

**জীবনে প্রয়োজন আরো বেশি স্বাস্থ্য**  
 সর্বাধুনিক প্রযুক্তি সমন্বিত ব্যাংকিং সেবায় মাসিক আয়ের সাথে বাড়তি আয় যোগ করুন আর জীবন করুন সুস্বস্ত।

যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬১২০০১১২২  
 ইসলামী পরিত্যাহ'র মুনাব্বা নীতির ভিত্তিতে পরিচালিত



# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2014, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

## More people earning their own livelihoods now

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

The number of people dependent on others for livelihood went down by 11 percentage points in the last four years, thanks to their increasing participation in the economy, a new survey found.

The national dependency ratio stood at 56 percent in 2012, down from 67 percent in 2008, said the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

The survey showed that almost equal number of people were employed in jobs in rural and urban areas in the same period. However, a significant number of people are still relying on the breadwinners of their families to make a living.

About 61 percent of the rural population were still dependent on others to survive in 2012, which was 72 percent in 2008.

The dependency rate in urban areas was 48 percent in 2012, from 59 percent in 2008, according to the state-run statistical agency.

The dependency ratio is an age-population ratio of those typically not in the labour force and those typically in the labour force. It is used to measure the pressure on productive population.

The BBS survey showed the size of household also went down, from 4.7 persons per household in 2008 to 4.5 persons in 2012.

Although the gradual economic expansion in the last three decades has added millions of women to the labour force, the number of women leading the households is still very low: 85.5 percent of the households were led by males in 2012, which was 89.3 percent in 2008.

Zaid Bakht, research director of think-tank Bangladesh

DEPENDENCY RATIO IN %   2012   2008		
National	56	67
Rural	61	72
Urban	48	59
SOURCE OF LIGHT IN %   2012   2008		
Kerosene	33.1	47
Electricity	65.6	53
MIGRATION (PER 1,000 POPULATION)   2012   2008		
Rural to urban	26.6	17.3
Urban to urban	43.5	34.4

Institute of Development Studies, said the dependency rate has gone down because of growing economic participation rate and lowering of the birth rate.

"Women are participating in economic activities more than in the past. Like their male counterparts, they are engaged in all sorts of economic activities."

He said the garment sector, where more than 80 percent of the workers are women, has played a key role in helping provide employment opportunities to women from the rural areas that previously did not have any opportunity to be part of the formal

workforce.

The economist also said self-employment is another area which is contributing to the economic participation of all segments of gender.

"Even, many people have been employed just by selling mobile talk time," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The number of economic units stood at 80.75 lakh in 2013, up 118 percent from the previous edition of the survey published in 2003.

According to the latest survey, the number of people with access to electricity increased by more than 12 percentage points to 65.6 percent in 2012 from 2008, thanks to the government's special attention on the power sector, which saw both generation capacity and production double in the last six years.

Both the generation and distribution of electricity has expanded in recent years, said Bakht.

Albeit decreasing, one-third of the population relied on kerosene to light up their houses in 2012, which was 47 percent in 2008.

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## Six more social business projects approved for funding

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Social Business Design Lab yesterday approved six projects for investment at the 37th edition of the initiative of Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus at Grameen Bank building in Dhaka.

Five of the six business projects presented at the lab came from new entrepreneurs, who are the children of Grameen Bank borrowers, Yunus Centre said in a statement.

The five projects are: Ma Pet Loom House of Aminul Haque, a business producing variety of mats; Borhan Traders by Borhan Uddin for trading in groceries; Rizu Cosmetics by Dulal Kumar, a business to sell cosmetics; Maa Refrigeration Workshop by Sheikh Taslim Uddin; and Hasan Quail Bird Hatchery by Rafiqul Islam.

Social Business Centre, Chittagong sent Crescent Fisheries & Agro Project to the design lab for evaluation. The project aims to expand scientific aqua culture practice in Patiya.

The port city centre will finance the project, according to the statement.

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## RMG makers list hurdles to \$50b exports by 2021

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh needs to address the challenges of electricity, skilled human resources and poor infrastructure promptly to reach the target to export apparel items worth \$50 billion by the end of 2021, industry insiders said yesterday.

"Poor infrastructure is the main challenge to the growth of our exports. It takes about one day to transport goods from Gazipur or Narayanganj to Chittagong Port," said Atiqul Islam, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

He was presenting a keynote paper on the 'RMG Sector: Challenges & Way Forward' organised by the daily Dhaka

Tribune at the Cirdap auditorium in the capital. Zafar Sobhan, editor of the daily, moderated the programme.

A shortage of electricity and gas is a major challenge, Islam said. "It should be mentioned here that while it costs only Tk 6 to produce per kilowatt-hour electricity from government run power plants, it costs Tk 16.7 for the same from a diesel-run generator."

He also identified the higher cost of production, high bank interest rates and a lack of trained human resources as some other challenges to achieving the target for 2021.

The main challenge for the Bangladesh garments sector is price, said Abdus Salam Murshedy, a former BGMEA president.

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## Quality research centres a must for sound economic policymaking: economist

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh must set up superlative research centres to enable informed economic policy decisions, renowned economist and researcher Nurul Islam said yesterday.

The country should set up centres of excellence, where it can undertake special surveys and other critical studies, he said at a conference on the challenges facing economic research in Bangladesh, co-organised by Bangladesh Bank and Bangladesh Economists' Forum at BB Training Academy in Mirpur.

A centre of excellence refers to a team, a shared facility or an entity that provides leadership, evangelisation, best practices, research, support and training for a focus area.

The government should select few uni-

*"You cannot get quality research unless you invest in resources as making statistics is highly expensive," says economist Nurul Islam*

versities or colleges for establishing the centres of excellence and invest heavily on them, he said, adding that it is needed to produce credible and quality statistical data.

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## Chittagong Waste Treatment, GIZ get green awards

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman yesterday sought cooperation of businesses to sensitise their peers into adopting greener options for operations. He spoke at a green awards ceremony at Radisson hotel. Southeast Bank, Policy Research Institute and the Financial Express jointly launched the awards.

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Mutual Trust Bank Ltd. (MTB) becomes the first-ever best **SME Bank of the Year** and **Women Entrepreneurs' Friendly Bank of the Year** at the 'SME Banking Award 2014' jointly organized by Bangladesh Bank and the SME Foundation.



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