

**THE LAST OF THE ARMENIANS**  
Wide Angle delves into the past and present of a nearly lost community  
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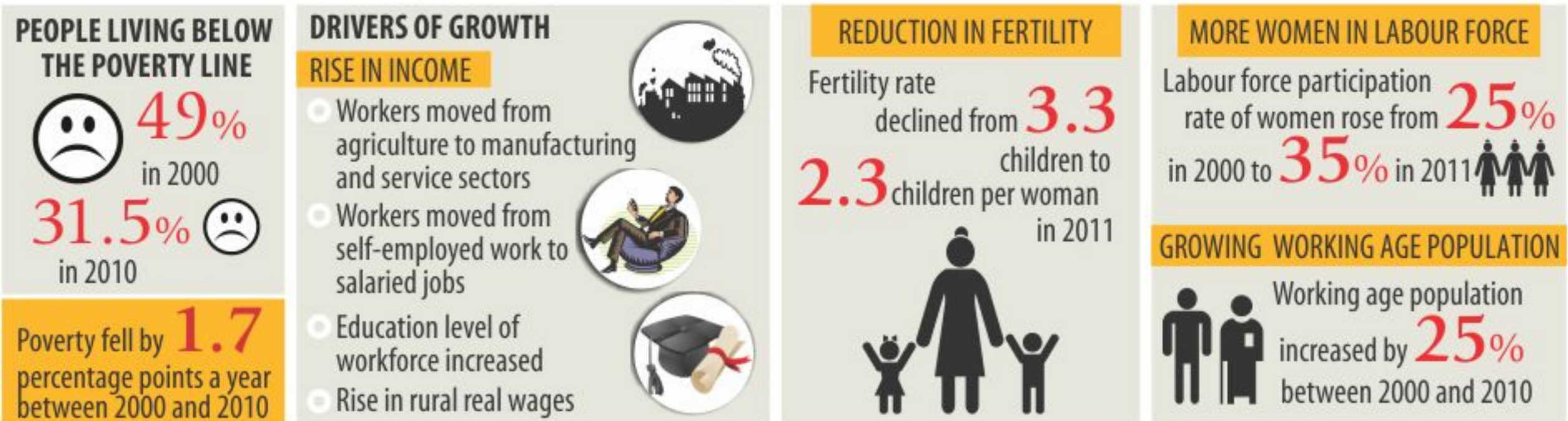
**INDIA SURVEILLANCE**  
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James Gandolfini, famous mob-boss of the TV show, passes away at 51  
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# Poverty-cut rate remarkable

WB assessment report sees Bangladesh well on track to reach MDG



World Bank estimates. The projected cut in poverty rate would be a remarkable achievement for Bangladesh, as the country's target under the Millennium Development Goals is to bring down the poverty rate to 28.5 percent by the globally accepted deadline. The Washington-based lender yesterday released a poverty assessment report on Bangladesh, which says the country is on track for reaching its poverty reduction target under the



This is not snow-covered place in a western country. These are industrial wastes, dumped by factories in Chittagong EPZ, pouring into the sea through different channels. On their way, the toxic materials also contaminate the surrounding environment.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Is it a govt or an individual?

INAM AHMED  
The cases are so blatant and glaring. Syed Abul Hossain, Suranjit Sengupta, Dr Moshirur Rahman, Modasser Ali. The list goes on.  
In dealing with each of these cases, the government's actions seemed inexplicable. Hardly anybody, including the top AL leaders, could explain why certain actions were taken or not taken.  
Take the latest case as revealed by the World Bank Independent Commission's final report on Padma Bridge. It has categorically



said there were no legal reasons to exclude the name of Syed Abul Hossain, the former communications minister, from the initial list of persons under investigation.  
Yet from the beginning, we saw a deliberate attempt to save Abul from any scrutiny. The so-called

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### People won't let it happen

Nobel hero speaks against splitting Grameen Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

The people will not let the government take away Grameen Bank which the nation takes pride in, said Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday.

Grameen Bank is the only private institution in the world to win the Nobel Prize and the people will not tolerate any move to split it into 19 entities, he said while addressing a reception accorded to him on his winning the Congressional Gold Medal from the United States.

Nobel Joyee Yunus Shuhrd organised the event at the Chittagong centre of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh,

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### GRAMEEN BANK

## Govt puts Tk 13.2cr to raise its stake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is set to pay Tk 13.2 crore to raise its stake in Grameen Bank, apparently to tighten its grip over the microlender.

Still, the government's share in the microcredit organisation will not be 25 percent as the authorities intend.

After the planned payment, the bank's paid-up capital will be Tk 73.2 crore from Tk 60 crore now, said sources in the finance ministry and Grameen Bank.

On Wednesday, the banking division of the finance ministry sent a letter to Grameen Bank, informing it about the release of the fund.

M Shahjahan, acting managing director of the bank said the fund might be deposited in the bank's account next week.

According to the Grameen Bank Ordinance, the government owns 25 percent of the bank and the rest 75 percent is owned by the members of the lender.

But as the government has not made payment against the share of its paid-up capital, its stake has come down to 3.29 percent, according to a report of the government-sponsored Grameen Bank Review Committee.

The government has made available the fund from the revised budget of the current fiscal year, according to finance ministry officials.

It paid a total of Tk 286.79 crore to different banks, including Grameen Bank, Krishi Bank, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, House Building Finance Corporation and Sonali Bank UK Ltd, for various reasons.

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### Bad-mouthing in Sangsad hits new low

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a tit-for-tat, an Awami League lawmaker yesterday opened a blistering attack on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia using indecent words in parliament, a day after a BNP MP made a similar attack on the government.

In her offensive, ruling AL lawmaker Apu Ukil made extremely derogatory remarks about Khaleda's birth and marriage and also about her late parents' identity and their marriage.

The Daily Star has withheld her descriptions from the readers as they are unprintable.

Sangsad TV, however, aired the House proceedings live. Khaleda was not present in the House at the time.

Speaking on the proposed budget, the reserved seat lawmaker did not spare even late president Ziaur Rahman, Khaleda's husband.

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Vehicles plough through a pool of water accumulated on Martyr Journalist Selina Parveen Road in the capital after the last two days' rainfall. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

### AL'S CITY POLLS DEBACLE

## Grassroots blame ministers, MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grassroots leaders of the ruling Awami League yesterday blamed ministers and party legislators for the defeat of Awami League-backed mayoral candidates in the recently held polls to four city corporations.

Presidents and secretaries of different Awami League ward units of Dhaka also criticised ministers and lawmakers for being aloof and not keeping in touch with grassroots leaders and activists.

During an extended meeting of the Dhaka city unit Awami League at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office, held ahead of the party's 64th founding anniversary on June 23, they accused the senior leaders of failing to hold councils for Awami League units year after year.

They said it led to "poor organisational structure" and that contributed to the ruling party backed candidates losing the election.

The grassroots leaders said in the last four and a half years, ministers and lawmakers "were busy with themselves" rather than looking after the party workers and activists.

Dhaka city Awami League General Secretary Mofazzol Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Joint Secretary General Qamrul Islam had to face blistering attacks from frustrated local leaders when they tried to calm them down.

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### GAZIPUR CITY POLLS

## No trace yet of AL's rebel candidate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Where is Jahangir Alam? It is now a widely discussed question among locals.

Jahangir, former vice-president of the pro-Awami League student body Bangladesh Chhatra League, has resigned as the vice-chairman of Gazipur sadar upazila to contest the July 6 Gazipur City Corporation polls.

But Ajmat Ullah Khan, general secretary of



Jahangir Alam

Gazipur district Awami League, has earned the party's blessings.

Senior AL leaders advised Jahangir to withdraw his candidacy as they took the polls more seriously after BNP-backed candidates swept the June 15 elections in four cities.

Jahangir declined to pull out of the race and got "Pineapple" as his electoral symbol on Tuesday.

Later, while campaigning in Tongi area by night,

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## 7 amici curiae appointed

SC to hear legal opinions on govt appeal for death penalty to Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday appointed seven senior lawyers as amici curiae, friends of the court, to assist it in dealing with the government's appeal seeking death penalty for war crime convict Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah.

The seven lawyers are TH Khan, Mahmudul Islam, Rafique-ul-Huq, M Amir-ul-Islam, Rakanuddin Mahmud, AF Hasan Arif and Ajmalul Hossain, Deputy Attorney General Ekramul Haque Tutul told The

Daily Star.

Earlier in the morning, the Appellate Division of the SC announced its decision of appointing the amici curiae and asked the government and defence to supply relevant papers to the seven lawyers so that they can place opinions before it.

It passed the order during the hearing of the appeal filed by the government under the amended provision of the International Crimes (tribunals) Act, 1973. The government made the move after the International

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## Hasina says it again

If caretaker govt takes over, it would not hold polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday once again said if a caretaker government takes over again, it would not hold any election and hand over power.

"If it [caretaker govt] comes, it will try to stay in power till dooms day. It will come but it will not go. What will they [opposition] do then?" she questioned.

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