

PVT UNIVERSITIES SC stays HC verdict on income tax

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The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for two months a part of the High Court verdict that scrapped government orders imposing 15 percent income tax on private universities and private medical, dental and engineering colleges.

It also halted for the same period the HC directive that asked the National

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Board of Revenue (NBR) to refund the money collected from the institutions from 2007 as income tax under the statutory regulatory orders issued by the government, Deputy Attorney General Rashed S Jahangir told The Daily Star.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Mirza Hussain Haider passed the order after the hearing on a petition filed by the government seeking stay on the HC verdict.

The chamber judge asked the government to file a leave-to-appeal petition in two months with the Appellate Division against the HC

verdict.

Following 46 writ petitions, the HC on September 5 declared illegal the government orders that imposed 15 percent income tax on the private educational institutions.

The court also scrapped the three statutory regulatory orders for tax imposition issued by the government in 2007 and 2010.

Following the SC order, barrister Omar Sadat and barrister Sakhawat Hossain, lawyers of the writ petitioners, told The Daily Star that their clients need not pay the income tax since the SC did not stay the effectiveness of the full HC verdict.