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Budget to be placed June 9.

Education, poverty alleviation to get top priority: Saifur

Education, poverty alleviation and agricultural development will continue to receive the top most priority in the coming national budget for 1994-95 fiscal year, Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman said in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.

The fiscal measures and budgetary provisions will reflect the sense of directions as initiated by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman for building a village-based self-reliant economy, Mr. Rahman told BSS in an exclusive interview here at his Secretariat office.

Mr. Rahman will place the national budget for 1994-95 before the Sangsad on June 9 (Thursday).

This will be the sixth budget presented by Mr. Saifur Rahman, an all time record by any Finance Minister in Bangladesh.

He recalled that on this day (June 6) in 1981, he had presented his second budget before the Sangsad only after a week of the tragic assassination of President Ziaur Rahman.

Paying tributes to Shaheed Zia, Mr. Saifur Rahman said that he had worked relentlessly till his death for development of rural economy, through establishing democracy and political stability.

He said the coming budget, after 13 years, would reflect the spirit of developing a rural-based economy.

"Programmes for poverty alleviation, expansion on education, increasing production in farms and factories and bringing about overall welfare of the people will be the other highlights of the budget," he added.

Replying to a question about non-participation of the opposition in the budget session, the Finance Minister said that the government and he himself were earnestly trying to bring the opposition to the Sangsad in the budget session. He said, he still hoped that the opposition would play their due and constructive role in the budget discussion.

Mr. Rahman said it would be unfortunate if the opposition refrained themselves from participating in the important budget discussion. By doing so the opposition members would not only fail to perform their obligations under parliamentary democratic practices but also undermine the verdict of their electorates.