



Budget and its Implementation

The national budget determines the important sector on which the highest allowance is granted. But in an atmosphere of massive financial shortage and corruption its effectiveness is impeded. So far a number of budgets have passed through our governments with none of them being implemented. The donors refuse to allow debt because of the abuse of the allotted money. These along with the failure to collect revenue due to the frightening amount of corruption are the main reasons for the failure to implement the national budget.

The economists are calling the latest budget a development budget but will it have any successful impacts on national development? In every budget the government spares a large section for development but the implementation leaves us dumbfounded and disappointed.

In such a shameful situation we should consider the following initiatives:

- * Certainty of implementation of allocated money
- * Clear accountability at an authoritative level.
- * Establishment of proper monitoring systems in different sectors to reduce corruption.
- * Creation of a stable political and financial environment to ensure and increase debt from various international organisations.
- * An effective strategy to increase revenue collection.
- * Raising awareness among the general public.

I think, through the gracious consideration of the government, on these issues the budget can be beneficial to the nation.

Md. Mehedi Hassan
Mirpur

Fake Patriotism

The whole nation is now suffering from football fever. Flags of participating countries are flying on the rooftops of almost every house. Some people are trying to show their patriotism by waving our national flag along with the other flags! In my opinion they are actually disrespecting our national flag as flying it after sunset is strictly prohibited. It is our pride. I don't think there is any need of such patriotism.

Atiqur Rahman
Jigatola

Media Bashing Culture in Bangladesh

Energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman's media bashing is but a part of the ridiculous culture that has been being played by our men of rank. His accusation of the media that it has been acting "anti-state" by not supporting him in his fight against smuggling fuel is insanity as they bear no relevance with each other.

We are turning out to be a strange nation these days. If anything goes wrong with the ministers they instantly point fingers at the media. If there is a bomb to be blown by the religious outfits they blame the media. If there is any agitation by the citizens they blame the media again. And if there is a TI report that ranks Bangladesh as the most corrupted then they start shouting that the media is an enemy of the country and is trying to tarnish its image.

This strategy is aimed to fool the common people of the country. This ludicrous drama is being played at all spheres of our social and political lives. What can we, the citizens, do against all this to bring sanity to our bigwigs?

Rafiqul Islam Rime
Agrabad, Chittagong

Who Are The Ideal Customers?

An ideal customer may receive facilities such as discounts or gift if he/she pays first. That seems to be an exception in the telecommunication business. Here they offer better facilities to post paid customers. Is it because they can impose some additional bill on them?

Recently my uncle, who is a City Cell post-paid customer, was charged with additional bill and he asked for the breakdown of his bill. The service centre told him that he would have to pay Tk 250 to get this breakdown. Is that rational?

Mobile companies are spending several millions in a month on advertisement have already built up an image in the job market as the highest salary payer. But it's a matter of great disappointment that they are not concentrating on customer service or reducing the call rates.

Khaboruzzaman (Shaikat)
NCC Bank Ltd
Motijheel

World Cup 2006 and Our National Flag

It is really sad that our national flag is not being flown along with the flags of the World Cup playing nations. The Flag Act is not being maintained. Many people probably don't even know of the Flag Act (Our national flag should be hoisted on the right side of any foreign flag). All of us know that we achieved our national flag after a long struggle in 1971. We should honour our national flag which is the symbol of our freedom. TV channels, newspapers and the conscious people of the society can play a vital role at this time. I request everyone to come forward and remove this ignorance and raise a sense of patriotism in our motherland.

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