



**ALLOCATION OF TOTAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE BY SECTORS**

**FY 2019-20**  
In crores of taka: 4,64,573

Industrial & Economic Services <b>3,891</b> 0.7%	Recreation, Culture & Religious Affairs <b>4,388</b> 0.9%
Agriculture <b>28,355</b> 5.4%	Energy & Power <b>28,050</b> 5.4%
Housing <b>6,603</b> 1.3%	Interest <b>57,070</b> 10.9%
Transport & communication <b>64,829</b> 12.4%	Public Order & Safety <b>27,636</b> 5.3%
Defence Services <b>32,558</b> 6.1%	Education & Technology <b>79,486</b> 15.2%
Health <b>25,732</b> 4.9%	Social Security & Welfare <b>29,769</b> 5.6%
Local Gov. & Rural Development <b>37,884</b> 7.2%	Public Administration <b>154,009</b> 18.5%

NOTE: PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN FY18 AND REVISED FY17.  
SOURCE: MINISTRY OF FINANCE

# Gloom of growers not going away

## MIDDLEMEN, NOT MARGINALISED FARMERS, TO BENEFIT FROM INCENTIVES AS POLICY LEFT FLAWED

PINAKI ROY

Gani Mia is a farmer with no land of his own. He grows paddy, jute and other crops in others' fields. His story, though fictitious, is in school textbooks and etched in the minds of many. It stands true for a large number of the country's farmers, especially the marginal ones. And right now, these people are going through a hard time due to low prices of paddy this year. However, the proposed national budget for fiscal year 2019-20, placed in parliament yesterday, does not have anything drastic to bail them out of the situation, according to experts. While presenting the proposed budget, the finance minister said, "The sale price of chemical fertilisers will remain unchanged in the next fiscal year." Asked, Dr M Asaduzzaman, former director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), said, "It would have been a good news had the prices been reduced." The proposed budget also said the government has concentrated on mechanisation of harvesting following the much talked-about high labour wages for harvest during Boro season. The government will provide subsidies to farmers to buy those machines, it said.

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Mobile phone calls may get costlier  
Supplementary duty doubled

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM  
Mobile phone services are likely to become costlier from today due to increased taxes. The National Board of Revenue sent a regulatory order to the mobile carriers to increase the supplementary duty (SD) to 10 percent from 5 from midnight yesterday. The order came soon after the finance minister's proposal in the budget. The tax-hike would affect the users of about 16 crore active SIMs. Apart from 10 percent SD, subscribers now pay 15 percent VAT and 1 percent surcharge on call and SMS charges. For data usage, the

# Devalue Taka to help garment exporters

Economists suggest, discourage cash incentives; 1pc additional incentive proposed in budget; BGMEA demands more



REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA  
The government should support the garment exporters by devaluing taka against US dollar instead of giving them direct cash incentives, two economists said yesterday. They made the observation after the government in the national budget for 2019-20 fiscal year proposed increasing the cash incentive on garment export by an additional one percent. It also proposed introducing two percent cash incentive for remittance from abroad. Currently, garment exporters receive a cash incentive of 4 percent for emerging markets. All the countries except for Canada, the EU members and the US are considered as emerging markets. In the proposed budget, an additional Tk 2,825 crore has been allocated

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# Smoking gets costlier

MAHMUDUL HASAN  
The government has significantly raised the prices of tobacco products to curb consumption. In the proposed budget, the price of a 10-stick pack of premium cigarette was raised to Tk 123 from Tk 105. If the budget gets approved, the retail price of a 20-stick premium pack will be about Tk 246 from Tk 210. In the high segment, a 10-stick pack is set at Tk 93, up Tk 18 from the previous price. "Considering the health-risk and harmful effects of tobacco products and to maintain compliance with global anti-smoking policy, we are committed to reduce the use of tobacco," reads the budget proposal. Ten cigarettes in the next segment would now rise to Tk 63, from Tk 48.

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# Silent on rising healthcare cost

Proposal for setting up eight more medical colleges  
PORIMOL PALMA  
The health budget proposed yesterday did not address the issue of rising expenditure of healthcare in the country that forces some four to five million people into poverty every year, analysts said. They said the burden of non-communicable diseases, including cancer, kidney and heart diseases, has been increasing rapidly in the country. Such a situation demands rigorous programmes for prevention facilities, including early screening of diseases, improved lifestyle and availability of clean air and water, according to experts. They also pointed out that poor healthcare management in the public hospitals and lack of regulations in the private hospitals are the two areas that need serious attention. However, none of these issues were discussed in the budget speech of Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal. For the fiscal year 2019-20, the minister proposed an allocation of Tk 25,733 crore for the health sector, that amounts to 4.9 percent of the total budget, a slight decrease from 5 percent in the current budget. About 60 percent of the allocation is revenue budget

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### Obituary

**Abdul Mannan Talukder**

Inna lillahi Wa Inna llayhi Raji'un. It is with great sadness that the family of Abdul Mannan Talukder announce his passing in London, on 24 May 2019. He was 76. He was laid to rest at Eternal Gardens, Kemnal Park Cemetery in London, a city he loved dearly. Fondly known as Mannan to friends and family, he was born in Mymensingh on 29 November 1942. He completed his Masters from the University of London in 1969. His time in the U.K. was marked by his contributions to the Liberation War efforts in 1971. He was a member of the Steering Committee for Liberation of Bangladesh and worked tirelessly to organizing fundraising drives for the Freedom Fighters in Bangladesh. Mannan chose to return for his family in Bangladesh, leaving behind a successful career in the U.K. His business acumen helped him build a thriving printing and packaging industry in the country. He retired from his founding institution, Unique Printers, as Managing Director in 2010. Mannan carried his penchant for philanthropy throughout his life, patronizing several educational institutions including the Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB), University Women's Federation College, Dhaka, and the Dhaka Public College. He was also a dedicated Rotarian, serving as Deputy Governor of Rotary International District 3280, Bangladesh for 2005 - 2006. Mannan had received a number of accolades for his charitable contributions including Paul Harris Fellow, "Service above Self Award," the highest recognition bestowed by Rotary International. He'd also received the Presidential Citation Award. Mannan will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Nasreen S Jahan and his daughters, Monica Mannan and Tanni Mannan, son in law, Mujtaba Habib and grandsons, Nazeeb Ullah and Zahran Habib, and an extensive network of dotting family and friends, who he so dearly loved to surround himself with. A milad mahfil will be held right after Maghrib prayers on 15 June 2019, Saturday, at Chowdhury Community Center, House 42, Road 6/A, Dhanmondi.