

Life-saving drug to get pricier

15pc VAT imposed on albumin in addition to 4pc AIT, 5pc advance trade VAT

REAZ AHMAD AND REJAU KARIM BYRON

It's a life-saving drug often prescribed by doctors for patients with serious kidney and liver problems and also for newborns with a blood-related disease.

But to get this already pricey drug called albumin, patients will have to pay more, thanks to the imposition of 15 percent value added tax (VAT) on it on top of a 4 percent advance income tax (AIT) and 5 percent advance trade VAT (ATV).

While proposing a uniform 15 percent VAT in his June 1 budget speech, Finance Minister AMA Muthith said the government would exempt 93 life-saving drugs from 15 percent VAT.

But in reality, a life-saving drug like

This is ridiculous that the government is imposing VAT on such a life-saving drug.

MAHER KHAN
SON OF A PATIENT

albumin is going to get pricier due to the imposition of 15 percent VAT.

Albumin belongs to the group of medicines known as plasma substitutes. It helps increase the volume of blood in blood vessels by drawing fluid from the body into the vessels.

Albumin solutions are used to treat

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BANANI RAPE CASE Shafat, Nayem, 3 others charged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday pressed charges against five people, including prime accused Ahmad Shafat and Nayem Ashraf, in the sensational Banani rape case.

Shafat and Nayem, who is known as Hasan Mohammad Halim in his village, were charged with raping two university students, while the three others face charges of helping them in various ways during and after the alleged incident at a city hotel on the night of March 28.

The three are Shafat's driver Billal Hossain, bodyguard Rahmat Ali and Shadman Sakif, a friend of the two victims.

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Minimum Fitra set at Tk 65

UNIR, Dhaka

This year's minimum Fitra has been fixed at Tk 65 per head.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Fitra Fixing Committee of the Islamic Foundation at the national mosque Baitul Mukarram yesterday.

The maximum Fitra has been fixed at Tk 1,980 per person, taking into account the market prices of flour, dates and some other

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Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May and her husband Philip leave a polling station in Sonning yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

May or Corbyn?

Britain votes in shadow of terror, looming Brexit talks; Conservatives seen as retaining power

AFP, London

Britons streamed to the polls for the third time in two years yesterday after a campaign overshadowed by terror attacks and the uncertainty of Brexit.

Prime Minister Theresa May called the vote in April, when opinion poll ratings for her and her centre-right Conservative party were sky high, presenting herself as the strong leader to steer the country through tough negotiations to leave the EU.

Although she is strong favouring to keep her job, Islamist attacks in London and Manchester have put her under pressure over her six years as interior minister, while campaign missteps have dented her reputation as a safe pair of hands.

Labour opponent Jeremy Corbyn, an anti-war campaigner deemed unelectable by a majority of his own lawmakers, has run an energetic campaign, promising change and an end to austerity.

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BANGLADESHI-ORIGIN CANDIDATES

Tough race, but still hopeful

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH from London

As many as 14 Bangladeshi-origin candidates are battling it out in the United Kingdom's general election with three sitting MPs - Tulip Ruzwana Siddiq, Rushanara Ali and Rupa Huq - taking centre stage.

These three have been joined by 11 more hopefuls. Of the 14 candidates, eight including Tulip, Rushanara and Rupa

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Tulip Rushanara Rupa

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