

Tk 7,61,785cr budget passed in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday passed Tk 7,61,785 crore national budget for the 2023-24 fiscal, aiming at 7.5 percent GDP growth rate with an expectation of keeping annual inflation at around 6.0 percent.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal placed the Appropriations Bill, 2023 seeking a budgetary allocation of Tk 11,01,840.76 crore, which was passed by voice vote.

Earlier on Monday, Parliament passed the Finance Bill 2023 with some changes.

Following the proposal mooted in the House by the finance minister for the parliamentary approval of appropriation of fund for meeting necessary development and non-development expenditures of the government, the ministers concerned placed justifications for the expenditures by their respective ministries through 59 demands for grant.

Earlier, the parliament rejected by voice vote a total of only 503 cut-motions that stood in the name of opposition members on 59 demands for grants for different ministries.

A total of eight Jatiya Party MPs, one each MP from Gonoforum and independent submitted their cut-motions on the budget.

Opposition and independent lawmakers were present at the House when the Appropriation Bill was passed at the Parliament and they did not raise any voice against passing of the bill.

Kamal on June 1 placed a Tk 7,61,785 crore budget,

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An over-loaded van plies the busy Dhaka-Mawa expressway among speeding vehicles, defying traffic rules. To add to the risk, two people are sitting on top of the sacks. Such risky way of travelling not only poses danger for them but also puts other commuters in jeopardy. This photo was taken in Postogola area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Sholakia to host largest Eid congregation

UNB, Dhaka

The largest Eid congregation of the country will be held at Sholakia Eidgah Maidan in Kishoreganj district at 9:00am on the day of Eid-ul-Azha.

Three-tier security measures have been taken in and around the Eidgah to ensure foolproof security, said Deputy Commissioner of Kishoreganj Mohammad Abul Kalam Azad yesterday after inspecting the maidan.

Maulana Farid Uddin Masud will lead the main Eid congregation at 9:00am, he added.

People will not be allowed to carry mobile phone sets and umbrellas on security grounds.

Law enforcers along with plainclothes police will be deployed. Apart from CCTV cameras, four watchtowers will be set up to keep an eye on the ground.

Six ambulances and

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371 more get hospitalised with Dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 371 dengue patients were hospitalised across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the new ones, the total number of dengue cases this year rose to 7,609, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

Some 1,385 dengue patients are still under treatment, 363 of whom are from outside Dhaka.

Meanwhile, 6,178 dengue patients were released from hospitals, 1,381 of whom are from outside Dhaka.

A total of 45 people died of dengue so far this year. The infection claimed 281 lives last year while the number of cases stood at 62,382.

PRAYER
TIMING

JUNE 27

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:05	12:45	5:00	6:54	8:17
JAMAAAT 4:40	1:15	5:15	6:57	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

The prison meet that led to Jama'atul Ansar

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A top leader of the militant outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islam (Huji) instructed Shamin Mahfuj to establish and initiate the formation of a new militant faction, which later became known as Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya.

The Huji leader, Abu Sayeed, also known as Abu Jafar, who is an accused in the grenade attack on an Awami League rally on August 21, 2004, provided the directives during a meeting held inside the prison.

This meeting took place in 2017 and included the presence of two others, Mainul Islam alias Mahin alias Roxy and Jony.

During the meeting, Jafar assured Shamin that they would receive financial support and members from Huji, and he instructed them to establish a training camp in the hilly regions. Subsequently, in 2018, Mahin was granted bail, followed by Shamin's release in 2019.

Under the leadership of Mahin as the initial ameer of the newly-formed platform, Shamin began the process of recruiting members and securing funding for the outfit.

Shamin also started communicating with different groups in the hill areas and eventually obtained support from Nathan Bom, his university friend and the chief of the Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF), an armed group operating in the Chattogram Hill Tracts.

Officials from the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit revealed these findings while speaking with The Daily Star recently.

Shamin and his wife, Naznin Sultan, were arrested on Friday night in Demra.

Currently, the CTTC is interrogating the couple during their respective four-day and three-day police remands.

Jafar has been in jail since 2007 following his arrest.

According to investigators, Shamin was arrested by the police's

Counterterrorism officials believe that Huji leader Jafar orchestrated and directed the formation of this new platform to gain support for the outfit within prisons.

detective branch in 2014 for his involvement in militancy. Mahin and Jony, on the other hand, were apprehended by the Rapid Action Battalion in 2015.

After Mahin's arrest in July 2015, the Rab stated that he served as the chief coordinator of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS). Both Mahin and Shamin had affiliations with the militant outfit Ansar Al Islam.

Inspired by Ansar Al Islam's strategy, young individuals started

joining Shamin to undergo training in the hilly regions, entering into an agreement with the KNF.

Sources indicate that Shamin initially paid Tk 24 lakh to the KNF for training and shelter at their camp. At the end of 2020, Shamin held a meeting with Ansar Al Islam leaders and started working together, they said.

Since then, Ansar Al Islam has provided financial support to Shamin. While staying at the KNF camp, the leadership of the emerging militant outfit decided to name it Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya in early 2022.

Counterterrorism officials believe that Huji leader Jafar orchestrated and directed the formation of this new platform to gain support for the outfit within jails.

Md Asaduzzaman, chief of the CTTC unit, said, "We are currently receiving various types of information. We are now verifying it."

DARK WEB, USE OF FOREIGN NUMBERS

Counterterrorism officials said they have discovered the use of the messaging app Imo by the leaders of Sharqiya for the first time in recent history.

"We have never encountered these types of communications before. The outfit leaders acquire foreign numbers from the dark web and then register Imo accounts with them," said a high-ranking

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'Fake notes worth Tk 5cr circulated in 2 months' Say police after arresting 9 persons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fake currency-making gang has circulated over Tk 5 crore counterfeit notes in the country in the last two months.

Detectives have arrested nine members of the gang, who told police that they had a target of circulating an additional Tk 3 crore in the market before Eid-ul-Azha.

Harun-Or Rashid, chief of the Detective Branch (DB) of DMP, said this yesterday after a team of detectives of Lalbagh Division arrested them from the Kashmiri Lane area in Lalbagh yesterday.

They also seized fake notes worth Tk 82 lakh.

The arrestees are Babul Mia, the kingpin of the gang; his wife Mirana Khatun; chief fake note producer Saiful Islam; his wife Mili Khatun, and staffers -- Alpona Akter, Ibrahim, Afazul alias Rasel, Habibullah and Dulal Hossain.

While briefing reporters at the DMP media centre, Harun said a team of DB first arrested -- Ibrahim, Rasel, Habibullah and Dulal -- along with Tk 25

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BY-POLLS It's Arafat vs Hero Alom in Dhaka-17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main battle for ballots in Dhaka-17 by-polls will take place between Awami League candidate Muhammad A Arafat and independent Ashraful Hossain alias Hero Alom.

Hero Alom appears to be the strongest opponent of the AL nominee as major opposition parties such as the BNP remain absent, said local public representatives.

The election campaigning commenced yesterday after the Election Commission allocated symbols to nine aspirants running for office.

Hero Alom received the "Ektara" symbol while six other candidates, backed by political parties, received symbols of their respective organisations.

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DEATH OF TEENAGER 6 doctors of Labaid hospital sued

STAR REPORT

A murder case was filed yesterday against seven people, including six doctors of LabAid Specialized Hospital in Dhanmondi, over the death of HSC candidate Tahsin Hossain, allegedly "due to wrong treatment".

Tahsin's father Monir Hossain filed the case with the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Farah Diba Chandar, reports UNB.

The court took the statement of the complainant and directed Dhanmondi Police Station to take the complaint as an FIR.

The accused in the case are Dr Md Saifullah, Dr Maqsood, Dr Sabbir Ahmed, Dr Mosharraf, Dr

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Live fish from various hatcheries enter Dhaka in small makeshift water tanks on pick-up vans. These fresh fish are sold at various markets for a comparatively higher price for customers who prefer the finest pick. Inset, a trader proudly shows off the catch of the day. The photos were taken near Jatrabari fish market recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bank Asia

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for information of all concerned that Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh (CRAB) rated Bank Asia Limited AA1 for long term and ST-1 for short term based on the financials of 2022 on June 14, 2023. The rating will remain valid upto June 30, 2024.

The information will also be available on the website of the Bank at www.bankasia-bd.com

We ensure **STABLE BANKING** through maintaining very strong repayment capacity and very low credit risk

Ratings	2022	2023
Long Term	AA ₁	AA ₁
Short Term	ST-1	ST-1

Rated by CRAB on June 14, 2023 & valid up to June 30, 2024

Based on Financials December 31, 2022

Dated: June 26, 2023
Dhaka

AREEF BILLAH ADIL CHOWDHURY
PRESIDENT & MANAGING DIRECTOR