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High growth, fewer jobs

Despite high economic growth, agriculture, industry sectors unable to create enough jobs, shows govt study

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh's tremendous economic growth has been unable to create jobs proportionately over the past decade, raising questions about the significance of the growth for a large section of the population.

Besides, female participation in the labour force shrank in the last nine years, especially in rural areas, according to a government study on employment, productivity and sectoral investment in Bangladesh.

Employment elasticity, which indicates the ability of an economy to generate employment opportunities for its population as percent of its growth process, declined between fiscal 2005-06 and 2017-18, when the economy was apparently on tremendous growth momentum.

Between fiscal 2005-06 and 2009-10, the country's employment elasticity was 0.55. It plunged to 0.25 between fiscal 2010-11 and 2017-18, when the economy averaged 6.6 percent GDP growth.

Employment elasticity is a measure of the percentage change in employment associated with a 1 percentage point change in economic growth.

For example, employment elasticity of 0.01 implies that with every 1 percentage point growth in GDP, employment increased by just one basis point (one basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point).

"In case of agriculture, manufacturing, construction and services sector, the employment elasticity is lower than 1, indicating that employment generation is not very sensitive to growth," said the study conducted by the General Economics Division under the planning ministry between May and June this year.

The major objective of the study, the first of its kind in the country, was to gain insight into the nexus of economic growth, employment generation, productivity and investment.

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Passengers get off an overcrowded train at the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday. The railway, bus and launch terminals were bustling with people returning to the city after celebrating the Eid-ul-Azha with their families. Many trains to and from the capital ran behind schedule.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Parents, two siblings killed in road crash

STAR REPORT

They were about to join in a marriage ceremony to add more colour to their Eid celebration, but fate had other plans for them.

Five of a family from Netrakona's Durgapur upazila lost their lives while two others were critically injured in a road accident on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj highway yesterday.

The accident took place in Ramgopalpur area of Mymensingh's Gouripur upazila around 11:00am when a Kishoreganj-bound private car -- carrying the family members -- collided head-on with a Mymensingh-bound bus, said Kamrul Islam Mia, officer-in-charge of Gouripur Police Station.

Of the deceased, Nazmun Nahar Shaheen, 40, died on the spot. Her husband Rafik-uz-Zaman, 45, their son Nadim Hossain, 19, daughter Rounok Jahan, 13, and Nazmun's brother Zisan Kabir, 22, died after being rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH), the OC said.

Their three-year-old son Nahid Hossain and the car driver Swapan Miah, 30 were critically injured and currently receiving treatment at MMCH, he added.

Police seized the bus involved in the accident but the driver managed to flee, the OC added.

Talking to our Mymensingh

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Clashes in Kashmir amid lockdown

Cops fire teargas, pellet-firing shotguns at protesters; New Delhi says restoring phone lines after 12-day communication blackout; UNSC meeting on

AFP, Srinagar

Hundreds of protesters in Indian-administered Kashmir clashed with police on Friday, even as New Delhi said it would begin restoring phone lines after a 12-day communications blackout.

With the central government fearing protests and unrest, the Muslim-majority northern territory has been under lockdown since the first week of August, when the Indian government stripped the region of its autonomy.

The clashes came as, the UN Security Council was set to discuss the situation behind closed doors later yesterday, diplomats said.

Police fired tear gas and pellet-firing shotguns to disperse residents who tried to march down the main road in the main city of Srinagar after Friday prayers.

Protesters hurled stones and used shop hoardings and tin sheets as improvised shields, as police shot dozens of rounds into the crowd. No injuries were reported.

"We are trying to breach the siege and march to the city centre but police is using force to stop us," one protester told AFP, adding that three people were injured in Thursday clashes with police officers and reservists.

Sporadic clashes were also reported in other parts of the Kashmir Valley, the main hotbed of resistance to Indian rule for decades, where phone lines and internet connections have been cut off for nearly two weeks.

Major towns and cities in the restive valley remained under curfew, with government forces allowing people to move only on special passes.

Government forces erected steep barricades and used concertina wires to block roads.

No big gatherings were allowed in the valley and most mosques were shut for the second consecutive Friday.

"We want what is ours. We are not begging for anything but demand

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65 Bangladeshi, Lankan migrants found in Mexico

They were on way to US border

AP, Mexico City

Mexican authorities say federal police found 65 severely dehydrated and hungry migrants from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka wandering on a highway in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz.

The federal Public Safety Department said Thursday that the migrants recounted a long, complicated trip in a bid to reach the US border.

The migrants reported they set out April 24 from an airport in Qatar and flew to Turkey and Colombia. From there, they moved through Ecuador, Panama and Guatemala before reaching Mexico.

Once in Mexico, the migrants said, they boarded boats and travelled on the Coatzacoalcas River, though it is not clear why. The river does not lead anywhere near the US border.

The migrants were later transferred to a migratory

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JMB men on the loose a big concern

Police say many of the convicted militants are outside their radar

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Many of the JMB men convicted in the August 17 series bomb blast cases walked out of prison after serving their jail term and it remains a big challenge for law enforcers to keep them under surveillance, say counterterrorism officials.

Police could not give the exact number of the JMB extremists who went out of jail in the cases filed over the attack in 2005, but one counterterrorism official said they have information the figure would be around 50.

Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime officials said since the cases were filed under the Explosives Substances Act and the highest punishment is 10 years' imprisonment, many of the convicts have already completed their jail terms.

On this day in 2005, around 500 bombs went off at 300 locations in 63 out of the 64 districts across the country. The bombs exploded in half an hour from 11:30am.

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), a banned militant outfit, carried out the attack and claimed responsibility for it.

Some 159 cases were filed in connection with the attack. Investigators pressed charges against 1,072 militants in 142 of the cases. Final reports were placed in the rest 17 cases.

According to Police Headquarters statistics, 322 accused were convicted while 358 were acquitted till September last year. As many as 133 accused were on bail. The rest are

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Bhola gangrape victim slightly better

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condition of the sixth-grader gangraped in Bhola on August 11 has slightly improved as the bleeding stopped yesterday.

But she is still in pain and is given pain killers, said Bilkis Begum, coordinator of One Stop Crisis Centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile, her brother told The Daily Star yesterday that his family was feeling insecure and threatened because the brother of an accused rapist told people that he would take revenge for his brother's death in a "shootout".

"A brother of [rape accused] Manjur told people that his brother was killed because of us. So, they will take revenge one day. We are feeling insecure," he said.

He added that rape accused Al Amin and Manjur Alam, who were killed in a "shootout" with officers on Wednesday, were yaba traders and had links with many powerful people in the area.

The 12-year-old girl was brought to the DMCH early

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DENGUE OUTBREAK



NEW CASES IN
LAST 24 HRS
1,719

TOTAL DENGUE
CASES
49,999

OUTSIDE DHAKA
960

DEATH
93
(40 OFFICIAL)

UNDERGOING
TREATMENT
7,716

SOURCE: DGHS



To check spread of dengue virus, mosquito nets have been put up at a ward designated for dengue patients at the city's Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital. The photo was taken yesterday.

AEDES BREEDING

Terminals still a hotspot

Eid holidaymakers returning to city amid concern as dengue patients near 50,000 mark



HELEMIUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Major terminals in the capital remain ripe for Aedes breeding as hundreds of thousands of people are arriving in the city after the holidays.

Discarded tires and plastic containers still litter the bus terminals in Mohakhali and Gabtali, Tejgaon truck terminal and Kamalapur Railway Station.

The terminal in Mohakhali is particularly risky with piles of old tires containing puddles of rainwater ideal for breeding the dengue causing mosquito.

"We started getting rid of the tires after the Dhaka North City Corporation instructed us, but could not complete the task as owners of some tires have not returned from

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN