon said briefing reporters here Tuesday evening on the upcoming event.

"We have talked to each other and worked out the outlines of

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

Rab seizes huge internet TV kits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the first ever seizure of Internet Protocol Television Broadcasting (IPTB) equipment in the country, a rather new system of television broadcasting through the internet, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized a large quantity of them in the capital.

The drive was carried out in cooperation with officials of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

IPTB is a new system of providing television broadcasting service through cable TV operators, needing fibre optics facility for carrying the signal. Consumers can watch TV on the internet using the service if they are on the users log and have passwords to get access.

The service providers have to

create user groups using an intranet system, and they have to provide configured CPUs to the consumers.

According to sources, Cable Entertainment Ltd (CEL), a sister concern of MGH Group, launched the IPTB service on a small scale having only six patch panels, each of which has the capacity of providing the service to a maximum of 48 to 50 clients.

BTRC and Rab sources said they discovered the patch panels at six places in the city's upscale Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara areas, which are of narrow bandwidths.

After raiding the IPTB centres, BTRC Assistant Director Onamika Bhakta filed a case against CEL with the city's Gulshan police on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



PHOTO: STAR

A 'mobile lady' inserts queries of a village woman in an internet enabled laptop to provide her with answers.

Bid to hook rural people to info

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

A fisherman in a coastal village wakes up one morning to find ominous clouds looming on the horizon, he turns the switch his battery-run radio on, just to find the batteries down.

He moves around his humble hut impatiently for a while and then conjures all his courage deciding to sail out to the ocean hoping to get back home early before the dark clouds may rain death on him and his peers.

A storm appears earlier than he anticipated, trapping him and his peers in the mid-sea, beckoning their doom as his last wish flashes through his

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

EXTORTION CASE Charges pressed against Huda, Sigma

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Dhanmondi police yesterday pressed charges against detained former communications minister Nazmul Huda and his wife Advocate Sigma Huda in a Tk 3.95 lakh extortion case.

Meantime, a Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Hasina Ahmed, wife of detained former state minister for communications Salahuddin

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

ACC sues Aminul Haque, ex-MP Hashem for ill-gotten wealth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed separate cases against former post and telecommunications minister Aminul Haque and detained Partex Group chairman and former BNP lawmaker MA Hashem for amassing wealth illegally beyond known sources of income.

Meanwhile, five of the 11

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Agargaon open drug market demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers have evacuated the open drug market in BNP Palli at Agargaon in the city following a report published in The Daily Star on December 3.

Reserve police and forces from Mohammadpur Police Station have remained deployed in the whole area since raiding the spot Tuesday noon and demolishing the drug-selling shops.

Police personnel at all the

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Prayer Timing		
December 6		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
5:15	5:15	5:50
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	3:45	4:00
Maghrib	5:19	5:22
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

10th Annual General Meeting

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