letters

The new budget: Some considerations

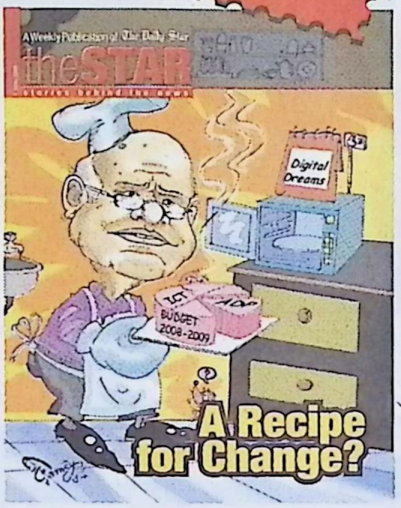
How the proposed budget FY 2009-2010 will bring a change in the lot of the common people who have been shattered by the seemingly uncontrollable price hike remains to be seen. This depends largely on the foresight and activism of the government to avail the people of the necessary goods within their hard-earned means and generally the adoption and implementation of pragmatic and reachable goals in all types of macroeconomic development. This will move the country forward to lessen their dependence on foreign aid, thus achieving self-sufficiency.

The highly ambitious national budget with its development budget of Tk 30,500 crore and the revenue target of Tk 80,000 crore shouldn't be an eye-wash to puzzle the dreaming people wishing a distinguishable change in the semi-sluggish movement of the socio-economic variables. The perpetual necessities of nourishing the heavy industries on which the SMEs and other prospective industries thrive provoke the infrastructural development in communication, energy sector, investment facilities and banking and financial activities.

The reliability on the common people of Bangladesh for revenue enhancement has been expressed in the emphasis of VAT and restructuring of its areas reducing the dependence on import duty and this will be effective if people's money is spent on their welfare with efficiency, rigidity and sincerity rather than the avoidable expenditure in the non-development fields.

The inclusion of manpower sector under the VAT shield and undertaking of special package in the development of SMEs are welcome but at the same time the cost of medicine, accommodation and other aspects of middle class and poorer families should be kept under the control of struggling people.

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Irreparable Loss

Recently I visited the "Banani senanibash graveyard". I went there to pray to Allah for my cousin Lt Col. Ershad who was killed on 25th February in Pilkhana. After seeing row upon row of graves of army officers killed in the massacre I couldn't contain my emotions. Tears automatically came to my eyes. I stayed there for half an hour. Some relatives of martyrs were also there. Son and daughters of martyrs came with their relatives to see the last address of their father.

At the time of returning I could only think about the loss of our valiant brothers. We can never fill the void.

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