

# Only the Khilafah State can ensure your Economic security

The issuing of the huge 52,000 crore-taka budget for the fiscal 2003-2004 has caused much discussion and disagreement within political and business circles as well as the general people. Raising duties on essentials and utilities and widening the tax net are some of the measures the government has taken to manage the huge expenditure it plans. Every year huge amounts of public money are allocated to various projects that are supposed to bring development for Bangladesh. This year the development expenditure is over 20,000 crore. To find the money for these projects, governments raise taxes upon the general people as well as burden the nation with debts from the IMF/WB.

What development have these projects brought for the ordinary people? The people of Bangladesh still continue to struggle to live in the most oppressive of conditions. These huge allocations of public money have done no more than made some corrupt politicians, secretaries and officials rich beyond belief. The recent Public Expenditure Review Commission Report clearly highlighted the allocation of funds on the basis of selfish political interests and many projects would take from 44 to 152 years to end because the way governments funded them! \$1.3 billion of public money is wasted in corruption every year. In the light of such widespread corruption, wastage and total destruction of the political culture, can anyone really believe that issuing budgets in ceremonious style year after year will bring any change to the situation of this country?

The reality of the economy of Bangladesh is that it is built upon a man made capitalist system where some ruling elites in collusion with the imperialist foreign institutions such as the IMF and World Bank have totally ruined the economy for their benefit. The foreign donor agencies have been putting pressure to privatize the national banks and corporations, sell off our natural resources, give away our ports and free float the exchange rate. These measures are designed to attract foreign multinational companies to use Bangladesh as a market to make quick profits. They have only one intention i.e. to make the country a market for the imperialist's countries such that the nation can never stand on its own feet.

A common argument given is that Bangladesh is a poor country with a high population and hence has no choice but to depend on foreign assistance. Unfortunately, this is one of the biggest lies sold to the public in the last thirty years. Bangladesh is an extremely fertile country with a very high agricultural potential. The people of this country are extremely hardworking and resilient. We have been blessed with huge reserves of natural resources. The problem has never been a shortage of wealth as claimed by our foreign donors. The problem has always been the **oppressive distribution** of this wealth. The distribution of the wealth is according to the man made capitalist system, which is solely built upon benefit and greed. This economic system ensures through a system of interest, privatization, hoarding and corruption that capital circulates amongst the rich and powerful while the poor have hardly any chance to compete and improve their standard of living. As a result over the last few decades the rich have been getting richer whilst the poor have been getting poorer. The issue is not begging for more interest based IMF/WB loans to solve the nation's budget deficit or to produce poverty reduction strategy papers but to fundamentally change the mechanisms of distribution of the existing wealth.

*“And whosoever does not rule (judges) by what Allah has revealed, they indeed are the oppressors”*  
[TMQ 5:44]

After 30 years of foreign prescriptions we are still struggling to provide the basic needs of our people. Our people still live and sleep on the streets and feed from the city corporation dustbins. While some people enjoy luxury cars, AC's, apartments and five star hotels, most cannot even afford the fuel to cook their food, let alone health care and education. The state of our economy and that of our people will never change as long as the foreign colonialist institutions in collusion with the local corrupt politicians impose their oppressive system to further their own greed.

The only way we can develop our economy independently is when we, as a nation, reject the capitalist policies of the IMF/WB and adopt Islam as a comprehensive ideology for solving our affairs.

While the basis of our current state system is benefit and greed, the Khilafah State is built upon the Islamic Aqeeda. Islam has given detailed economic concepts and rules for society and state in order to prevent widespread corruption and inequality.

The Islamic Economic System obliges the State to ensure food, clothing and shelter of every citizen (Muslim and Non-Muslim), as these are the basic needs of the people. The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said:

*“The son of Adam has no better right than that he would have a house wherein he may live and a piece of cloth to hide his nakedness and a piece of bread and water” (Tirmidhi)*

By forbidding interest, hoarding and corruption, the barriers to the circulation of wealth are removed such that all sectors of society can participate in economic activity. The Islamic System thus prevents a few ruling elites and institutions to accumulate all the wealth while the rest of the nation struggle to survive.

***“Lest it (wealth) circulates solely among the wealthy amongst you” [TMQ 59:7]***

***“Whereas Allah permitted trade and forbade usury.” [TMQ 2:275]***

By clearly defining private and public ownership Islam prevents rich multinational companies from owning vital natural resources of the people such as oil and gas. These resources are public property to be utilized by the State for the welfare of the people. The *Shariah* has given the Khaleefah (Ruler) the authority to collect revenues such as *Zakat*, *Kharaj*, and *Jizya* amongst others. At the same time, the *Shariah* obliges the state to spend these revenues on securing the basic needs of the people, providing for those who cannot provide for themselves such as the disabled and putting the necessary infrastructure of the state like roads, bridges, schools and hospitals.

***Oh Muslims,***

This man made capitalist state has totally failed in securing your basic needs. It has failed to provide you

the basic services of health care and education for your children. This capitalist state offers you no security of money and employment. It has done no more than allow a few greedy, self-centered ruling elites to loot the public's wealth and become millionaires while the vast majority of people struggle day and night to earn a living.

Our terrible situation will only change when we unify the nation upon the correct, comprehensive ideology of Islam. When we connect the strong undoubted *iman* of our people with the belief that the System of Islam can solve our society's problems, it will motivate the nation tremendously towards development and prosperity never seen in its history. It will eliminate the extreme inequality and distress of the people and provide security of life, honour and property.

The same imperialists that continue to destroy and occupy Iraq come to Bangladesh disguised as donor agencies to achieve their materialistic agendas. Isn't it time to recognize the various tools used by the imperialists to keep us enslaved to their oppressive capitalist kufir system? Isn't it time for us to take the nation's affairs into our own hands?

Let us reject these foreign man made systems that have governed us for decades and work for the Khilafah State, a unique political system that will implement the Laws of Allah and look after the affairs of the people with sincerity and justice.

***“O you who Believe. If you aid the cause of Allah, Allah will aid you; and establish your feet firmly.” [TMQ 47:7]***

Members of ***Hizb ut-Tahrir***

**Bangladesh**

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**13<sup>th</sup> Rabee' at-Thani, 1424 AH**