

VAT on education aims to generate revenue

Alleges BNP; Ershad calls it worst decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding removal of the value added tax (VAT) on private universities, opposition leaders yesterday contradicted the finance minister's claim that the university authorities, rather than students, will have to pay this money.

They said the full tax burden would fall on students.

"Nothing can be worse than imposing VAT in the education sector because it is the backbone of a nation. The decision proves that the government does not want to develop the sector," Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, also special envoy of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said in a statement.

Separately, BNP standing committee member Goyeshwar Chandra Roy said at the Jatiya Press Club that it was a government initiative to assemble money for the large

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Jatiya Sramik Federation brings out a procession on the capital's Topkhana Road yesterday demanding that the salaries of all workers throughout the country be raised. They demonstrated against the backdrop of the recent pay hike of government employees.

PHOTO: STAR

41 'Shibir men' held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police detained 41 suspected leaders and activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, a pro-Jamaat student organisation, in a Farmgate hotel of the capital yesterday afternoon.

The detention was made after the law enforcers raided the 12th floor of the hotel where the Shibir men were holding a meeting, said Biplob Kumar Sarker, deputy commissioner (Tejgaon division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Dhaka Bigyan College unit president Ahsan Ullah, and secretary Quamrul Haidar are among the detainees, said Tejgaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mazharul Islam. They gathered there to plot subversive activities, police said.

Meanwhile, police detained 10 Shibir men in a mess in Dakkhin Gobindarkheel area of Patiya upazila in Chittagong early yesterday on the same charge, reports our staff correspondent from Ctg. Some leaflets, banners, posters and jihadi books were recovered from them, said police.

SHIMULIA-KAWRAKANDI ROUTE Ferry mounts, damages Sinohydro dredger

Ferry service supposed to be suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A dredger of Sinohydro Corporation got damaged after a ferry mounted it around 10:00am yesterday although ferry service along the Shimulia-Kawrakandi route was supposed to be suspended for five days beginning 6:00am to dredge the Padma river.

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Man held with revolver

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The Rapid Action Battalion arrested a man with a revolver and four bullets in Pashchim Baluadanga of Dinajpur town yesterday.

The arrestee is Zakir Hossain Nayan, 27, of Mission Road area in the town. A case was filed.

Students urged to read books to lead nation

Bishwo Shahitto Kendro awards 537 students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Books are like open windows through which light of knowledge and wisdom can have an entry into one's life, said Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed yesterday.

"Only books can expand our minds. If we want to build a big Bangladesh, we must widen our hearts first," the noted educationist said at a prize giving ceremony of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro (BSK) in the capital's Shilpakala Academy Auditorium.

BSK organised the programme to award 537 students of 11 colleges in Dhaka Metropolitan area who were selected last year from among 1,719 college students in four categories -- "Swagoto Puraskar", "Shuveccha Puraskar", "Ovinandon Puraskar", and "Sera Pathok Puraskar".

BSK Founder Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed suggested that the children should read books only for pleasure.

At the programme, Deputy Editor of the Bangla daily Prothom Alo Anisul Hoque informed the students about an Iranian judge who has recently made reading books compulsory for prisoners as their punishment.

But the students do not need to read books as a punishment rather they should develop the habit of reading books only for pleasure.

Media personality Abdun Noor Tushar asked the students to emerge as the light of the society for making a prosperous Bangladesh.

The speakers also urged the students to spend time in reading books in order to enlighten themselves and achieve the qualities of good citizens to lead Bangladesh in the future.

BSK Trustee Khandker Asaduzzaman and its director Aminul Islam Bhuiyan, also a former secretary, spoke at the programme.

The students were from Notre Dame College, Rajuk Uttara Model College, Holy Cross College, Dhaka Commerce College, Dhaka Cantonment Public Girls' School and College, Viqarunnisa Noon College, Jatir Janak Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Government College, Shaheed Begum Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Government College, Shahid Zia Girls' School and College, Shahid Bir Uttam Lt Anwar Girls College and Adamjee Cantonment College.

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Professor Dr. K M Sultanul Aziz
Secretary, BAS

World Health Organization
Country Office for Bangladesh

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HC scraps Nazmul Huda's sentence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court on Thursday scraped a lower court verdict which in 2008 sentenced former BNP minister Nazmul Huda to 12 years' imprisonment in an extortion case.

GM Siraj, former BNP lawmaker and owner of Cab Express Ltd, filed the case on July 27, 2007, stating that Nazmul Huda and his wife Sigma Huda on February 27, 2003 intimidated him into giving them a Maruti car, worth Tk 3.95 lakh, for the weekly Khaborer Antaralay, published by Sigma Huda.

Sigma was acquitted in the case in 2008. Nazmul later filed an appeal with the HC challenging the trial court verdict.

The grounds on which the HC delivered the verdict on Thursday were not known as its full judgment was not released.

Assistant Attorney General Khondker Modarresh Elahi said the government will file an appeal with the Supreme Court against the HC verdict.

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