

## PM backs NBR call for put univs to pay VAT

Staff Correspondent

THE prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, on Thursday told the parliament that the university authority has already agreed they will pay the VAT, not the students.

The prime minister made the statement several hours after the National Board of Revenue clarified that the

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private universities would be paying the 7.5 percent VAT on tuition fees, not the students. The NBR made the clarification in the wake of the 'crippling' student demonstrations throughout the country.

'Students will not pay any VAT rather the university authority will have to pay the VAT. The authorities of the universities agreed on it,' she said in her winding up speech in the parliament.

She came down hard on private universities saying

'what is the quality of their education? There is no accountability?'

Comparing expenses with that of other countries in higher education, she said it was not possible to study at such low expense in other parts of the world, compared

to Bangladesh.

Jatiya party lawmaker Raushan Ershad in her closing speech called on the prime minister to interfere in the 'private university students' demonstration on imposing VAT on their tuition fees.