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No VAT on health bill

SC upholds HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld a High Court (HC) verdict that declared illegal the realisation of Value Added Tax (VAT) from people for providing health services to them.

A six-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim passed the order dismissing a leave to appeal petition filed by the government challenging the HC verdict.

The authorities of private hospitals, clinics and other medical centres can no longer realise VAT from patients for healthcare because of the apex court decision, said Manzill Murshid, a lawyer concerned.

The authorities now collect VAT from patients at the rate of 2.25 percent as fixed by

the National Board of Revenue, he told this correspondent.

Patients have to pay VAT along with the bill for healthcare including pathological tests and other services, and for seat rent, sources mentioned.

Following a writ petition, the HC on July 14 last year declared illegal the imposition of VAT on people for health services. It also declared illegal and unconstitutional the provisions of Value Added Tax (VAT) Act, 1991 for realising VAT from patients for making prescriptions or doing pathological tests for treatment.

SC lawyers Zulhas Uddin Ahmed, Abdul Bari and Golam Mostafa Laskar filed the petition as public interest litigation.

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ACC quizzes Mosharraf over Bhairab bridge contract

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee on purchase did noting "illogical or illegal" by recommending compensation for construction of Bhairab bridge, former health minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain told the Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday.

"We made a recommendation for the compensation after the ministry concerned certified that everything had been done properly and in line with the law. It was a routine work for the committee," Mosharraf said in his statement.

The BNP leader was questioned by an ACC team probing a corruption allegation against ex-premier Khaleda Zia, who allegedly caused a

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CONTEMPT PETITION Mahmudur produced in court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The jail authorities produced Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the recently closed newspaper the daily Amar Desh, before the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday in connection with contempt of a court petition against him, as per the court's directive.

Lawyers Riaz Uddin Khan and Mynul Hassan jointly filed the petition on May 2 for publishing a report in his daily with the headline "Chamber manei sarkar pakkhe stay" meaning "Chamber bench means stay order in favour of the government" on April 21.

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BNP in talks over Bhuiyan's return

Politicians visit ailing leader at hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A BNP Standing Committee meeting last night discussed the withdrawal of former BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's expulsion from the party.

Veteran politician Bhuiyan is struggling for life at a city hospital.

The committee members at the meeting requested BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to consider restoring Bhuiyan's party membership.

The party would rethink the issue if Bhuiyan or his family members apply, meeting sources said.

The former minister went to Singapore for treatment on May 31 and was admitted to Singapore National University Hospital.

Following physicians' advices, he was flown to Dhaka Wednesday evening by an air ambulance and taken to Square



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QUESTION LEAK Written test for school teachers postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of directorate of secondary and higher education (DSHE) yesterday postponed today's written test for selection of candidates for the post of assistant teachers of government high schools.

Mohammad Zakir Hossain, director (secondary) of the DSHE, said they postponed the exam due to the allegation of question paper leakage in Rangpur yesterday.

He, however, said that the directorate has not yet decided the fresh date of the exam.

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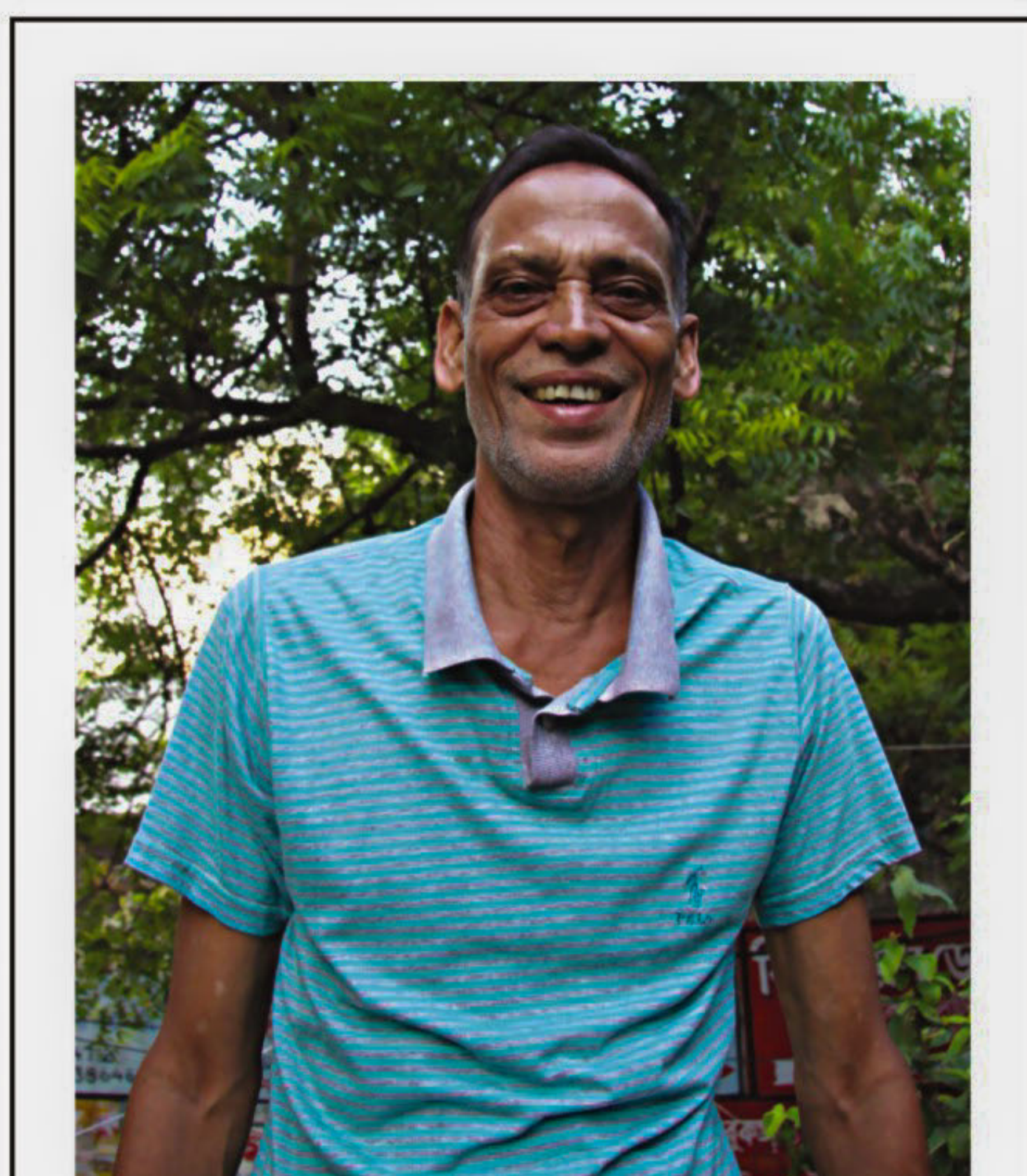


PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

It's time for another war

Pop Guru readies himself for fight against cancer

EMRAN HOSSAIN

He fought the Liberation War valiantly. His machinegun spoke of his bravery. He also fought it out with his cricket bat at Dhaka Stadium for his first division club.

Today, Azam Khan, the Pop Guru, prepares for another battle, a battle against cancer. The Guru is as brave as

ever, as sure to win this time also.

"Doctors say I'm suffering from mouth cancer," Azam Khan tells someone over mobile phone as he lies on the bed in a tiny room of his home in Kamalapur. "As long as you remain brave, you can defeat illness. But if fear gets you, you will be defeated."

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JAMAAT TRIO Pleas for stay on remand rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summarily rejected three separate petitions for staying remand of Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, its Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid and Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee in three cases.

Earlier on June 30, another Dhaka court placed them on ten days' remand in the cases filed for torching vehicles, preventing police from duties and on sedition charge.

Judge (in charge) Ismail Hossain of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order in response to the petitions submitted by the lawyers of the accused.

In the order, the judge said

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VANDALISM IN CTG 127 Jamaat, Shibir men remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The 127 Jamaat-shibir-men, arrested on charge of vandalism at the city's Halishahar area on Sunday, were placed on remand for different terms yesterday.

The arrestees were produced before the court of Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Fazlul Bari in two separate cases filed with Double-mooring and Halishahar Police Stations.

The court placed 109 accused on a two-day remand each and the rest 18 on a three-day remand each in the cases filed with the two Police Stations.

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PHOTO: COURTESY

From left, Pamela Gillies, vice chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland; Prof Muhammad Yunus and former British premier Gordon Brown during the inauguration of Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health at the university on July 5.

Yunus Centre for Social Business opens in Glasgow

BSS, Dhaka

Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) in Scotland launched "Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health" in a ceremony attended by academics and the elite of Glasgow on July 5.

The centre has been established by GCU to carry out action research to find solutions to social problems, including the critical issue of access to microcredit and affordable healthcare, according to a message received here yesterday.

A leading health economist of the UK Prof Cam Donaldson has been appointed as "Yunus Professor" to lead the centre in implementing its objectives.

On the occasion of the

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DCC BUDGET 2010-11 Focus on traffic maintenance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday announced Tk 2,171.34 crore budget for 2010-2011 fiscal year increasing allocation for maintenance and development of traffic infrastructure by 24 percent.

Sadeque Hossain Khoka, the DCC mayor, unveiled the budget at the city's Mohanagar Natya Mancha reiterating his call on the government to bring the DCC under Prime Minister's Office to speed up its activities.

Of the allocation for traffic infrastructure, Tk 242 crore will be spent in maintaining roads, pavements and surface drains while Tk 60 crore for repairing the city's roads.

The DCC will take up three government-or-foreign funded projects to construct two roads and four underpasses in the city, Khoka said announcing his record 9th budget as the city mayor.

In the next fiscal year, the DCC aims to construct two new roads one from Mirpur Grameen Bank to Agargaon and the other from Gabtoli Beribadh to Mohammadpur -- and four underpasses at Shabbagh, Sheraton, Banglamotor and Sonargaon intersections.

To relief the city dwellers of their sufferings from mosquito menace, the DCC will spend Tk 16 crore, which is same as the previous year.

Also same as last year is the Tk 9 crore allocation for maintenance and development of parks and playgrounds.

For earnings, Khoka relies more on government grant, foreign finance and private sector investment than on revenue collection.

He has set a Tk 704.34 crore revenue collection target while expecting to realise Tk 1,254 crore from government grant, foreign finance and investment from the private sector.

But when it comes to the size of the budget, the city mayor says it is inadequate.

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think the National Human Rights Commission's "zero tolerance" policy on extra-judicial killings and custodial deaths will stop such incidents?

Yes (24.5%)
No (74.1%)
No Comments (1.4%)

Total votes: 428

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government is obstructing the opposition's democratic practice?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Tahrir adviser Prof Maola arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested Prof Syed Golam Maola, who introduced the banned Islamist outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir in the country, from the capital's Elephant Road area yesterday.

A team hauled Maola, a professor of the department of Management Studies of Dhaka University, while he was returning to his residence at Dhanmondi in a private car around 2:30pm.

Deputy Commissioner of Detective Branch (DB) Mahbubur Rahman said, "Maola, an adviser of Hizb ut-Tahrir, was playing a pivotal role in the functioning of the banned outfit since Tahrir chief coordinator Mohiuddin Ahmed was arrested on April 20."

Maola is accused in three cases filed with Uttara Police Station under Anti-Terrorism Act, he said.

Another DB official wishing anonymity said they recently



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Extortionist injured in gunfight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged extortionist was injured in a gunfight with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and arrested in the city's Malibagh area yesterday.

Rab-3 personnel arrested injured Babul, 26, and his three accomplices on charge of extortion. The force also seized a locally-made rifle, two

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Prayer Timing		
July 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Meena Media Award 2010

Introduced in 2005, Meena Media Award has stepped into the 6th year in 2010. The award recognizes excellence in promoting children's issues in the media. Submissions are solicited from Bangladeshi citizens working with both print and television media in two different age groups: **Under-18 and 18 & above.** News, articles, features and television programmes that investigate and explore children's issues to improve the lives of children in Bangladesh, or provide healthy entertainment for children are eligible to compete for the award. Entries are invited in the following four categories:

Print media - Reports (news reports, features, post editorials)
Print media - Creative (articles, stories, poems)
Television - Reports (news reports, features, documentaries)
Television - Creative (programmes other than news, e.g. short film, plays, songs etc.)


For all categories the prizes are:

First Prize: A Crest, Certificate and Taka 50,000
Second Prize: A Crest, Certificate and Taka 25,000
Third Prize: A Crest, Certificate and Taka 20,000

Entries should have been published/broadcast between **June 1, 2009 and May 31, 2010.**

Deadline: To be received on or before July 30, 2010

To download the details of the submission and eligibility criteria for the award please visit www.unicef.org.bd or collect from the Reception Desk, UNICEF Bangladesh at BSL Office Complex, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka 1000.



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