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"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery—air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, "This is what it is to be happy." -SYLVIA PLATH, *The Bell Jar*

SNAPSHOT
BY TANJILA MUNIA

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Towards a more realistic budget

Every year, the amount of budget is increasing but there are certain sectors which are not discussed. Every year, a major portion of the spending comprises infrastructural development whereas pressing concerns such as inequality and illiteracy remain high. Some sectors receive exaggerated funds while others are deprived year after year. The question remains whether appropriate people and projects get the funds and what happens to these if not properly utilised. There is

no allocation for social sectors such as for women in particular or new emerging sectors. It is also strange how our universities don't receive enough grants for research and development. Each year, the remaining of the budget remains unaccounted for and tax collection methods are draconian. As citizens, we want more realistic budgets, correct implementation, and fair allotment for needy sectors.

Rafid Alam



Why are essentials being taxed the hardest?

This year's budget had many issues, from raising taxes on everything from sanitary napkins to gas burners. Supposedly, the government is raising the tariff for the latter in order to be able to afford importing liquefied natural gas. Gas prices are already high in urban areas and not even

supplied outside the cities. People there already have to pay high prices for cylinder gas. Now, with gas tariffs raised yet again, the poor will suffer all the more.

Aiman Khan
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