

Poverty reduction rate lost pace

Reveals Unnayan Onneshan study

UNB, Dhaka

The rate of poverty reduction in Bangladesh has slowed down in recent years, reveals a research of independent multidisciplinary think-tank Unnayan Onneshan.

It says poverty declined by 9.8 percentage points during the five years of 2000-2005 while during the successive five years (2005-2010) the total decline was 8.5 percentage points.

The research organisation stated this in its book titled "Measuring Multidimensionality: State of Poverty in Bangladesh 2013" launched marking the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

The depth of poverty or poverty gap, a measure of the average income gap of the poor in relation to a certain threshold, and severity of poverty or squared poverty gap, a measure sensitive to the income distribution among the poor, have also witnessed a slower rate of reduction in last few years.

The rate of fall in depth of poverty was 5.94 percent between 2000 and 2005 and was 5.56 percent between 2005 and 2010.

Likewise, the severity of poverty was 7.39 percent between 2000 and 2005 while 6.21 percent between 2005 and 2010.

Unnayan Onneshan for the first time in the country employed major approaches of measurement of poverty such as monetary, capability, participatory and social exclusion to comprehend the dynamics of

poverty in the country.

The think-tank has also identified some important problems associated with different approaches of measuring poverty such as estimation, selection and targeting biases.

Considering capability approach, broadly measured by the human development index (HDI), the research finds that the HDI value increased from 0.453 in 2010 to 0.515 in 2012 with an annual rate of 4.56 percent.

"On the other hand, the inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI) increased to 0.374 in 2012 from 0.331 in 2010 with a rate of 4.33 percent per annum.

"This lower rate of increase in IHDI over HDI indicates that inequality has a greater impact on poverty reduction since under the perfect equality condition, the HDI and the IHDI are equal," observes the study.

The reduction rate of hunger (3.67 percent per annum) is slower than the rate of reduction in extreme poverty (4.87 percent per annum) during the period of 2000-2010. The number of hungry people as a percentage of extreme poor has increased over the years, adds the research.

It points out that gender inequality decreased at a decreasing rate of 1.66 percent annually over the period of 2005 to 2012.

The Unnayan Onneshan also states that the value of Gender Inequality Index in

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People in their hordes board launches headed for the capital at Barisal Launch Terminal yesterday at the end of the Durga Puja and Eid-ul-Azha holidays.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA



The capital's streets were devoid of the usual hustle and bustle yesterday although the Durga Puja and Eid-ul-Azha holidays ended on Thursday. The photo shows the road leading from Fakirapool to Naya Paltan.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladeshi youth delegation leaves for India tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

As part of the Indian government's initiative to strengthen people-to-people contact, a 100-member Bangladeshi youth delegation will pay a weeklong visit to India from tomorrow.

The Department of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Indian government is organising the visit for the second time, said a press release of the Indian high commission. The first visit of another 100 youths took place from October 6 to 13 last year.

The delegation comprises young doctors, engineers, management graduates, business people, entrepreneurs, journalists, musicians and students, it said.

The delegation will visit the capital New Delhi, Agra, Bengaluru and Mysore, tour prominent cultural and historical sites and hold interactions in educational, business, IT and technological institutions.

They are also expected to call on President Pranab Mukherjee.

Prior to the visit, the high commission will organise a pre-departure interaction with the delegation at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in the capital's Gulshan-1 today at 4:00pm.

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RURAL WOMEN IN RANGPUR Needlework changes fortunes

BSS, Rangpur

Over 22,000 rural women in the northern districts have changed their fortune in recent years through various needlework like embroidery and spangling on women's clothing.

The prospective venture continues to attract more unemployed, poor and distressed rural women to work at home or at small local enterprises and earn and attain economic self-reliance.

According to the successful women, their home-based embroidery adds value to the clothing which is being marketed at high prices in different markets in the country, especially in the capital.

As a result of their growing success, the needlework is getting the shape of a growing cottage industry, attracting local entrepreneurs to invest and change the rural macro-economy.

Many of the rural women, who initiated the venture a few years back, launched smaller enterprises now after getting necessary training and assistance from different gov-

ernment and non-government organisations and local traders.

According to the non-government organisation sources, some 40,000 rural housewives, divorcees, unemployed young girls, adolescents, students and widows are now engaged in this profession and 22,000 of them have already achieved self-reliance.

With the assistances of RDRS Bangladesh alone, 2,000 unemployed and distressed women, victims of repression and violence, divorcees, widows and physically challenged women have so far achieved self-reliance through needlework at homes.

Entrepreneur of a spangling industry, Chand Mia, said he has expanded the venture, generating employment for 350 poor families in Badarganj upazila of Rangpur by creating expert embroidery and spangling artisans.

He supplies simple sarees, various spangles and beads, stitching tools and thread to women.

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5 killed, 28 injured in road crashes

CITY DESK

Five people were killed and 28 others injured in road accidents in the capital, Gazipur, Comilla and Netrakona yesterday.

A child was run over by a human hauler in the capital's Chankerpool area under the Hanif flyover.

The deceased is Tahmina Akter Sonia, a class II student of Nimtoli Primary School.

She was standing on the road waiting for her elder brother Torikul Islam Sohel to take her out in a rickshaw, said Kashem, the victim's father, talking to The Daily Star.

Tahmina was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

The driver of the human hauler was detained.

A man was killed and 25 others were injured when a bus fell into a roadside ditch in Guratan under Kalmakanda upazila of Netrakona.

The deceased is Lookman Hossen, 45, of Gutora village of the upazila, reported our Netrakona correspondent.

A case was filed the bus driver fled the scene, said police.

In Comilla, a man and his son were killed and three others of the family injured when their car fell into a roadside ditch in Raypur-Digirpar area on

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Two killed, one injured in train accidents

CITY DESK

An unidentified man was killed and a nine-year-old boy was injured in separate train accidents in the capital yesterday.

The man was run over by a train near the rail crossing in Gandaria, said police.

Meanwhile, nine-year-old Md Rashed's left leg was crushed by the locomotive of a train at Kamalapur Railway Station.

Witnesses said Rashed was playing on the roof of the locomotive when he suddenly fell and it went over his leg.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile, another unidentified man was crushed under a train in Birampur upazila of Dinajpur.

Witnesses said when the Khulna-bound Rupsha stopped at Birampur Railway Station, the man got down from it. However, when the train started moving again, he tried to get on it but slipped and fell on the tracks, reported our Dinajpur correspondent.

Police recovered the body and sent it for an autopsy.

SENDING PATIENTS TO PVT HOSPITALS Rab detains three DMCH attendants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday detained three attendants of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after a patient accused another attendant of sending her to a private hospital which, the woman claimed, overcharged her.

With acute headache, Sajeda Begum, 28, a garment worker from South Shahjahanpur, visited DMCH yesterday where ward attendant Sheuli coaxed her into going to the nearby Arafat General Hospital and Diagnostic Center in Chankharpool for getting "better treatment".

The patient said the private hospital collected her urine, blood and did an X-ray and charged her Tk 3,300. Sajeda told The Daily Star that she did not receive proper health

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Dipu Moni goes to China today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni will undertake a three-day bilateral visit to China from today at the invitation of her Chinese counterpart.

During the visit, the foreign minister will have a bilateral meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs of China Wang Yi and other senior leaders of China.

She will also present a keynote paper on "Bangladesh's Role in the South Asia" in the prestigious Chinese Institute of International Studies in Beijing during this visit, said a foreign ministry press release.

Earlier, Dipu Moni paid a two-day visit to Korea on October 17-18 at the invitation of her counterpart Yun Byung-se.

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