

VAT on health services: HC rule on govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain why the rules of Value Added Tax (VAT) Act 1991 in realising VAT from the citizens in health services should not be declared illegal.

An HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Abdul Hye issued the rule upon a writ petition filed by three lawyers of the Supreme Court.

Secretaries to the ministries of the finance, law and health and the chairman of the national board of revenue (NBR) have been asked to reply to the rule within two weeks.

The court fixed March 9 for hearing on the rule.

Lawyers Zulhas Uddin Ahmed, Abdul Bari and Golam Mostafa Laskar filed the writ petition as public interest litigation (HC) with the HC stating that the people are being deprived of getting treatment facilities for imposing VAT on the health services.

Condition of Gaziul Haque improves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condition of Language Movement veteran Gaziul Haque has improved as he regained consciousness and now can communicate with others.

His relatives told The Daily Star that he has started to communicate non-verbally since Saturday evening. An MRI was done yesterday morning to examine his neurological condition. But they are yet to receive the report.

Gaziul Haque was rushed to the Square Hospital on Wednesday and has been undergoing treatment under Dr Mirza Nazimuddin.

Two mobile libraries open

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Sangkriti Kendra yesterday launched two mobile libraries for readers who can read books under 700 titles worth Tk seven lakh are available for the readers.

Justice Mohammad Abdur Rauf inaugurated the libraries as the chief guest at the National Press Club in the city.

The mobile libraries will visit Faridabad, Motijheel, Azimpur, Shahbagh, Mohammadpur, Mirpur, Moghbazar, Tejgaon, Green Road, Kalyanpur, Banani and Bashundhara from 10:00am to 6:00pm every day except Friday.

The readers will have to pay Tk 200 and Tk 400 as security money which is refundable.

"We will have to develop our quality of education so that we can earn the quality to know ourselves as well as the mystery of the creation of Allah, the almighty," said Justice Rauf.

Cultural personality Anifal Haq and former vice chancellor of Comilla University Prof Golam Maola also spoke with former chair Commodore (ret'd) MA Rahman in the chair.

LOCAL GOVT COMMISSION

Keep continuity of ordinance

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different NGO and civil society organisations yesterday urged the government to keep continuation of the ordinance related to local government commission.

They made the call at a press conference organised by Equity and Justice Working Group in collaboration with 14 other organisations at the National Press Club in the city.

They said the commission, set up under the local government ordinance promulgated by the immediate-past caretaker government, has already started functioning.

The speakers said it has been reported in different media that the ordinance review committee of the present government is reluctant to pass the ordinance related to local government commission.

They said if this ordinance is not passed then it will be considered an act of betrayal with the people, as having local government commission was one of the commitments of both

Awami League and BNP.

The speakers also opposed the involvement of MPs in local government.

For the sake of development there should not be any involvement of MPs in local government, they added.

At the press conference, moderated by Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of COAST, a statement was read out by AHM Bazlur Rahmain of BNNRC.

Mustafa Kamal Akanda, Md Shamsuddoha and Sahadat Islam Chowdhury Minto also spoke on the occasion.

They said they will submit a memorandum to the prime minister with copies to all the MPs within next two days to press home their demand.

The press conference was attended by 17 organisations including COAST, BNNRC, RUPANTOR, EquityBD, Prodiop, Borosa, SDO, Gram Bikash Kendra, ActionAid in Bangladesh, VDC, Shaplaful, SDO, RIO and Protyashi.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Introduce rights-based dev programmes

Speakers tell leadership training workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at the inaugural function of the 5th national leadership training workshop yesterday underscored the need for introducing rights-based development programmes in the country.

Bangladesh Protibandhi Kalyan Samity (BPKS) in collaboration with National Alliance of Disabled People's Organisations (NADPOs) and Caritas, Australia organised the training on 'Self-initiative of persons with disabilities (PWDs) to development' with BPKS Chairman Mozhar Ali was in chair.

Inaugurating the training as the chief guest, Social Welfare

Minister Enamul Haq Mustafa Shaheed assured the organisers of giving all-out assistance from the government to establish the rights of PWDs.

He said the government would introduce news slot in sign language at Bangladesh Television very soon so that the people who are hearing-impaired can easily get the national news.

He further assured the workshop of implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Making the development issue clear, noted economist Dr Atiur Rahman as the special guest said, "Development means no well-constructed buildings or roads but a change

in the mindset."

Development is deeply related with rights. So, the country should take a holistic approach to the right-based development programmes, he added.

Atiur said some can try to be enlightened alone. If development does not occur, a whole darkness might engulf that enlightened person easily.

He warned that people voted for a positive change and development. If development process fails to satisfy expectations of the countrymen, frustration might appear devastatingly.

Australian High Commissioner in Dhaka Justin Lee at the programme assured the government of providing continuous aid and support for the PWDs despite the global economic recession.

He also described how the Australian government is working to create opportunities for the people with disabilities.

Pointing to the access of persons with disabilities into public buildings, Institute of Architects Bangladesh President Mobasher Hossain said the government exacted a law to establish rights of PWDs. Now the law needs to be implemented properly.

"If the persons with disabilities can do their business on their own, why they need others," questioned BPKS Executive Director Abdus Sattar Dulal, saying that this is the right moment to let them take self-initiative for development.

Jamaat condemns propaganda against leaders

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday condemned the 'malicious propaganda' against its leaders by calling them war criminals and seeking for their trial.

The central executive council of the party at a meeting viewed that attribution of war criminals to its leaders was unjustified, intended to undermine them with a political motive.

Presided by Jamaat Ameer Maulana Matiuur Rahman Nizami the meeting said the malicious propaganda of holding trial of its leaders as war criminals was part of a deep-rooted national and international conspiracy against Islamic forces and their democratic politics.

Dr Frowein said the EC would give additional 5 crore Euro to Bangladesh to ensure food security.

Dr Razzak said constructing more food storages was important to ensure government food stock. He sought EC assistance to bring the food storages under a central network so that food stocks could be known immediately.

Later, a Canadian delegation led by Canadian High Commissioner Robert McDougall met the food minister.

Dr Razzak requested McDougall to increase the grant of wheat. The delegation assured him of all assistance to ensure food security in Bangladesh.

Ittefaq's terminated staffs demand dues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dainik Ittefaq Chakrichuto (terminated) Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Sangram Parishad staged a protest rally in front of the Ittefaq building yesterday demanding payment of their dues.

Convenor of the parishad Md Fazlelmam chaired the rally.

The speakers urged the Ittefaq authorities to pay their dues immediately or reinstate to the services.

Journalists Ruhul Amin Gazi, Altaf Mahmud, and Jahanara Begum, among others, spoke at the rally.

Book on MN Larma launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a book publication ceremony yesterday called on the indigenous people to carry on the movement to establish their rights in the spirit of their late leader Manabendra Narayan Larma.

MN Larma Memorial Foundation organised the publication ceremony of the book titled 'Manabendra Narayan Larma: Jibon O Sangram (life & struggle)' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. Oxfam GB financed the publication.

The youths of indigenous community must follow the ideals of MN Larma and get involved in the movement to achieve their constitutional recognition, Dr Sadeka Halim said.

Jyotirindra Bodhipriyo Larma, chairman of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), said the signing of Chittagong Hill Tracts accord is a partial success of MN Larma in the struggle for establishing the rights and that implementation of the accord would help fulfil his dreams.

Pankaj Bhattacharya, presidium member of Gono Forum, CPB leader Mujahidul Islam Selim, Sanjeev Drang, general secretary, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Jatindra Lal Tripura, a member of parliament, Bibhash Chakraborty, programme coordinator, Oxfam GB, Prof Mesbah Kamal, Nurul Kabir, editor of The New Age, and Golam Mortuza, editor of the Shapathahik, also spoke.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina admires products made by members of Bangladesh Ansar and the Village Defence Party (VDP) at the Ansar-VDP Academy in Shafipur yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Engage in creative works

Speakers ask university teachers

Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said university teachers should engage themselves in creative works and writing.

The teachers should especially write poems because it is inseparable part of literature, which has inspired our liberation war, the language movement and other nation building movements, they added.

University Grants Commission (UGC) organised the seminar on recitation of

self-composed poems at its auditorium to mark the International Mother Language Day and Amar Ekushey.


Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, former vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, attended the programme as the chief guest while UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam presided over the function.

Prof Zillur Rahman also recited two of his poems. Speaking on the occasion,

UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam assured the university teachers of cooperation from the UGC in carrying out their creative works.

Dr Biswajit Ghosh, a professor of Bangla department, Dhaka University, presented the keynote paper at the seminar.

Prof Dr Anwarul Azim, Moinuddin Khaled and Prof Dr Rafiqullah Khan discussed the keynote paper while UGC Member Prof Dr Atul Hye Shibly delivered the address of welcome.



CAREER Opportunity

Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd. is a leading pharmaceuticals company in Bangladesh and it has recently embarked on the production of biopharmaceuticals (including recombinant Insulin and EPO) vaccines and diagnostics to meet the health care needs of Bangladesh. The company is setting up a lab and production units for recombinant proteins and commonly used vaccines. To lead and supervise the said R&D and production units the company is offering the following position to the deserving candidates preferably of Bangladeshi origin.

Position: Head of Biotech R&D and Production

Qualifications:

- ❖ PhD in a relevant bioscience discipline with appropriate post-doctoral training in area(s) of specialization with B.Sc./M.Sc degree in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Microbiology or Pharmaceutical Sciences.
- ❖ Demonstrated research record (publications, patents).
- ❖ Appropriate training and extensive hands-on experience in large-scale fermentation (range of bacterial and eukaryotic host/vector systems), downstream processing and protein purification with working knowledge of contemporary technologies associated with the above.
- ❖ Hands-on experience in production of recombinant proteins under GMP Conditions and very good knowledge of QC procedures.
- ❖ Demonstrated ability to lead project R&D teams and ability to work effectively as team member within the management structure.
- ❖ 5 to 10 years working experience in industry environment and Training in project management is preferable.
- ❖ Working Experience on the interface of research and commercialization, IP issues and Regulatory Affairs will get preference.

Responsibilities:

- ❖ To lead and supervise the day to day activities of a team of scientists and technicians involved in the R&D and production of the unit.
- ❖ The employee will be expected to be involved in the setting up of the unit infrastructure and in the training of R&D personnel in the unit.
- ❖ The Recombinant Protein production unit will be a part of the Technical Directorate, but will also work closely with the discovery-oriented Molecular Biosciences R&D Centre being set up by Incepta Pharmaceuticals in the same premises.
- ❖ The incumbent will report to the Technical Director and be a part of the senior management team.

Attractive compensation package will be offered to the deserving candidate. Interested candidates are requested to send their updated resume along with photocopies of all educational / professional certificates and two recent passport size photographs on or before **15th March 2009** to the following address. The position applied for should be marked on the envelope. Electronic application may also be forwarded to zakir@inceptapharma.com

Human Resources Department
Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd
 40, Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208.

ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

Talks with Myanmar stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government considers it is important to hold bilateral meeting with Myanmar to speed up the repatriation process of the Rohingya refugees living in two camps of Cox's Bazar.

"It is important that Bangladesh and Myanmar hold discussion on repatriation of the Rohingyas," Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzak yesterday told a delegation of European Commission (EC) at his ministry.

EC Ambassador and Head of the Delegation Dr Stefan Frowein said Rohingya refu-

gee issue has become a regional problem and any initiative in this regard will require following the international refugee laws.

There are around 25,000 Rohingyas living in Bangladesh, but their repatriation process has been stalled almost for the last three years with the refugees saying they fear persecution in their country.

Recently the issue of Rohingya came to forefront when hundreds of them were rescued by Indian Coast Guard in the Andaman and by Indonesian Coast Guard during their efforts to go to Malaysia by engine boats.

Rashid to probe the incident.

Sources said the incident occurred when the students of the faculty confined Jahedul and Tarekul at the faculty accusing them of harassing Prof Shishir Bhattacharjee over an interviewing session of first-year honours students.

Prof Bhattacharjee told The Daily Star that the event was an internal matter of the faculty and the journalists tried to interfere in it.

After the incident, leaders of Dhaka University Journalists' Association submitted a memorandum to Vice-chancellor (VC) Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique demanding punishment to students and teacher responsible for the incident.

DU students beat 4 journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of fine arts faculty at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday beat up four journalists allegedly for humiliating a senior teacher of the faculty.

The injured were Ariful Islam of Dainik Sangram, Jahedul Arman of Dainik Dinkal, Palash Sarker of Jai Jai Din and Abdur Rahim Dipu of Radio ABC. All of them are DU correspondents of the media concerned.

The injured journalists took treatment from the university medical centre.

Meanwhile, the DU syndicate at a meeting last night formed a five-member committee headed by pro-vice chancellor Prof Dr Harun-Or



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