



Mexico elects Sheinbaum as first woman president P7



Break the syndicates, not the dreams of migrants P8



England begin T20 World Cup defence today P11



Why tech workers must reskill, upskill in the age of AI P10

Power, agriculture to drive up subsidies

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

The subsidies and incentive expenditures in the upcoming budget are going to be more than that of the current fiscal year.

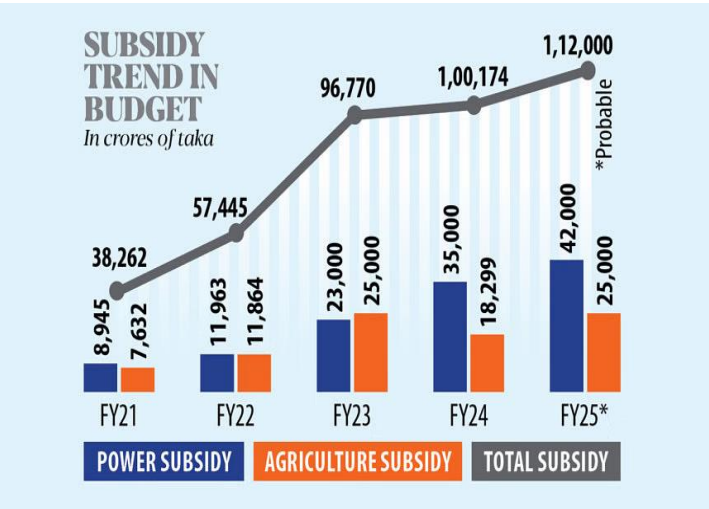
The subsidies have mainly been increasing in the power, energy, and the agriculture sectors.

Even though the government plans to increase power prices four to five times a year, the highest subsidy allocation is likely to go towards the power sector.

Finance ministry officials said the increased subsidy allocation was largely due to the arrears in the power and agriculture sectors.

In the upcoming fiscal year, the subsidy allocation is likely to be Tk 1,12,000 crore. For the current fiscal year, the government allocated Tk 1,00,174 crore.

Of the amount for the next fiscal year, the power sector is likely to get Tk 42,000 crore. The government allocated Tk 35,000 crore for this sector in the current fiscal year.



Before fiscal year 2021-22, the subsidy allocations for the power sector were between Tk 7,000 crore to Tk 8,000 crore.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem research director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said the main reason behind the rising subsidy allocation in FY25 is the higher energy prices in the international market and elevated capacity payments.

He said the government has planned to increase power tariffs will require more subsidies as more power plants, including Rooppur nuclear plant, are ready to produce electricity.

"If the old and inefficient

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An elderly woman wades through knee-deep water in Sylhet city's Shahjalal neighbourhood yesterday afternoon. Due to the overflowing of rivers, overnight rains and mountain torrents, many areas in the city have gone under water, affecting at least 15,000 families. Due to the flooding, locals have been facing a shortage of food and clean water. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Custodial Death Victim's family 'leaves home fearing reprisal'

Says neighbour; police from probe body

STAR REPORT

The family of the woman, who died in Jashore police custody on Sunday morning, locked their house and moved to a relative's home after the incident, said a neighbour.

Afroza Begum, 40, died hours after being picked up by Abhaynagar police from her Nawapara village home. Her family accused police of torture.



Afroza Begum

Visiting Afroza's house yesterday, our Benapole correspondent found it locked.

Her neighbour Nurul Islam Hawladar said the family moved to a relative's house fearing reprisals from police.

The Daily Star could not reach Afroza's husband Jalil Mollah and their two sons, Munna Mollah and Sabbir

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A train whizzes past fruit sellers who have placed themselves right on the lines near the Airport Railway Station, putting not only themselves but also their customers at risk. Multiple trains frequently pass through the station, opposite the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital. The photo was taken yesterday. Photo: Rashed Shumon

Benazir's abuse of power a cause for grave concern

Says TIB, demands action against those who aided, protected the former IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday expressed grave concerns over accumulation of substantial illegal wealth by a former police and Rab chief.

In a statement, it said the misuse of power by those who are in top positions creates "Frankenstein like figures" such as Benazir Ahmed, former inspector general of police and it makes questionable the state's mechanism to hold people accountable.

The graft watchdog demanded legal action against those who abetted and protected the power abuser and fair compensation for those whose land was grabbed.

According to media reports, the land in most cases was acquired by the former IGP through intimidation. Many of the



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