



V for NO VAT

Pvt university students leave streets, hail govt decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the face of continuous student protests in Dhaka and other cities, the government has finally withdrawn the 7.5 percent VAT on private universities as well as medical and engineering colleges.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) issued a special order to this end last night, with retrospective effect from June 4, the day the government imposed the VAT in the current budget.

The NBR said the cost of education in private universities and medical and engineering colleges was already high and imposing the VAT would further increase the cost.

"Therefore... the service of private universities and medical and engineering colleges are being exempted from the value added tax (VAT)," the order said.

Earlier in the afternoon, the finance ministry announced through a press release the government decision to lift the VAT.

Private university students greeted the decision with joyous rallies, flashing victory signs.

They had been agitating on the streets in Dhaka and elsewhere since Wednesday, demanding withdrawal of the VAT.

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Students rejoice after hearing reports of the government decision to withdraw the 7.5 percent VAT on private universities. The photo was taken at Dhanmondi-27 intersection on Mirpur Road yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Hasina wins Champions of the Earth award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been named as one of the winners of the UN's highest environmental accolade -- Champions of the Earth -- in recognition of Bangladesh's far-reaching initiatives to address climate change, says the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep).

With a population of more than 159 million, Bangladesh is one of the world's most populated countries. It is also one of the most vulnerable to the

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Street agitation with a difference

SHAKHAWAT LITON and WASIM BIN HABIB

It was indeed a different street agitation, something we have rarely seen.

Unlike any other street agitation, which creates panic and chaos, the protests of the private university students were peaceful.

These students have shown a culture of protest on the streets different from the existing form of street agitation.

Yes, they took over the streets of Dhaka for four days, blocked traffic and caused immense sufferings to the commuters.

But what made it different is that they did not turn violent to realise their

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What prompted govt to review VAT decision

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The government yesterday withdrew value added tax (VAT) on private universities and medical and engineering colleges to prevent student protests from taking a turn for the worse, according to sources in the ruling Awami League.

Public sufferings due to the demonstrations and keeping the ruling party popular among young voters, especially students, were also important factors behind the government decision to withdraw the 7.5

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MANPOWER RECRUITMENT IN MALAYSIA

Private agencies to send workers again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Malaysia are likely to sign a deal today, allowing the private sector to recruit Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia, according to the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment minister.

"We are discussing the scope of manpower recruitment to Malaysia by the private sector,"

Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam told reporters after a meeting with a six-member Malaysian delegation at Probashi Kalayan Bhaban yesterday morning.

Presently, Bangladeshi workers go to Malaysia through the government-to-government system (G2G), which was signed in November 2012. However, under

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Eid-ul-Azha on Sept 25

UNB, Dhaka

Holy Eid-ul-Azha, the second largest religious festival of the Muslims, will be celebrated across the country on September 25 as the new moon of the Arabic month of Zilhajj was not sighted in Bangladesh sky yesterday.

The National Moon Sighting Committee made the decision at a meeting after reviewing reports received from different parts

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Minister Syed Mohsin Ali no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Social Welfare Minister Syed Mohsin Ali died at Singapore General Hospital yesterday morning. He was 67.

"He breathed his last at 10:59am [Singapore time]," Bangladesh High Commissioner to

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Some of the female students with the bicycles they have been given to ease their commute between home and school. At a programme in Gabindanagar of Thakurgaon, Eco-Social Development Organisation with the financial assistance of Mutual Trust Bank yesterday distributed bicycles among 99 school and college girls from four erstwhile Indian enclaves in Panchagarh, ethnic minority communities and underprivileged families of different villages in Thakurgaon.

PHOTO: MD QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

4-NATION VEHICLE MOVEMENT Six routes to be fixed by Sept 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six routes linking Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal will be finalised by September 23 for passenger and private vehicles to travel across the region, according to the road transport and bridges ministry.

The authorities have come up with possible routes as per the Motor Vehicle Agreement signed in June in Thimphu.

During the signing of the agreement, a plan was sketched out to open the routes in January next year for limited operation of passenger vehicles.

Besides, two draft protocols were prepared on improving and finalising routes, issuing driving licences, permitting and tracking vehicles, route fees, visa and transit issues and security of vehicles.

Transports ministers of the four nations while signing the agreement also decided to organise a motor rally and hold a trial operation of vehicles to introduce the routes.

The motor rally will travel the routes from October 14 to December 1, said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at a press briefing at the Secretariat yesterday.

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TOP QUOTE

"Obviously, the Felani incident was the most unfortunate incident in relationship between India and Bangladesh."

INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER PANKAJ SARAN AT A PROGRAMME IN THE CAPITAL YESTERDAY

Together...