

## ONLINE TAX REFUND NBR needs more time to finish tasks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Taxpayers will have to wait for one more year to get refunds of their extra payments online as the National Board Revenue (NBR) has not yet completed all tasks.

The revenue authority said the refund of extra payments online requires taxpayers to submit returns online.

A central processing centre (CPC) should also be established to analyse payment information and taxpayers' income for calculating taxes and refund online.

By June next year, these tasks are likely to be complete, enabling taxpayers to get refunds in their accounts automatically and relieve them of the hassles of visiting tax offices to complete formalities, according to the NBR yesterday.

"We are working to establish CPC," said NBR Chairman Nasiruddin Ahmed at a programme on e-payment of taxes at Radisson Water Garden Hotel.

Ahmed spoke while responding to queries of taxpayers on when they will get refund of extra money in their accounts automatically.

Taxpayers, including individual and companies, tax practitioners and chartered accountants attended the programme organised by the NBR to aware stakeholders about its initiative to open e-payment gateway of taxes beginning from May 26.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the e-payment system which is expected to ease hassles of taxpayers as the method will enable taxpayers, including companies, to pay income tax, value-added tax and customs duties online.

The NBR is going to launch the e-payment gateway by linking a tripartite agreement with Sonali Bank and Q Cash, an electronic fund transfer service provider.

## BNP MP Khokon gets bail on surrender

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP lawmaker Barrister Mahub Uddin Khokon secured bail till May 20 nearly three hours after his surrender before a Dhaka court yesterday in an arson case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Erfanullah granted the bail upon a bond of Tk 10,000 with two grantors.

Before final hearing, Taherul Islam Touhid, a counsel of Khokon, filed a bail petition before the magistrate court immediately after the surrender of the BNP leader.

The metropolitan magistrate passed the bail order after holding a lengthy hearing on the bail petition.

With permission from the court, Khokon said he was not present at the spot during the time of occurrence and a lawmaker like him cannot commit such offences.

Tejgaon police filed the case against Khokon and some other BNP men a couple of hours after a vehicle was torched near the Prime Minister's Office during the April 29 shutdown.

Khokon on April 3 secured an anticipatory bail from an HC bench in connection with the case.

Earlier on May 2, two HC judges delivered dissenting orders on the bail petition after he surrendered before it seeking an anticipatory bail in the case.

The presiding judge granted anticipatory bail to Khokon till yesterday and asked him to surrender before the trial court by this period while the other judge rejected his bail petition.

## SHIBIR MEN MISSING SC stays HC summon on IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed for four weeks a High Court (HC) order that summoned the inspector general of police (IGP) in connection with the disappearances of two Islamist Chhatra Shibir leaders from Savar in February.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order following a petition filed by the government yesterday seeking a stay order on the HC order.

After hearing on two separate writ petitions filed by two relatives of the missing leaders, the HC on May 8 summoned the IGP, asking him to appear before it on May 16 in connection with the incident.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses the inauguration of the 'Cultural Diversity Ministerial Forum of the Asia Pacific Region 2012' at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday.

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY MINISTERIAL FORUM LAUNCHED

# Protect culture for development: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to stand firm and be united for creating harmonious diversity to provide more colourful, beautiful and peaceful world for future generations.

"Let us stand firm and united in our endeavor for harmonious diversity and let the thousand flowers representing our unique cultural diversities blossom and bloom making our world more colourful, beautiful and peaceful for our children and future generations," she said while inaugurating the Cultural Diversity Ministerial Forum of the Asia-Pacific Region 2012 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

Hasina also called for sharing each other's culture and heritage that have the strength to overcome the fearsome forces of terrorism, extremism and other challenges facing the globalized world.

She said Bangladesh is one of the few countries whose constitution ensures protection and promotion of diversity of cultural expressions. "Our constitution commits us to identify, evaluate, safeguard, and utilise all our cultural activities, traditional or modern, for aesthetic or economic benefit of our people."

The prime minister said Bangladesh already ratified the Unesco 'Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions' in 2007.

"I hope all the remaining countries of the Asia-

Pacific region will likewise do the same to protect, promote and enrich their unique cultural expressions."

She noted that in recent years, there has been a worldwide recognition of culture as a source of self-enrichment, sustainable development, poverty eradication, empowerment of the people and their active role in national development.

"It has also led to huge cultural industry emerging around the world requiring measures to be taken for nourishing and protecting indigenous cultural practices."

For this, Hasina said, a survey of the cultural expressions, their evaluation, and intellectual protection of individual countries is essential. "Bangladesh has already conducted such a survey."

She said in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Bangladesh has also conducted a survey of its traditional cultural expressions and found that items like Zamdani, Nakshikantha, Tangail Saree, Muslin silk, Baul and mystic songs, and others contribute significantly to the national GDP.

Most developing countries will benefit in the same way through a survey, she added.

The prime minister said the Asia-Pacific region comprises 60 per cent of the world's population and some of the oldest human civilizations.

"As we experience the ways of life and culture of the peoples of the individual Pacific island countries at one end and the other countries in the dif-

ferent sub-regions of Asia at the other end, we are overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of beauty, charm and colour of the array of vibrant cultures reflected by the many races, ethnicities, faiths, and heritages comprising the Asia-Pacific Region."

"Indeed," she said, "I believe our cultures do contribute significantly to the beauty of our world and make our lives fulfilling."

Hasina expressed the hope that the Ministerial Forum will help flourish the multi-cultural nature of the region, and strengthen the argument that diversity and unity of world cultures, as defined in the Unesco convention 2005, "is quite in conformity with protecting and preserving our cultural expressions."

"I also believe this Forum on Cultural Diversity will further the cause of tolerance, democracy, human rights, and cumulative cooperation for cultural diversity for realisation of long lasting world peace," she said.

Later, the prime minister witnessed a cultural programme.

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad presided over the inaugural session of the three-day event. Ministerial level officials of 44 countries are taking part in the forum.

Director General of Unesco Irina Bokova, Vice President of Kiribati Teima Onorio and State Minister for Cultural Affairs Advocate Promode Mankin also addressed the session. Cultural Affairs secretary Surayia Begum gave the welcome address.



## Russia wants to enhance cooperation

Says new envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The newly appointed Russian Federation Ambassador to Bangladesh Alexander A Nikolaev has said his country is keen to increase cooperation with Bangladesh.

He made the remark while presenting his credentials to President Zillur Rahman on March 8. Nikolaev has succeeded Ambassador Dr Gennady P Trotsenko.

Prior to his appointment as ambassador to Bangladesh, he had been serving as the deputy director of the Second Asian Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation since 2010.

Born in 1950, Nikolaev graduated from Moscow State University of International Relations (MGIMO) in 1973 and joined in the diplomatic service the same year.

He worked at the Embassy of the USSR in Vietnam (1973-1977), Embassy of the USSR in the Philippines (1981-1984), Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the European Union in Brussels (1993-1998).

In 1998-1999, Nikolaev headed the Reconstruction Division in the OSCE's Mission to Kosovo (ex-Yugoslavia). In 2003-2008, he served as the Consul General of the Russian Federation in Simferopol and Sevastopol (Crimea, Ukraine).

During the year 2008-2009, he was Head of Division of the Federal Agency for Commonwealth of Independent States' Affairs, Compatriots Abroad, and International Humanitarian Cooperation (Russian Cooperation Agency).



BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir addresses a protest rally organised by the BNP-led 18-party alliance before the party's Naya Paltan office in the capital yesterday.

## Talks outside JS useless: Nasim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Calling upon the opposition party leaders to come to parliament to resolve political problems, Awami League (AL) leader Mohammad Nasim yesterday said holding political talks outside the parliament will not be fruitful.

The former home minister was addressing a discussion organised by Desh Ratna Parishad at the capital's Jatiya Press Club marking the 8th death anniversary of AL leader Ahsanullah Master.

Referring to the recent visit by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, he said "As a friend they may say many things but none should worry about those."

"We will solve our problems."

He, however, said BNP joined hands with people who were allegedly involved in war crimes and killing and AL can not sit for talks with these people.

Ahsanullah Master, a freedom fighter, former lawmaker from Gazipur-2 constituency and also a Srantik League leader, was shot dead by miscreants at Noagaon MA Majid Mia High School ground on May 7, 2004.

Later, a court sentenced 22 people to death and six others to imprisonment over the murder.

## Inspector jailed for not submitting wealth info

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a customs inspector to two years' rigorous imprisonment in a case filed against him for not submitting wealth statements to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Judge Fozila Begum of the Special Judge Court-6 handed down the verdict in presence of Mohammad Delwar Hossain, the inspector of customs, excise and value added tax (Armanitola Circle) Dhaka South and ordered to send him to jail.

The court also cancelled the earlier bail of Delwar who was present at the court during the verdict.

**“নিশ্চিত  
বিনিয়োগের  
এখনই সময়”**

বর্তমান অর্থ বাজারের সামগ্রিক অবস্থার প্রেক্ষাপটে  
বাণিজ্যিক স্পেস, এ্যাপার্টমেন্ট কিংবা হোটেল-রিসোর্টে  
বিনিয়োগই সর্বোচ্চ লাভজনক ও নিরাপদ।

**আমিন মোহাম্মদ ফাউন্ডেশন লিঃ**  
(আমিন মোহাম্মদ গ্রুপের একটি অঙ্গপ্রতিষ্ঠান)  
কর্পোরেট অফিসঃ ৭৫২, সাতমসজিদ রোড, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৫, ফোনঃ ৯১২৪৫৩৮-৪২, ৮১৫৫১০১-৫১

বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রাহমানির রাহিম

### প্রোপার্টি ইনভেস্টমেন্ট ক্যাম্পেইন-২০১২

**স্বল্প মেয়াদী বিনিয়োগ**  
এক বছরে আপনার বিনিয়োগকৃত অর্থের  
দেড়গুন মুনাফা অর্জনের নিশ্চয়তা।

**মধ্য মেয়াদী বিনিয়োগ**  
দুই বছরের কনসাময়ে বিনিয়োগকৃত অর্থের  
দ্বিগুণ মুনাফা অর্জনের সুযোগ।

**দীর্ঘ মেয়াদী বিনিয়োগ**  
আবাসিক/বাণিজ্যিক স্পেসের মালিকানা সহ  
আজীবন মুনাফা অর্জনের পাশাপাশি রয়েছে  
ভবিষ্যৎ প্রজন্মের আর্থিক নিরাপত্তা।

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০১৮১৭-০৩১০৭৯ | ০১৮১৭-১৪৫৯০৫

স্থান : কর্পোরেট অফিস  
তারিখ : ৬-১৭ মে, ২০১২ইং  
সময় : সকাল ০৯:০০-রাত ০৮:০০