

ENGLISH SCHOOLS

SC extends stay on HC verdict declaring VAT illegal

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THE Appellate Division on Sunday extended until February 5 its stay order on the High Court verdict that had declared realising value-added tax from tuition fees of the English medium school students as illegal and discriminatory.

A four-judge bench chaired by the Chief Justice, SK Sinha, also rescheduled the hearing for February 5.

The bench passed the order after deputy attorney general Moniruzzaman sought adjournment, arguing that the National Board of Revenue could not file regular appeal against the

High Court's December 12, 2016, verdict as directed by the apex court, earlier.

The HC verdict on collection of VAT from the students of the English medium schools was stayed until January 29 by the Appellate Division after the National Board of Revenue sought its permission to file an appeal against the HC decision.

The High Court verdict said instead of imposing additional burden of ad-valorem tax on the students of English medium schools, the government should concentrate on ending collection of fees from the learners.

The verdict also said that anarchy was prevailing in

the English medium schools with regard to charging fees from their students.

The court also asked the government to enact a law and write guidelines to regulate tuition fees and other charges being taken by the English medium schools.

A two-judge bench of Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury and Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah had issued the verdict after hearing a writ petition jointly filed by aggrieved parents, Md Faizul Islam and Md Selim Azam.

The petitioners had challenged the legality of realising VAT from tuition fees of the English medium schools.