



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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## BUDGET FOR EDUCATION

# Too inadequate to raise quality

Allocation goes up every year but share of education budget in total outlay decreasing

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

If you walk through an alley in any neighbourhood in the capital, you would see kindergartens and private primary schools swarming the area with each and every one of them boasting of their high standard.

Parents send their children to these schools not only because they want their children to have quality education, but also because they are sceptical about the standard of education at government primary schools.

But the situation is quite different when it comes to secondary level education.

The quality of state-run secondary schools is quite high, but their number is so low that many students don't get the opportunity to enrol in those. And that is why the private sector moves in.

Experts blame inadequate government investment in education for this situation at both primary and secondary levels. And their observation is reflected in the budgetary allocation for this sector while the government often proclaims it to be of the highest importance to the nation.

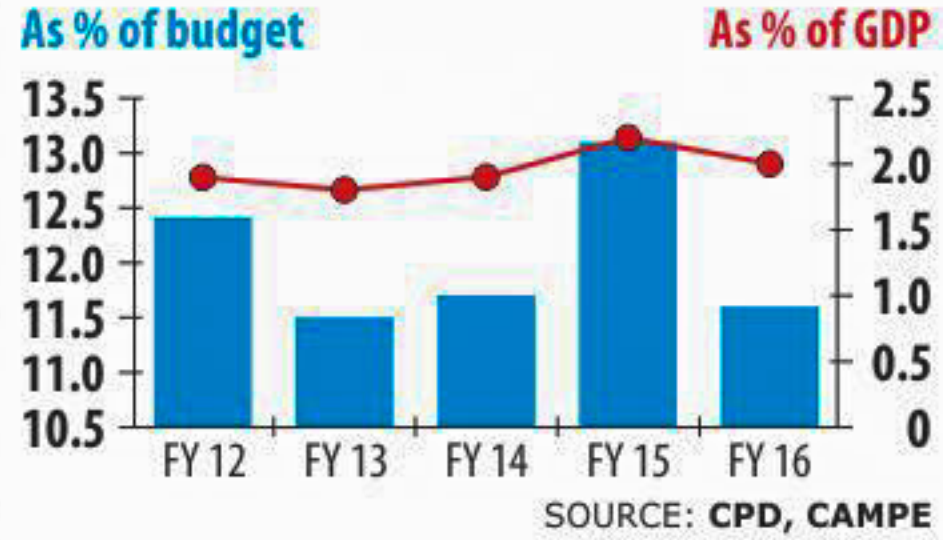
As the size of the national budget is getting bigger every year, the budgetary allocation to the education sector also rises. But actually, the sector's share in the national budget has declined over the years.

The share of the education sector in the total budgetary outlay decreased to 11.6 percent in fiscal 2015-16 from 15.9 percent in 2006-07, according to a study of the Centre for Policy Dialogue and Campaign for Popular Education.

The country spends only around two percent of the GDP for education.

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### GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION



A child collects tobacco leaves in a field at Gorosta in Khagrachhari. Instead of sending him to school, his parents engaged him in harmful tobacco farming to save labour cost. *Inset*, he and another boy carry tobacco leaves. With a big challenge of cutting tobacco use, Bangladesh observes World No Tobacco Day today.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



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## Contrasting price rise

Analysis shows food costlier, tobacco cheaper

PORIMOL PALMA

It sounds funny but true. Prices of some food items essential for survival have risen in real terms more than that of tobacco, which kills people.

For this contrasting price increase, anti-tobacco campaigners blame the faulty tax structure for tobacco and also strong lobbies for low tax.

Between 2001 and 2013, price of a pack of cigarette saw an average rise of 140 percent. During the same period, prices of hen eggs and milk rose between 150 and 200 percent, according to an analysis by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK).

"As a result, people have better affordability to buy tobacco. This in turn led to a rise in tobacco cultivation and consumption," said ABM Zubair, executive director of PROGGA, an anti-tobacco campaigner.

In 2014, farmers cultivated tobacco in 108,000 hectares of land, up from 49,000 hectares in 2010, agriculture department data shows.

On the other hand, the number of tobacco consumers, which was 37 percent of adult population in 2004, went up to 43 percent in 2009, according to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2009.

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## CHILDREN IN TOBACCO FACTORIES

# They feel sick yet they have to work

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

One can easily count the ribcage bones of the 11-year-old bidi (local cigarette) factory worker. Stunted Monir Islam suffers from health problems such as frequent fevers, headaches, nausea and cough but has to work due to poverty.

"I want to study and go to school every day, but I am helpless as I have to work to earn for my poor family," said Monir at his Saptibari factory.

"I studied up to class-III in a local government primary school, but I couldn't continue," he said, adding that he

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## Breaking the convention

Bogra gets its first woman professional auto-rickshaw driver



Nazma Begum carrying passengers on her CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Bogra town. The 32-year-old woman took up this profession after buying the vehicle through a bank loan and self-financing.

PHOTO: STAR

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Travelling across the country, one would find different modes of vehicles driven by men of varying ages, but Bogra-Shariakandi Road offers a different picture -- a woman ferrying passengers on her CNG-run auto-rickshaw.

Thirty-two-year-old Nazma Khatun is the first female auto-rickshaw driver in the district. She entered into this entirely male-dominated profession on May 17 after having her own vehicle through bank loan and self-financing.

She had earlier irregularly operated rented auto-rickshaws on the same road for about five months. But now she proclaims herself as a proud owner of a vehicle and a fully-fledged transport worker.

"I used to work in a boutique shop before. I

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## Why strikes at hospitals should not be stopped

HC asks govt to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of frequent strikes by doctors, interns and nurses at hospitals, the High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain in two weeks why they should not be directed to stop such work stoppages that cause suffering to patients.

The HC also asked the authorities to show cause as to why they should not be instructed to take legal action against those responsible for untoward incidents at hospitals involving doctors, nurses and patients' relatives.

It ordered the authorities to explain why their inaction to stop such strikes should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice AKM Shahidul Huq issued the rule a day after Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh filed a writ petition with the court.

The rights organisation sought the court's necessary orders to the respondents in this regard.

Twenty-three high officials, including the health secretary, chief of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), inspector general of police, and directors of government hospitals in Dhaka have been made respondents to the rule, petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star.

Strikes have become a common occurrence at hospitals,

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MG!

"We will multiply our descendants. They talk about population planning, birth control. No Muslim family can have such an approach."

TURKISH PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN SPEAKING AT AN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

## Accused dies after arrest

Family alleges torture in custody

STAR REPORT

An arrestee was allegedly tortured to death in Sarishabari upazila of Jamalpur early yesterday, barely within a week of the Supreme Court's upholding a High Court verdict against police torture in custody.

Family members of Hashem Ali, 35, alleged that he died from custodial torture, and demanded "policemen responsible for the killing" be brought to justice.

"My brother was murdered. Patients who saw him in hospital said he was tortured and that he was crying in pain when he was taken there," victim's cousin Harunur Rashid told The Daily Star.

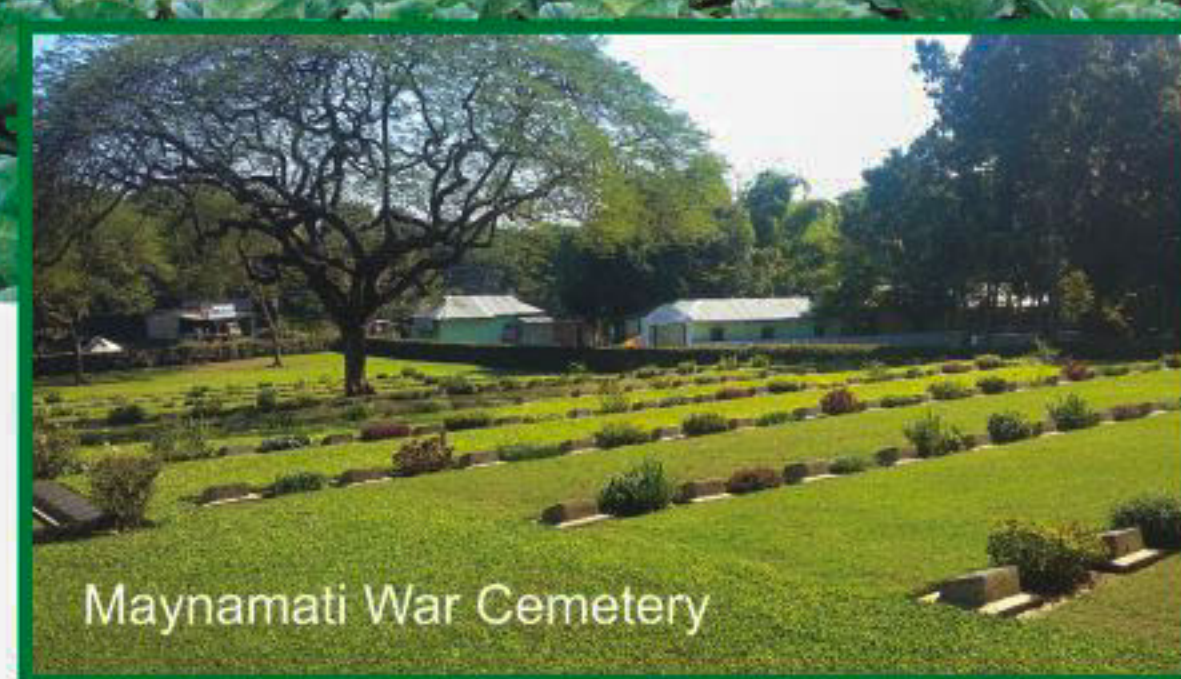
Outraged, locals laid siege to Sarishabari Police Station and demonstrated blocking the Dhaka-Sarishabari highway for nearly two hours in front of AR Jute Mills yesterday morning.

Hashem's mother Hashu Begum joined the protest and

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অবিরাম সেবার অঙ্গীকার ও দরদী সমাজ গঠনের প্রত্যয় নিয়ে গ্রামীণ অর্থনীতিতে আধুনিক কৃষির সফল রূপকার, সবজি জাদার খ্যাত মেঘনা-গোমতী নদী বিধৌত সুফলা উর্বর মাটির দেশ কুমিল্লার বুড়িচং -এ সোশ্যাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর ১১৮তম শাখার শুভ উদ্বোধন

৩১ মে, ২০১৬



Maynamati War Cemetery

বুড়িচং শাখা  
হাজী মোঃ জয়নাল মার্কেট  
বুড়িচং বাজার, বুড়িচং, কুমিল্লা

