



“The aggressiveness and perversity of the Yankee government will clash with our decision to confront the worst scenarios and resist the imperialist onslaught.” Cuban President Miguel Diaz Canel bashes new US sanctions

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Subsidy burden set to rise for power, fertiliser

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government will allocate Tk 1,26,125 crore for subsidies and incentives in the upcoming fiscal year's budget, with 55 percent going towards electricity and fertiliser.

In the original budget for this fiscal year, Tk 1,25,904 crore was allocated, with fertiliser and electricity accounting for more than 50 percent of the sum.

However, the prices of LNG, petroleum products and fertiliser have risen in the global market, so the subsidy for electricity and fertiliser may be increased by Tk 4,600 crore and Tk 2,000 crore respectively in the revised budget, The Daily Star has learnt from finance ministry officials involved with the proceedings.

In the upcoming fiscal year, Tk 64,000 crore will be allocated for electricity and fertiliser subsidies, of which Tk 37,000 crore is for electricity alone.

But the power division is pushing for more allocation due to the rising prices of primary fuels such as gas and fuel oil used in power generation.

The gas price for the power sector has increased by 208 percent, while the price of liquid fuel such as diesel used in power generation has also risen, alongside the depreciation of the taka.

Subsidies in the gas sector are mainly provided for LNG imports. For several years, Tk 5,000 - 6,000 crore was allocated.

BUDGET 2026-27

TOTAL SUBSIDY
Tk 1,26,125 crore

Subsidy for electricity and fertiliser
Tk 64,000 crore



In the upcoming budget, 55% of the total subsidy will go to electricity, fertiliser



Subsidy to increase as LNG, petroleum products and fertiliser prices rise in the global market

This fiscal year, Tk 6,000 crore was allocated, but due to the Iran war, an additional Tk 14,000 crore may be required in the LNG sector.

While the government has raised the electricity prices, it has no plan to hike the fertiliser price.

To provide relief to the poor and low-income groups from the impact of high inflation, food subsidies are being significantly increased.

In the upcoming fiscal year, Tk 9,600 crore has been allocated, the same as the current fiscal year. However, in the revised budget, this has been increased to Tk 10,214 crore.

Remittance incentives may rise by about 13 percent to Tk 7,000 crore, a move that is being criticised by economists as superfluous at this point given the depreciation.

When the incentive was introduced, the exchange rate was Tk 85 per dollar, which is now around Tk 122. This means the taka has depreciated by about Tk 37 against the dollar during this period.

For export incentives, Tk 7,825 crore has been allocated, the same as this fiscal year.

Bangladesh was supposed to withdraw export incentives in 2026 after graduating from LDC status, but since graduation has been delayed by three years, the incentives will continue for some more time.

Apart from these, the government also provides subsidies and incentives in jute products and various other sectors, which will continue in the upcoming fiscal year.

To reduce fertiliser subsidies, the price of fertiliser for farmers would have to be increased, which is a politically very difficult decision, said Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

And now that the prices have gone up in the global market, the scope for reducing subsidies has become limited.

On electricity subsidies, he said: "It's like the hands of a clock -- it will keep adding every day. You give today, tomorrow it adds again. The reason is the capacity charge, which exists like a ticking time bomb."

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Ministers, MPs face closer PMO scrutiny

Quarterly review looks at pledges, development work, corruption claims

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The performances of ministers, state ministers, and lawmakers are under close scrutiny as Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has begun reviewing their efforts to deliver on the BNP's election pledges, advance development initiatives, and maintain party discipline.

The PM and his team are closely assessing whether ministers and lawmakers are regularly visiting their constituencies, maintaining coordination with local administrations, playing an effective role in development projects, and helping implement the government's commitments on the ground.

According to PMO sources, the review also covers allegations of corruption, irregularities, lobbying, undue interference in administrative work, and abuse of power.

Three ministers and state ministers have already been verbally warned, while the lack of coordination between some MPs and local administration officials

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BGB foils multiple push-in attempts at northern border

88 people stranded near zero line in Lalmonirhat, Panchagarh, Naogaon, C'nawabganj

According to Human Rights Support Society, BSF pushed at least 166 people into Bangladesh through various border points during May.

STAR REPORT

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) thwarted multiple push-in attempts by India's Border Security Force (BSF) along the Bangladesh-India border in the northern districts of Lalmonirhat, Panchagarh and Naogaon yesterday, leaving around 60 people, including women and children, stranded at or near the zero line.

Meanwhile, 28 people pushed in by the BSF through the Bangabari border in Gomostapur upazila of Chapainawabganj remain stranded at the zero line. A flag meeting between BGB and BSF battalion commanders was held Thursday afternoon, but till last night, no resolution had been reached.

On Thursday, a BGB press release said 10 separate push-in attempts by BSF across different border areas were foiled within 24 hours. In those incidents, BSF tried to push in at least 90 people.

In Lalmonirhat, an attempt by BSF to push 33 individuals into Bangladesh through three separate border points was foiled in the morning, said BGB.

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Violence against women, children rises in May

HRSS records 83 rape cases, up from 68 in April

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Incidents of violence against women and children, including rape and child abuse, increased in May compared to the previous month, according to rights organisation Human Rights Support Society (HRSS).

The findings were published yesterday in HRSS's monthly human rights monitoring report, based on reports published in 16 national media outlets as well as the organisation's own fact-finding and monitoring.

The report also recorded increases in border killings and mob violence, while warning that killings, extortion, attacks on shrines and other violent crimes continued to challenge public safety and law and order.

In particular, HRSS described the human rights situation of women and children as deeply concerning.

"Violence against women and children, both online and offline, has emerged as a serious challenge to social security and humanitarian protection," the report said.

According to HRSS, at least 305

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5 DAYS



The champions' curse

So far, five World Cup-winning nations have suffered the disappointment of being eliminated in the group stage of the following tournament. Italy have endured this fate twice (1950 and 2010). The others are Brazil (1966), France (2002), Spain (2014), and Germany (2018). Visit The Daily Star's website to also read: "The run that never ended"

****Visit the Star website to also read: 'The four minutes defining Maradona's legacy'**



Football fans in Dhaka take to the streets in a colourful rally yesterday, ahead of the FIFA World Cup kicking off on June 11. Donning the jerseys of their favourite national teams and waving flags of 48 participating countries, supporters turned the capital into a moving mosaic of global football passion. The procession began at Hossaini Dalan Road and ended at TSC of Dhaka University, capturing the city's growing world cup fever.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Star INTERVIEW

'Govt to self-finance Padma Barrage, Teesta Mega Plan'

Water resources minister hopeful of Ganges treaty renewal by Dec 11

Technical teams from both Bangladesh and India are working on the renewal [of the treaty].

Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee



PINAKI ROY

The government will construct the Padma Barrage and implement the Teesta Mega Plan with its own funds, Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee has told The Daily Star in an exclusive interview.

He also expressed hope that the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty with India would be renewed before its expiry on December 11 this year.

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