

**A HISTORIC WIN**

Zimbabwe clinch the fifth ODI against Sri Lanka and their first away series win in eight years

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BREXIT CHALLENGE

Theresa May reaches out to rivals, seeks to relaunch year-old UK premiership

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**DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND**

Big opportunity passing by

Jobs still inadequate for 106 million working-age population

SHAKHAWAT LITON and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

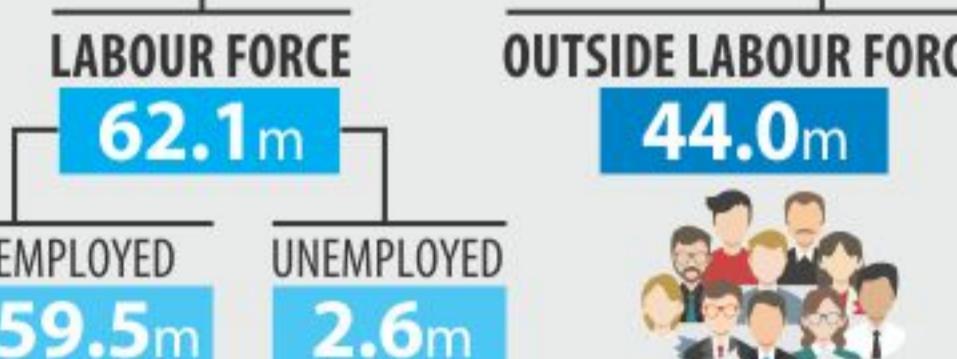
Bangladesh since 2007 has had more people of working age than non-working, known as demographic dividend, and by 2040 this window of opportunity to accelerate economic growth would start to close.

Now, more than 65 percent of the population are of working age, between 15 and 64.

Yet, Bangladesh is unable to exploit the full potential of the demographic dividend as it cannot create adequate number of jobs for the working-age population, according to economists and population scientists.

They suggested taking up measures including large-scale investments in education and health sectors to cash in on the demographic dividend.

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TOTAL POPULATION 158.5m**WORKING AGE POPULATION****106.1m**

SOURCE: QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (QLFS) 2015-16 OF BANGLADESH BUREAU OF STATISTICS



Schoolgirls take a boat in the Shitalakya in Narayanganj on Sunday while a sand-laden vessel looms dangerously close. Every day, hundreds of people use such boats to cross the river for Narayanganj city and collision with cargo vessels are not uncommon, say locals. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BCL activists assault Star's RU reporterSTAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

Some Chhatra League men brutally beat up the Rajshahi University correspondent of The Daily Star near the main entrance to the university yesterday while he was carrying out professional duties.

Arafat Rahaman, a second-year student of the mass communication and journalism department, came under attack while taking photographs of a bus vandalised by BCL men.

He was undergoing treatment at the neurosurgery ward-8 of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Talking to this correspondent, Arafat said he went to the area around 11:00am after hearing that some 25 BCL men were vandalising a bus of Desh Travels on the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway.

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Marooned with scanty relief

*Several lakh people hit by worsening floods in North; Teesta, Jamuna keep rising***STAR REPORT**

Flood situation in several northern districts has remained grave for three-four days, with the Teesta and Jamuna rivers flowing above the danger level even yesterday due to the onrush of water from the upstream across the border.

As a result, several lakh people have been left surrounded by water with lack of food and pure drinking water. Many educational institutions are closed and hectares of cropland inundated. At some places, river erosion has taken a serious turn threatening to wash away homes.

People living in the affected areas have complained that the relief food allocated by the government is highly inadequate.

Around one lakh people at 85 villages of five upazilas in Lalmonirhat are badly affected by floods triggered by a sudden rise in the water level of the Teesta.

Water was flowing 38 centimetres above

the danger level yesterday at the Teesta Barrage point in Hatibandha upazila, reports our correspondent.

Water in the Teesta began increasing on Sunday midnight and crossed the danger level early yesterday, said Mostafizur Rahman, executive engineer of the Water Development Board.

As the pressure of water from the upstream increased, the authorities opened all the 44 gates of Teesta Barrage in the morning.

"All gates of Gajoldoba Barrage near Shiliguri in India are kept open due to the onrush of water from hills. Therefore, the water level on our side is increasing alarmingly," Mostafizur said.

"We've told people living near the shore to go to safe places."

Nazma Begum, 44, a housewife at Bagdara village in Lalmonirhat Sadar, said there was floodwater everywhere inside her house, and so she could not cook food. "We

Top 100 loan defaulters' list placed in JS

Default loans now Tk 1.11 lakh crore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The amount of default loans in the country now stands at Tk 111,347 crore as of April 2017, Finance Minister AMA Muhith told parliament yesterday.

In a scripted answer, Muhith also provided names of top 100 loan defaulters, but he did not mention how much money they have defaulted on.

The top 20 loan defaulters are: Mohammad Elias Brothers Pvt Ltd, Jasmir Vegetable Oil Ltd, Max Spinning Mills Ltd, Benetex Industries Ltd, Dhaka Trading House, Anowara Spinning Mills, Yasir Enterprise, Quantum Power Systems Ltd, MM Vegetable Oil Products Ltd, Alppa Composite Towel Ltd, Western Marine Shipyard Ltd, Mak International, Hall Mark Fashion Ltd, Monno Fabrics Ltd, Fair Trade Fabrics Ltd, Saharish Composite Towel Ltd, Nurjanah Super Oil Ltd,

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Keep helping Dhaka over Rohingya crisis

UNHCR chief urges int'l community, says solution lies in Myanmar citizenship

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The head of UN refugee agency yesterday urged the international community to continue its support to Bangladesh over the Rohingya refugee issues through resource mobilisation, saying the solution to the problem lies with Myanmar.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi also called upon the Bangladesh and Myanmar leaderships to secure the future of younger generation of the Myanmarese refugees living in this country.

Grandi, who was addressing a press conference in Dhaka yesterday evening on conclusion of his three-day visit, said the solution to the Rohingya crisis is granting them Myanmar citizenship.

He put emphasis on implementation of the citizenship verification process "efficiently and rapidly" which will help unblock all the remaining barriers to the solution.

The UNHCR chief said his agency has the technical expertise in verifying citizenship and it will further discuss with Myanmar government how it can support the process.

He said the Muslim minorities in Rakhine state cannot move freely without authorisation and cannot access basic services like healthcare,

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**Govt to identify depositors, take action**

Minister tells JS on Bangladeshis' money in Swiss banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government after proper investigation would take action against the Bangladeshis who have deposited money in Swiss banks, Food Minister Qamrul Islam said in parliament yesterday while filling in for the finance minister.

He made the comment while replying to a supplementary question from Jatiya Party lawmaker Pir Fazlur Rahman.

Qamrul said the government would take steps to identify those with money in foreign banks. "We will also try to get the money back."

He read out Muhith's scripted answer to a question from AL MP Nazrul Islam Babu.

Muhith in the statement said a strong system had already been developed to prevent individuals and



Homeowner Abdul Quader, the man in green, is moving the tin roof of his house by a boat in flood-hit Gobardhan village of Lalmonirhat yesterday. Inset, trying to keep life going, Nurnahar cooks inside her inundated home in nearby Ismailpara village. Around one lakh people of five upazilas of the district have been affected by the flood caused by a sudden rise in the Teesta.

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Final decision on Sundarbans tomorrow

Unesco representative Beatrice Kaldun tells The Daily Star

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing World Heritage Committee (WHC) meeting in Krakow, Poland is reviewing the state of conservation of the Sundarbans, a world heritage site.

The session is focused on the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and will take final decision regarding the Sundarbans tomorrow, said Beatrice Kaldun, head and representative of the Unesco, in an interview with The Daily Star in her office.

When asked about the decisions taken in the WHC meeting about the Rampal power plant, she said Bangladesh as a state party to the World Heritage Convention has to fulfill the commitments stipulated under the convention and its operational guidelines to protect its world heritage site.

All state parties are committed to follow the decisions made by the WHC, Kaldun said.

She mentioned that following a visit by Reactive Monitoring Mission of Unesco World Heritage Centre and IUCN in March 2016 and follow-up discussions and consultations between the government and Unesco have resulted in the draft of decisions for discussion and adoption by



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