



Pvt univs have to pay income tax

Says add'l attorney general after SC scraps HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday scrapped a High Court verdict that declared illegal the government orders which imposed 15 percent income tax on private universities and private medical, dental and engineering colleges.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Borhanuddin delivered the judgement after disposing of 44 separate appeals filed by the government challenging the HC verdict.

The bench also included Justice M Enayetur Rahim, Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Md Abu Zafor Siddique.

Details of the grounds and observations, based on which the Appellate Division disposed the appeals, will be known once the full text of the verdict is released.

Contacted, Additional Attorney General Sk Md Morshed said that private universities and private medical, dental and engineering colleges must pay income tax to the state following the SC verdict.

"But it's not clear how and from when they'll pay the income tax as the full text of the apex court verdict is yet to be released

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Hefty power bill to weigh on consumers

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has decided to increase electricity prices by Tk 0.34 and Tk 0.70 a unit from March, which according to experts will have a domino effect on the prices of essentials ahead of Ramadan.

The authorities have already increased the price of gas supplied to power plants by Tk 0.75 per cubic metre and Tk 30 per cubic metre for captive power generation, said a gazette issued by the Energy and Mineral Resources Division yesterday.

At present, the price of each cubic metre of gas used for power production is Tk 14 and captive power is Tk 30.

Complying with an IMF condition for the \$4.7 billion loan, the government is introducing an automated pricing formula for petroleum in the first week of March.



- ➔ Average per unit power price to go up to Tk 8.95 from Tk 8.25
- ➔ Gas per cubic meter for power plants to go up to Tk 14.75 from Tk 14
- ➔ Gas per cubic meter for captive power to go up to Tk 30.75 from Tk 30
- ➔ 37pc gas used for power generation
- ➔ 18pc gas used for captive power generation
- ➔ Automated monthly pricing for petroleum fuel from March

According to power division officials, the new electricity prices will be in effect from March 1, and the prime minister has approved it.

State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid yesterday told reporters that around one crore subscribers who use very little (fewer than 200 units) electricity would pay only Tk 0.34 more per unit while the rest would pay Tk 0.70 more.

This means per unit tariff will be Tk 8.95 from the current Tk 8.25 and bulk unit tariff will be Tk 7.04 from Tk 6.70, according to the power division.

Between January and March last year, electricity prices were raised in three phases.

Nasrul yesterday said the government was just adjusting, not increasing, power prices.

"We are adjusting it with fuel prices, something every other country routinely does... We have no other choice but to adjust power prices in line with the fuel cost," he said.

The average production cost of electricity is Tk 12 a unit, he said, adding that the rate of subsidy increased last year as the taka lost its value against the dollar.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

150 duped Bangladeshis stranded in KL building

MD ABBAS

For the last four months, Rafiqul Islam [a pseudonym to protect him from further consequences] has been stuck in an abandoned three-story building in Kuala Lumpur along with 149 others -- all without any work.

"Please save us. We are getting sick physically and mentally. If no one saves us, we will have to die by suicide here," he told this correspondent over

the phone.

Dreaming of a better life, they went to Malaysia by spending lakhs, with some taking on loans at high interest rates to manage the brokers' fees. The brokers promised construction jobs that paid Tk 70,000-80,000 a month.

Soon after landing in Kuala Lumpur, the agents of the construction company that supposedly employed them

confiscated their passports.

"We cannot go out except to buy water. We do not even have water to drink. Each day, we struggle to find water for bathing. The agents provide rice, potatoes, and pulses for us to cook. How long can anyone live like this?"

Like Rafiq, Shihab Uddin, [not real name] from Gobipur village in Meherpur, is another victim. He sold

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

আপনার দেখানো পথে ছুটে চলেছি
অবিচল লক্ষ্যের পানে।
এই পথচলায় আপনি আছেন
আমাদের মাঝে
দৃঢ়সংকল্প, অনুপ্রেরণা ও শক্তি হয়ে।

দ্বিতীয় মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী

মোঃ নাছির উদ্দিন
(১৯৫০-২০২২)
প্রতিষ্ঠাতা
প্যাসিফিক জিন্স গ্রুপ

PACIFIC JEANS



PROTON
INSPIRING CONNECTIONS

RANCON Group

Welcomes

Dr. Li Chunrong

Chief Executive Officer, PROTON

to Bangladesh



GLOBAL ALLIANCE

