







DHAKA TUESDAY MAY 14, 2024 www.thedailystar.net

REGD. No. DA 781 VOL. XXXIV No. 114

BAISHAKH 31, 1431 BS

ZILQAD 5, 1445 HIJRI

Best Corporate & Investment Bank

Bangladesh 2021

16 PAGES PLUS LIFE STYLE: TK 15.00

Health, education face spending cuts again

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Education and health sectors are set to get less Annual Development Plan allocation than prescribed in the eighth five-year plan.

This is a continuation of the downward trend seen over the last four years, even though the two sectors are crucial for a well-educated and healthy population.

According to the draft development budget, which is likely to be placed before the National Economic Council

PROPOSED

ALLOCATION

8TH 5-YEAR

FY25 ADP

SHARE VS

fixed in the five-year plan.

Noted educationist Rasheda K Choudhury said education and healthcare are two of the most vital factors for human development.

"We have been hearing from policymakers that they are putting emphasis on health and education and even the prime minister said so repeatedly. But it is unfortunate that we are not seeing the reflection in the development budget.

"We are implementing many megaprojects and developing infrastructure.

SECTOR	SHARE IN ADP	SHARE IN 5YR PLAN	
Education & technology	13.70 pc	16.50 pc	
Health	7.80 pc	11.1 pc	
Agriculture	4.99 pc	11.50 pc	
Transport and communication	26.67 pc	17.40 pc	

for approval on Thursday, the health These play important roles in the sector will get 7.80 percent of the ADP allocation in fiscal year 2024-25. The eighth five-year plan, for fiscal years 2020-21 to 2024-25, prescribed 11.1 percent of the ADP allocation for fiscal year 2024-25.

The education and technology sector is to get 13.70 percent of the ADP allocation, against the plan's proposal of 16.5 percent.

Health and education sectors got similar allocations in the current fiscal year as well.

Planning Commission officials said several sectors, including health, education, agriculture, and social protection, got less allocation in the

country's progress. But if we fail to enhance human capacity, these developments will not be sustainable," said Rasheda, also executive director of Campaign for Popular Education.

If the country cannot properly develop the capacity of its people, it will need to hire experts from abroad, she said, pointing out that the RMG sector alone pays several billion dollars in salaries and allowances to foreign employees. The money eventually goes out of the country as Bangladesh does not have the skilled manpower, she said.

Less allocation for health and education can lead to substandard

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Make budget tight, control inflation PM asks finance ministry



REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the finance ministry to formulate a contractionary budget for the upcoming fiscal year to control inflation.

During a meeting with officials from the finance ministry, Bangladesh Bank, and the National Board of Revenue (NBR) at the Gono Bhaban, PM Hasina mentioned that developed countries like the United States and Japan increased their policy interest rates to curb inflation and suggested similar measures in Bangladesh.

She asked for prioritising pledges made in the government's election manifesto while preparing the next budget and directed the continuation of the existing austerity measures for different ministries and divisions.

The PM also directed the NBR to broaden its tax net rather than putting SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Dhaka Bank is leading the banking industry with prestigious awards and innovative services. We're here to shape a brighter future for you.

PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS & ACCOLADES













INNOVATIVE SERVICES

	Bills-to Cash/	4	FF C
Digitalization of Banking Services	Smart & Fastest Cash Management Services	Islamic Banking Brand 'Tayyebah'	Country's First Ever Card Experience Center
000			0
App Based Account Opening	Sustainable Growth & Wider Financial Integration	Tailored Corporate & SME Solutions	Exclusive Banking for Women

www.dhakabankitd.com





After the DMP on May 6 banned the illegal parking of buses in the capital's Mohakhali Bus Terminal area, traffic jams there have eased significantly. However, those buses are now parked along the road from Nabisco Mor to Satrasta, causing gridlocks there instead. The photo was taken at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sharani yesterday.

BUSINESS

Food inflation crosses 10pc

Food inflation rose to a five-month high in April as the measures of the government and the central bank aimed at reining in elevated consumer prices are yet to take hold, official figures showed yesterday. According to BBS data, food inflation jumped 35 basis points to 10.22 percent last month from 9.87 percent in March. This was the first time in five months that food inflation hit double digits.

STORY ON B1

MPs may lose duty waiver for car imports

NBR to place proposal before PM today for ending import duty exemptions

MOHAMMAD SUMAN and MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

The National Board of Revenue seeks to impose 25 percent import duty on cars for lawmakers, reversing a practice of tax exemptions that amounted to Tk 5,147 crore over the last 15 years.

According to the NBR's import data, lawmakers imported 572 vehicles under the duty-free benefit between January 2009 and April 15 this year.

The customs value of the vehicles was estimated at Tk 397.38 crore, shows the data.

The NBR officials said the government gave tax waiver of at least Tk 5,147 crore for these vehicles under

They further said the NBR's proposal for withdrawal of the benefit will be placed at a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office today.

Import duty on the MPs' cars could be imposed in the budget for fiscal 2024-25 if the prime minister agrees to the proposal, they added.

Seeking anonymity, a NBR official said the proposal suggests replacing the waiver as part of efforts to improve Bangladesh's low tax-GDP ratio.

"According to the conditions of the International Monetary Fund, we cannot continue the duty-free benefit in the days to come.'

Customs duty should be imposed on all types of products, except for 20-25 essentials such as rice, wheat and fertilizer, the official mentioned.

The NBR officials will present before the PM a summary of the facility under which the lawmakers received duty-free benefits of Tk 816 crore on car imports in fiscal 2022-23 and Tk 351 crore till March 30 in the current fiscal year.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

