



“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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Our eids and puja in Azimpur
P10



The mountain must not fall
WR2



Nusraat Faria's musical comeback
P8



Solar power lit up the chars, but not for long
WR3

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.



Dark chemical pollutants from industrial wastewater flow into the Shitalakkhya river, sharply changing the colour of the water. The photo, taken recently in Demra on the outskirts of Dhaka, shows the ecological stress caused by untreated discharge and rapid urban expansion along the river. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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

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

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.

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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

5 DAYS FOR



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'



Despite repeated eviction drives by Dhaka South City Corporation, vendors have reoccupied footpaths and streets in the capital's New Market area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4