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# Twenty-seven lakh jobless

Survey shows unemployment goes up by 28pc in 3 years

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The number of jobless in Bangladesh increased by 28 percent to 27 lakh in last three years.

And the number of temporary (underemployed) workers increased by 27 percent to 1.54 crore during the same period, according to a survey by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). "Although unemployment picture of Bangladesh depicts a very low level, the real situation is reflected in the high underemployment rate," said the BBS survey report titled 'Monitoring of Employment Survey-2009' released on Monday.

Against this backdrop, economists have suggested taking steps for a faster growth of employment opportunities in manufacturing and service sectors, and also in global job market.

The BBS conducted its previous survey in 2006.

According to the 2009 survey, Bangladesh's total labour force increased by 8.48 percent to

5.37 crore in 2009 from 4.95 crore in 2006. And employment increased by 7.59 percent to 5.1 crore from 4.7 crore during the same period.

The highest job creating agriculture sector saw a decrease in employment by 2.63 percent in the last three years.

Mining, electricity, gas, water, hotel, and restaurant sectors remained stable in terms of job creation.

Employment in manufacturing, construction, finance and business and real estate sectors witnessed 33 to 50 percent fall.

Mustafizur Rahman, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said labour absorbing capacity of agriculture sector has reduced.

To utilise incremental labour force, a faster growth in employment opportunities in manufacturing and service sectors, and in international labour market is needed, he said.

Mustafiz also said the government should

# Thai govt rejects peace talks

38 dead so far as street battles go on

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's government yesterday rejected proposed peace talks with "Red Shirt" protesters, saying they must first abandon their Bangkok rally site where clashes have left 38 dead.

Five days of wild street battles with troops have reduced parts of Bangkok to battle zones, with smoke billowing from piles of tyres set ablaze by demonstrators occupying the city's main shopping district.

As the United Nations urged Thailand to "step back from the brink", some 60 senators on Monday urged the government and the Reds to halt the violence and enter into negotiations organised by the upper house.

"The Reds agree to accept the proposal by the senate speaker who wants to mediate the talks, and are ready to join from now," said protest leader Nattawut Saikuar.

"We will not go with any conditions, the senator is free to offer any proposals and we are willing to consider them," he added, in a climb down from earlier demands for talks brokered by the UN or another international agency.

But cabinet minister Satit Wonghongtaey said in a nationally televised news conference that there could only be negotiations and a resolution "when demonstrators disperse".

Two previous rounds of talks have collapsed "due to interference from people overseas," he said, in an apparent reference to fugitive former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who was

# Her life changes in 9 months

Criminals killed her husband, then lorry her two sons

KAILASH SARKAR and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Amena Begum Moni went to her father's at Dhakanagar in the capital with her two sons, 10-year old Shanto Islam Himel and eight-year-old Sihan Islam, Monday. She was widowed nine months ago when criminals killed her truck-driver husband.

Around 9:00pm Monday she decided to go back to her Bangaon, Keraniganj, home. She put her two children on a rickshaw and hopped on another one five minutes later.

Amena remarried after her husband's death and she is now pregnant.

When she reached home she saw all the lights were still off. Her children had not reached there. She then got a



Amena now has only these photos to treasure. Himel and Sihan, her two sons, were crushed by a lorry in the capital's Jurain Monday night. She undergoes the pain of losing dear ones once again as nine months ago criminals killed her husband. The photo was taken yesterday at her father's house in Gendaria. PHOTO: STAR

**OnlinePoll** ✓

Do you think the recent clearcutting of the Sal forest in Tangail makes the government's stated concern for environment hollow?

Yes (73.9%)  
 No (22.1%)  
 No Comments (4.0%)

**Total votes: 276**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think the ruling Awami league will let BNP hold its grand rally in the capital on Wednesday peacefully?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

# No swimming pool at Ctg Laldighi

HC slaps 3-month ban; issues rule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday imposed a restriction for three months on converting the Laldighi, a public water body of Chittagong, into a swimming pool by the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) authorities.

The court also issued a rule upon the CCC and the government to explain within four weeks why they should not be directed to take effective measures to protect the Laldighi from earth filling for making it a swimming pool by the CCC authorities.

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# Museums in sorry state

EMRAN HOSSAIN

She moved a step closer to the man lying on the ground, tied up and blindfolded. The marks of the bullet in his body were clearly visible now. Scared, she grasped her father by the wrist.

"Daddy, why is he fallen like that? What happened to him?" four-and-a-half-year-old Sabrina asked her father.

"He's one of our fallen heroes who laid down their lives for our independence during the Liberation War in 1971," replied the father. He was explaining the significance of one of the exhibits on the Liberation War to his daughter as they were visiting the National Museum yesterday, the day when over 30,000 museums worldwide observed the International Museum Day.

For the little girl the exhibit was one of very first few visual lessons about the Liberation War. The museum allowed her tender mind to have a glimpse into the valiant past of the Bangalee nation.

As hundred other visitors like the girl walked in, the National Museum unfolded hundreds of stories about the culture, history, and heritage of Bangladesh.

"Museum is a place that preserves the true identity of a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

# Changes in law to make ACC dysfunctional

Says TIB leaders

DU CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Chairman Hafizuddin yesterday said the proposed amendments to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Act 2004 will make the ACC dysfunctional.

TIB formed a human chain in front of the National Press

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Prayer Timing		
May 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

**BGMEA** বিজিএমইএ  
বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স, ২৩/১ পাছপথ লিংক রোড, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

**পোশাক শিল্পের সার্বিক পরিস্থিতি বিষয়ে জরুরী আলোচনা সভা**

সম্মানিত সদস্যদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আগামীকাল ২০ মে ২০১০ তারিখ (বৃহস্পতিবার) বিকাল ৪:০০ ঘটিকায় বিজিএমইএ অডিটোরিয়াম, বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স (২৩/১ পাছপথ লিংক রোড, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫)-এ উপরোক্ত বিষয়ে একটি জরুরী আলোচনা সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

উক্ত জরুরী আলোচনা সভায় বিজিএমইএ'র সম্মানিত সকল সদস্যগণকে উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য বিনীত অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

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IFC Recognizes EBL as Most Active GTFP Issuing Bank in South Asia

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**Global Trade Finance Program (GTFP)**

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Eastern Bank Limited (EBL) is one of the modern, fully online and technologically superior private commercial banks in Bangladesh. EBL markets a wide range of depository & loan products under Consumer Banking, Corporate Banking, SME Banking, Investment Banking, Treasury & Syndication services through a network of 39 Branches, 57 ATMs and 5 Kiosks countrywide. Tracing its origin back to 1992, EBL is serving the individual and corporate clientele alike with remarkable success offering innovative banking services and customer service excellence since then.

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