



The Daily Star

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Bengal classical music fest sets sail on November 27

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UN backs EU military action against human traffickers

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NERVOUS ALIA BHATT

The Bollywood actress is ready yet edgy about sharing screen with SRK

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Women workforce growing fast

WB says it will grow from 34pc to 82pc over the next decade, adding 1.8pc to Bangladesh's GDP

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim has hailed Bangladesh's efforts to integrate more women in the workforce and singled it out as an example to emphasise the need for investing more in women to spur growth.

"Countries such as Bangladesh are encouraging female participation in the workforce. If they [Bangladesh] stay on track, their female workforce will grow from 34 to 82 percent over the next decade, adding 1.8 percentage points to their GDP," he said at the World Bank Group/IMF Annual Meetings in Lima, Peru, on Friday.

Kim said closing the gender gap could raise incomes by 27 percent in the Middle East and North Africa, 19 percent in South Asia and 14 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean.

"And research confirms something we all know -- when women earn more money, they invest in their families' education and health."

According to Bangladesh Labour Force

Survey 2010, labour force participation for women is 36 percent, compared to 82.5 percent for men.

Still, the rate is higher than the South Asian average of 35 percent.

Bangladesh is ahead of India, where women account for 27 percent of the total labour force, and Pakistan, whose female labour participation rate is 25 percent. Nepal has the highest female labour participation rate of 80 percent, according to the World Bank.

This growing women empowerment is also evident in the fact that Bangladesh has the third highest number of female lawmakers among the Saarc countries (see graph).

Labour force participation rate is the proportion of the population aged 15 and older that is economically active.

Bangladesh's high female labour force participation is fuelled by employment in rural agricultural areas and certain specific sectors such as garment industries.

Even so, Bangladesh has a long way to go.

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The boy pushing the rickshaw van actually goes to school in it. But he had to get down and push it up the Rampura Bridge in the capital to help the puller. The approach to the bridge is so steep that many students in rickshaw vans do this despite high risks of accidents on the busy road. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

- Economically active population: 5.67cr
- Female labour force: 1.72cr
- Women employment in formal sector : 13 lakh
- Women not in labour force: 3.05cr
- Women unemployment rate: 5.8%

SOURCE: BANGLADESH LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2010

KILLING OF FOREIGNERS PM now blames Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that BNP chief Khaleda Zia is conspiring from abroad to destabilise the country through killing foreigners in Bangladesh.

She was speaking to the newly elected office-bearers of Chittagong, Barisal, Rangpur, Gopalganj and Gazipur bar associations at the Gono Bhaban.

The PM said Khaleda "killed people" in the name of agitation when she was at home. "Staying abroad, she is now killing foreign nationals to create panic among them

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Who said what after the killings

STAR REPORT

Investigators have yet to make any headway in the probe into the recent killings of two foreigners in Bangladesh. Police officials refrain from making comments, saying the matter is under investigation.

However, the government and ruling Awami League high-ups show little care

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JAPANESE CITIZEN KILLING 2 bankers freed, Biplob sent to jail

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday released two private bank officials, who were detained in Rajshahi on Friday, after questioning them over the murder of Japanese national Kunio Hoshi.

Sultan Nahid and HM Shahriar, employees of BRAC Bank's Rajshahi branch, are colleagues of Jahangir Alam Bulbul, brother-in-law of Humayun Kabir Hira, one of the two arrestees remanded by police in

Kunio Hoshi

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Blasts kill 97 at Turkey peace rally

Suicide bombing suspected

AGENCIES

Two powerful bombs exploded near the main train station in Ankara yesterday morning, targeting a peace rally and causing carnage, killing at least 97 people and injuring more than 400 others in the deadliest attack in the Turkish capital in recent memory.

The explosions, which caused chaos and bloodshed, took place during a peace march involving, among others, the pro-Kurdish HDP, or People's Democratic Party.

The casualties, reported by the interior ministry, consisted primarily of people gathered outside the main train station to attend a lunchtime demonstration to call for an end to the renewed conflict between the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and the Turkish government.

About 14,000 people were in the area. Two suicide bombers are believed to have caused the blasts, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said in a televised address to the nation.

"In total 97 people have been murdered, 68 of them died right after the blast, whereas 29 of them were severely wounded and sent to the hospitals, where they lost their lives," said Dr. Huseyin Demirdezen, a member of head council of Turkish Medical Association.

The attack came before national elections, scheduled for November 1.

A video on social media shows a ring of young people dancing and singing before an orange blast erupts in the background. The video ends with the crowd running away from the blast.

Following the attack, for which no group has claimed responsibility, bodies lay in front of the station on Hipodrum Street and paramedics tended to the injured as a police helicopter circled overhead.

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FUTURE BANGLADESH ON THE FIRMIEST FOUNDATION

Chosen steel for the Padma Bridge construction

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NOTICE

The Daily Star will bring out a two-page supplement on Bangladesh Investment Summit tomorrow. Please watch out for your copy.