



## ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS No VAT from students

SC order brings relief to guardians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday ruled that the government cannot collect value-added tax (VAT) from the students of English medium schools, giving some relief to the guardians.

The SC order came into effect from yesterday, said AM Aminuddin, the lawyer who moved a writ petition, filed over the issue in 2015.

However, there is no directive from the apex court about returning the money collected earlier as VAT from these students, he said.

The SC at the same time extended its stay order on the High Court verdict that declared illegal imposition of 7.5 percent VAT on tuition fees of English medium schools.

A four-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed the order after hearing a leave to appeal petition filed by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) seeking a stay on the HC verdict.

The SC also allowed the government to move an appeal before it against the HC verdict, Deputy Attorney General SM Moniruzzaman told this newspaper.

He mentioned that the NBR has been collecting 7.5 percent tax from the English medium schools, not from students.

Guardians of the students and teachers at English medium schools hailed the SC order.

"We welcome the directive and hope that the schools will follow it," said Shahnur Hameed, a guardian who lives in the capital's Dhanmondi area.

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A dancer performing at a cultural programme organised by Jatiya Basanta Utsab Udjapan Parishad on Fine Arts Institute premises at Dhaka University yesterday, on the occasion of Pahela Falgun, the first day of spring. People across the country welcomed spring, the king of all seasons, through holding colourful processions and cultural shows.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



After heavy defeat, a lot to ponder

NAIMUL KARIM from Hyderabad

It will be a little complex to accurately describe how Bangladesh performed in their inaugural Test in India, which ended in a 208-run defeat shortly before tea on the fifth day at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad. While the Test did go all the way to the fifth day, one cannot actually call it a fighting performance since Bangladesh's top order failed to play a major role in either innings.

One could say that the likes of Tamim Iqbal, Soumya Sarkar and Mominul Haque actually missed a brilliant opportunity to do well on a flat deck. All they needed to do was survive the early hour and then they could have

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## SNAPSHOT of reality

SHAHTUB SIDDIQUE ANIK

It's called Valentine's Day. On February 14, one is required to wish his or her beloved a Happy Valentine's Day. It is celebrated across the world with great romantic fervours and enthusiasm. Over the years, the day has become popular also in Bangladesh.

It sounds cool, right? This can indeed be an occasion to spread the message of love and peace and vow to take stance against violence.

Festivity should always be welcomed and embraced. It's good for our mind, body and soul.

But how did we get Valentine's Day anyway?

According to the most accepted version, the day is named after a priest in Rome who lived in the days of Emperor Claudius II. He was St Valentine.

I googled and found that under the rule

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## LOW-QUALITY DRUG PRODUCTION Ban stays on 20 drug companies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld its earlier order that directed the government to stop the production of 20 pharmaceutical companies for producing substandard drugs.

It also directed the government to take necessary step so that 14 other pharmaceutical companies cannot produce antibiotics, as those were also below par.

Delivering the verdict on a writ petition, the HC asked the director general of the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) to monitor the activities of drug companies, see that the orders are implemented, and report to the court every three months.

The HC also formed a five-member committee to examine the products of three drug companies that have been banned from producing drugs yesterday but claim to have received Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) recommendation from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Ad Din Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Avert Pharma Ltd and MST Pharmaceuticals Ltd are the three companies.

The committee is comprised of a representative each from the WHO, the

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## Dhaka, Delhi working on PM's visit date

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi and Dhaka are working to finalise the date for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's India visit.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla met Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque at the foreign ministry yesterday afternoon, diplomatic sources said.

They discussed the visit of Indian Foreign Secretary Subramanyam Jaishankar, schedule to arrive in Dhaka on February 23, to finalise the prime minister's visit.

"It is going to be a one-day visit. The foreign secretary will discuss a wide range of issues but the visit

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## IMMIGRATION BAN Trump to unveil new measures

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump was expected to unveil new measures on immigration in the name of keeping Americans safe, with a top aide insisting he did not overstep his authority with his controversial travel ban.

With the ban now frozen by a federal appeals court pending further legal review, Trump is "considering and pursuing all options," presidential aide Stephen Miller told "Fox News Sunday."

The White House could either file an emergency appeal to the Supreme Court, defend the merits of the order in lower courts or issue a new executive order. The last option was floated by Trump himself on Friday.

"We are contemplating new and additional actions to ensure that immigration is not a vehicle for admitting people into our country that are hostile to its nation and its values," Miller said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"There's no such thing as judicial supremacy. What the judges did is take power away that belongs squarely in the hands of the president of the United States."

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**TOP QUOTE**

If your basic is like Virat Kohli's then you would have scored at an average of 50 and you wouldn't have needed so many batsmen. You probably wouldn't have required seven wickets, four of them would have done the job and drawn the game, but unfortunately, we don't have anyone like Kohli in our team.

BANGLADESH TEST CAPTAIN  
**MUSHFIQUR RAHIM**  
AFTER THE 208-RUN LOSS TO INDIA

## CHITRA BRIDGE COLLAPSES



This bridge over the Chitra river in Magura's Simakhali on Dhaka-Khulna highway collapsed yesterday when three lorries, two of them laden with stones, were crossing it. Two people on the bridge were injured. Traffic was diverted via Jhenidah following the incident.

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### বিশ্ব জয়ী দক্ষিণ কোরিয়ার LG ব্রান্ড লিফট আবারো বাংলাদেশে!

মান বাংলাদেশ লিঃ আনন্দ ও গর্বের সাথে ঘোষণা করছে যে, বিশ্বের শীর্ষ উদ্ভাবনী দেশ দক্ষিণ কোরিয়ার বিখ্যাত LG Elevator কোম্পানির LG ব্রান্ড লিফট বর্তমানে আবারো বাংলাদেশসহ বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন দেশে বাজারজাতকরণ শুরু করেছে। দক্ষিণ কোরিয়ার LG Elevator কোম্পানির সকল কর্মকর্তা, প্রকৌশলী, বিশেষজ্ঞের অক্লান্ত প্রচেষ্টায় আপনাদের সকলের প্রিয় LG ব্রান্ড লিফট বর্তমানে LGS Elevator Korea নামে বিশ্বব্যাপি আবারো বাজারজাতকরণ শুরু করেছে। বাংলাদেশের সকল গ্রাহকদের অতি পরিচিত এই লিফট এখন মান বাংলাদেশ লিঃ ইতিমধ্যে বাজারজাতকরণ শুরু করেছে। উল্লেখ্য বিগত দিনে মান বাংলাদেশ লিঃ মোট চাহিদার শতকরা ৭০% লিফট LG Elevator কোরিয়া হতে সমগ্র বাংলাদেশে সুনামের সঙ্গে সরবরাহ এবং স্থাপন করেছে। বর্তমানে আরো উচ্চমানের উন্নত প্রযুক্তিতে কোরিয়ান প্রকৌশলী ও বিশেষজ্ঞদের সম্মিলিত প্রচেষ্টায় ও অক্লান্ত পরিশ্রমে উচ্চমানের গবেষণা (R & D) এর মাধ্যমে বিশেষ ব্যবস্থাপনায় অত্যাধুনিক রচিতসম্মত ডিজাইনে লিফটের কেবিন থেকে শুরু করে প্রত্যেকটি যন্ত্রাংশ তৈরি করা হয়েছে। আমরা সকল লিফট এবং এক্সেলিটর এর গ্রাহকদের অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি, এখনই আপনার প্রিয় এই ব্রান্ড এর লিফট আপনার বাড়ি, অফিস বিল্ডিং, শপিংমল, হাসপাতাল ও গার্মেন্টস ফ্যাক্টরির জন্য বুকিং দিন। মান বাংলাদেশ লিঃ এর দক্ষ প্রকৌশলী (বিদেশে প্রশিক্ষণ প্রাপ্ত) ও বিশাল কর্মীবাহিনী আপনার সার্বক্ষণিক সেবা প্রদানে সচেষ্ট থাকবে।

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