

তারিখ ... 03 JUL 1989
পৃষ্ঠা ... 3 3



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Edn sector gets second highest priority in budget

SANGSAD BHABAN, July 2 (BSS): Participating in Budget discussion on Sunday Jatiya Party Begum Mansura Mohiuddin MP (Nilphamari) said compared to all previous budgets of independent Bangladesh, the proposed budget for 1989-90 was more development and production-oriented.

Begum Mohiuddin said taxes had been proposed to maintain the tempo of progress and development. She, however, said that the government being conscious of the impact of floods, droughts, tornadoes and other natural calamities, which hit the country last year, had given more emphasis on indirect taxes than direct taxes. It has also proposed relief on some commodities to benefit the consumers.

Begum Mohiuddin said the proposed budget had given priority on poverty alleviation, employment opportunity and rapid industrialisation. She said budgetary proposals were directed to attaining a self-reliant economy. She said the education sector had received the second highest priority intended to raise the literacy rate.

Begum Mohiuddin said taxes had been imposed on such items which would not affect the

common people. She welcomed imposition of taxes on cigarettes and demanded that still higher taxes should be imposed on cigarette and bidis in public interest. She hailed declaration of Bangabhaban as the no-smoking zone at the initiative of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and appealed that public smoking should be banned in the Sangsad area.

Speaking about trafficking on

Mohiuddin called for tough action from the law enforcing agencies for arresting those responsible.

She congratulated Begum Rashan Ershad for her relentless efforts to save the drug addicts. The international community recognised her efforts in this regard medal by awarding her "together for peace", she said.

About her own constituency, Begum Mohiuddin demanded the setting up of a library and women education centre at Paraband, the birth place of Rokeya Shakhawat Hossain pioneer of women education and progress in the country. She also demanded the setting up of the proposed sugar mill at Nawabganj in the light of the report of the feasibility committee and elevation of Saidpur Airport into a sub-international airport.