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| ▼ 1.54% | ▼ 1.36% | | \$1,525.00 | \$94.36 | | ▼ 0.64% | ▼ 0.64% | ▼ 0.49% | 73.85 | 103.41 | 117.30 |
| 5,686.72 | 10,190.81 | | (per ounce) | (per barrel) | | 17,870.53 | 9,351.40 | 3,005.28 | BUY TK | | 0.91 |
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BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY JUNE 20, 2011, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

NBR takes up massive facelift plan

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) will be made more powerful and modern through amending a law, digitising its activities and reining in tax evasion.

Primary data centres (PDCs) will be set up across the country for massive digitisation of the tax administrator, and steps will be taken to regulate the delinquent taxpayers under a modernisation plan.

The steps are being taken under a five-year plan, which was presented in parliament recently.

Under the scheme, tax policy unit of the NBR will be separated from tax enforcement, according to an outline

of the modernisation plan.

Through the automated system, the NBR collection teams will call up delinquent taxpayers through periodic calls and reach them through reminder letters.

If those taxpayers do not respond to three calls and two reminders, steps will be taken against them through law enforcement agencies and money will be realised through selling their furniture, utensils and other assets, the plan said.

The NBR will establish centralised hardware architecture to cover the whole country under which a PDC will be set up at the data centre of Bangladesh Computer Council in Dhaka.

The PDC will be linked to a business

continuity centre (BCC) located in a different building in Dhaka. This, in turn will be connected, along with the PDC, to a disaster recovery centre (DRC) to be located in an NBR building in Rajshahi or within another zone.

This will serve as a backbone for information technology for the tax administrator and will be linked to client machines across all locations covering income tax, VAT and import tax under the NBR.

The entire database activities and transaction processing will be carried out at the PDC and will be mirrored and mimicked at the BCC/DRC. The data centre and the network are intended to be established through a systems inte-

grator project, possibly under a build-operate-transfer model.

Under the project, it is planned to establish an integrated tax accounting system, which will be able to verify tax payment claims against actual receipt by the government.

The tax administrator will also replace taxpayer identification number (TIN) by an efficient nationally unique number on new TIN, which will also be linked with national ID number.

The programme will centralise the database and maintain high service standards. It will also allot a TIN card to each TIN applicant under a promised service turn-around time.

The modernisation plan will also

bring in 100 or more applications and services for the applicants. It will also set up an e-filing portal for remote online application and also put in place an express service for urgent cases.

The programme will be launched under a managed service model in a public-private partnership framework.

The business identification number programme for registering businesses and branches of businesses for VAT administration is also being revamped and a new series of VAT is being allotted that would follow up, and be derived from the TIN. This will enable proper management of VAT payers.

The modernisation plan intends to reorient the NBR away from the tradi-

tional department of the government to one that is run as a corporate entity with the focus on management rather than administration. This requires redefining the role of the NBR and its relation with the government.

The objective of the plan is to give the NBR a corporate entity with autonomy of financial, organisational, personnel and performance matters and also empowering it to make investments from revenue collection and implement transparent tax policies in an integrated manner.

The separation of the tax policy unit of the NBR from tax enforcement will strengthen the tax administrator to support its new and redefined role.



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