

Budget brings no comfort to the people

Left-leaning parties say it is likely to increase poverty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal unveiled a proposed budget of Tk 761,785 crore for the 2023-24 fiscal year in the national parliament yesterday.

Here are some of the reactions from left-leaning political parties.

CPB

Rejecting the budget, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) president Mohammad Shah Alam and general secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince said it fails to fulfil the aspirations of the common people amidst low growth, high inflation, foreign currency dominance, and external pressures.

They denounced the budget for failing to address corruption and injustice and taxing people in ways that would further disrupt their lives.

CPB leaders criticised the budget's neoliberal economic policies, saying that it benefits the rich.

They were also disappointed at the lack of strategies to recover embezzled funds and address loan defaulters.

Instead of addressing income, wealth, educational and healthcare disparities, and regional inequalities, the budget is expected to exacerbate these issues.

BSD

General secretary of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) Bazlur Rashid Firoz criticised the imposition of tax burdens on people under the guise of a large budget.

He was disappointed with the government's failure to increase allocations for vital sectors — health, education, agriculture, and employment.

Despite concerns about two million job seekers joining the labour market annually, the budget lacks sufficient

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It's people-friendly

Says Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2023-24 will help the country turnaround from the crisis amid global economic situation.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, made the statement in a quick response to reporters in front of Parliament Bhaban.

He also said this budget is a "people-friendly" one. He said the budget has been prepared in a way so that people's sufferings subside.



BARISHAL CITY POLLS

Abul Khair Abdullah is running for mayor in Barishal city on ruling Awami League ticket. His key opponent Syed Muhammad Faizul Karim is nominated by the Islami Andolon Bangladesh, the party which was founded by late Fazlul Karim, popularly known as Charmonai Pir. The Daily Star's Sushanta Ghosh and Ashik Abdullah Apu talked to them about their aspirations and plans.

People of Barishal want change



ABUL KHAIR ABDULLAH

Construction of new roads, renovation of the old ones and improving the drainage system will be on my priority list. I will take steps to solve the waterlogging problem, which is one of the major problems in the city.

DS: Although BNP officially boycotted the election, a member of the BNP family is running the mayoral race. Islami Andolon Bangladesh also has a mayoral candidate. How confident are you about winning?

Khair: After interacting with the city dwellers, I have understood that I will win if the polls are held fairly. People want change and they want to live peacefully. They will vote for me to ensure their rights as citizens.

DS: Since BNP is not participating, do you think the election will be participatory?

Khair: Candidates of other parties, including Islami Andolon Bangladesh, Jatiya Party and independent candidates, are contesting the polls. In my opinion, it is indeed a participatory election.

DS: You have earlier alleged that you did not get cooperation from a section of the Barishal city unit Awami League.

Khair: I do not want to answer this question.

DS: Who are you considering as a strong opponent?

Khair: I cannot say anything in advance in this regard.

DS: How is the electoral atmosphere in Barishal?

Khair: So far, the atmosphere feels good. However, some outsiders are carrying out provocative activities. They are seeking votes in the name of religion, which is tantamount to deceiving people.

DS: What will be your priority if you win the mayoral race? What are your plans regarding the city's development?

Khair: Construction of new roads, renovation of the old ones and improving the drainage system will be on my priority list. I will try to provide emergency services to people, which have been absent for a long time. Apart from that, I will take steps to solve the waterlogging problem, which is one of the major problems in the city.

Besides, I plan to reform the current tax system and reopen NGOs and donor organisations which have been unable to operate till now due to various reasons.

I have no opponents, only associates



SYED MUHAMMAD FAIZUL KARIM

I am participating in the Barishal City Corporation elections as a statement. It is my own movement in demand for free and fair elections in the future. That is why I want to make this movement a success.

DS: Candidates from major political parties, such as Awami League, Jatiya Party and a candidate from the BNP family, are contesting the election. How confident are you about winning?

Faizul: If people are able to cast their vote, I'm hopeful that I will win by a huge margin.

DS: Why do you think people will vote for you?

Faizul: The people of the city believe that I can develop the city. They do not want any division or conflict. I think they will vote for me in the hopes that I can and will fulfil their expectations.

DS: If elected, what will be your priority and what are your plans regarding the city's development?

Faizul: I will prioritise developing healthcare services and development projects for slum dwellers. I want to reclaim the city's canals and give them back to the city's people and construct new roads for the city as well.

DS: Whom do you consider strong opponents?

Faizul: I have no opponents, I have associates. Besides, I also believe that the real competition will begin after the election.

DS: BNP, a major opposition party, has boycotted the polls. Do you think the election is participatory under these circumstances?

Faizul: BNP did not contest the polls as part of their anti-government movement. I'm participating in the polls as a statement. It is my own movement in demand for free and fair elections in the future and I want to make this movement a success.

DS: How would you respond to the allegations made by other mayoral aspirants that you capitalise on religion during your electoral campaign?

Faizul: I did not deliver any religious speech during my campaign. Meanwhile, you can see those going to mosques and wearing fez who have never done so before whereas I have always been religious. So, it is quite clear who is using religion for electoral campaigns.

BUDGET REACTIONS

A smart way to plunder public money: BNP

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday described the national budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year as a smart one for plundering public money.

"It's surely a smart budget. No government can siphon off lakhs of crores of taka abroad more smartly than the current one. No one can loot banks and public money more smartly than the current one taking advantage of the budget," said BNP standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury.

He said the new budget will also help the government to smartly run its different syndicates to loot public money.

He, however, said the country's people are also eagerly waiting to give a reply to the government's smart budget by holding the next polls under a neutral government.

Khasru, also a former commerce minister, made the remarks while giving the party's initial reaction to the proposed national budget at his Banani residence.



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Budget not pro-people

Claims GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament GM Quader yesterday said the proposed budget is neither people-friendly nor welfare-oriented.

He said this while talking to reporters at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

In reply to a query, GM Quader said an election-oriented budget has been placed keeping the next election in mind.

"This year's budget is 1 lakh crore more than that of last year. I don't think this budget is realistic," he added. This budget will increase the sufferings of people, he added. He also said people's income has decreased while commodity prices are on the rise.

GM Quader said, "... the price of goods will increase further. The people of the country are already fed up, there is no possibility of relief for the common people."

He also said the conditions imposed by the IMF will further increase commodity prices.



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PRAYER TIMING
JUNE 2
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-30 5-00 6-45 8-15
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

TARIQUE, ZUBAIDA CASE

Two more give deposition at Dhaka court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two more prosecution witnesses gave their depositions before a Dhaka court yesterday in a graft case filed against BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman.

The witnesses are Md Golam Kibria, senior executive accountant of Sundarban Air Travels; and its accountant Sheikh Majibur Rahman.

Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court recorded their statements at the courtroom.

The judge then fixed June 5 as the next date of hearing.

The court so far recorded statements of nine witnesses.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the court recorded statements of witnesses amid chaos as a faction of pro-BNP lawyers tried to foil the trial proceedings. On September 26, 2007, Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Kafilul Police Station against the accused on charges of amassing assets worth Tk 4.82 crore through illegal means and concealing the information of Tk 2.16 crore in their wealth statements.

Samrat's bail extended till July 6

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday extended the bail of expelled Jubo League leader Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat till July 6 in a Tk 222 crore laundering case.

Judge Monjurul Imam of the Special Judge's Court-6 passed the order after Samrat's lawyer Afroza Shahana Parvin Hira submitted an application, seeking extension of his bail.

The judge also ordered the authorities concerned to return Samrat's passport for two months, following another application, which says he will go to Singapore for treatment.

On August 22 last year, the court granted ad-interim bail to Samrat considering his health.

On November 12, 2019, Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case against Samrat with its Integrated District Office-1 in Dhaka.

Those who belong to the ruling party or are patronised by the government will be benefited from this budget, not the common people.
AMIR KHASRU MAHMUD CHOWDHURY, BNP standing committee member

Dhaka South City Corporation
Engineering Department
Electrical Circle
Tender Notice
Memo No. 46.207.007.09.22.021.2023 Date: 31/05/2023
e-Tender Notice is invited through e-GP Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, Electrical Circle, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following packages:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Description of works	Last selling (Date & time)	Opening (Date & time)
1	835718	Supply, Fitting & Fixing of Several Types Electrical Equipment with necessary maintenance of existing electrical installations for 5 Nos. Electrical Sub-Station at Zone-3 under DSCC.	21-June-2023 02:00pm	22-June-2023 01:00pm
2	836263	Supply & Installation of Aircooler, various type LED Lights & other Electrical works at Mayor Mohammad Sayeed Khokon Center of Dhaka South City Corporation-DSCC.	21-June-2023 02:00pm	22-June-2023 01:10pm
3	836270	Supply & Installation of 10KVA Diesel Generator for Azimpur Mini Community Centre (Revenue Office) with related Electrical works at Zone-3 under DSCC.	21-June-2023 02:00pm	22-June-2023 01:20pm

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and hard copies/offline will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). If necessary, information please contact to the PE's Support Desk (02-223386009).
Nur Mohammad
Executive Engineer
Electrical Circle
Dhaka South City Corporation
Phone: 02-223386009

DSCC/PRD/317/2022-2023
GD-972

Master of Professional Human Resource Management Program
Department of Management
University of Dhaka
Be a Successful HR Professional
Admission Announcement

Program Features:

- 1.5 to 2 years program with 51 credit hours including thesis of 3 credit hours.
- MBA graduates and professional human resource executives are eligible to get exemptions for a maximum of 4 courses in the MPHRM program.
- All classes will be held only on Friday and Saturday.
- Industry and professional experts will be engaged to share their experiences with the students.

Admission Requirements:

- A bachelor degree in any discipline with a minimum CGPA of 2.50 on a scale of 4.00 or second class/division.
- A minimum of one-year work experiences is required.
- Work experience is exempted for the members of professional bodies like DCCI, BGMEA, DU Mgt HR Professionals Network, and different associations of Management and HRM.

Application Process:
Eligible candidates are invited to submit their applications through <https://tinyurl.com/yvzwf5mm> along with a pay-order of Tk. 1500 only in favor of "MPHRM Program, A/C No: 4405701023392".

Last Date of Application : June 6 (Tuesday), 2023
Admission Test Schedule : June 9 (Friday), 2023, at 03:00pm – 04:00pm
Viva Voce: 4:30pm – 6:00pm
Admission Test Syllabus : MCQ Test: English, General Knowledge.
Written Test: Paragraph writing and Translation

Contact Information: Department of Management, University of Dhaka
Phone: 01988-847976, 01515-247491
Email Address: mphrmgt@gmail.com
Website: <https://managementdu.ac.bd/>

QS World Ranking 2022
The Department of Management, DU is ranked among top 350 in the subject category