

Women employment falling in urban areas



STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The number of women working in urban Bangladesh has been declining since 2010 but it is the opposite in case of rural women, according to a report released yesterday.

In 2010, urban female participation rate was 34.5 percent, which came down to 31 percent in 2017.

In contrast, in rural Bangladesh the ratio rose to 38.6 percent from 36.4 percent, according to the report 'Employment, Labour Force Participation and Education: Towards Gender Equality in Bangladesh'.

Introducing

Rustic Punch Series

Matt Wall Tiles

30x60cm

01713656565

dbi CERAMICS

The Centre for Development and Employment Research (CDER) and the FES (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung), Bangladesh launched the report at an event held at Dhaka's Brac Centre Inn.

The report attributed the declining participation of urban women on the lack of good salaried jobs, self-employment opportunity, and discouragement by high unemployment rate among young educated women.

This phenomenon stands in contrast to the common notion that development and modernity lead to women's employment, said Rushidan Rahman, executive chairperson of CDER. A number of factors have contributed to the decline in urban women participation.

"These are raising children, higher income of husband, social stigma etc."

READ MORE ON B3

High growth not sustainable if inequality continues to rise

Speakers say at seminar

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The country's higher economic growth will not be sustainable if inequality continues to rise at the current pace, economists and politicians said yesterday.

"Most of the people have not benefited from the higher growth," said Selim Jahan, an economist and a former director of Human Development Report Department of the UNDP.

Bangladesh has achieved more than 8 percent GDP growth, which is highly praiseworthy but only one percent of the total population is reaping the benefits of growth, said Moinul Islam, a former president of Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA).

Ninety percent of assets in the country are controlled by 10 percent ultra-wealthy persons which is hampering the economic progress, said Rashed Khan Menon, president of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh and a lawmaker.

"The dream of the Liberation War will



Moinul Islam, a former president of the Bangladesh Economic Association, speaks at a seminar on "Development, Deprivation and Inequality" organised by the Workers' Party of Bangladesh at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital yesterday.

Bangladesh logged over 8 percent GDP growth, but only 1 percent of population is reaping its benefits

MOINUL ISLAM, A FORMER PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

not materialise if we fail to eliminate the discrimination," he said.

They spoke at a seminar titled "Development, Deprivation and Inequality" organised by the Workers' Party of Bangladesh at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in Dhaka.

Prof Jahan said there is a strong link between development, deprivation and inequality and sustainable development has a role in removing the deprivation and inequality.

The rate of child and maternal mortality has

decreased in recent periods while the number of school-goers is also on the rise, he said.

A good number of universities have been set up in Bangladesh. But questions have arisen over whether the country could improve the quality of education and healthcare service for common people. The country is far away from ensuring quality education and standard healthcare service, which has an indication of an inequality, the economist said.

READ MORE ON B3

Tanners finally paying rawhide merchants

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Tanners have finally started paying arrears to rawhide merchants after several meetings brokered by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

"They have started paying as per their previous commitment. However, I cannot say the exact amount that was paid by the tanners to the rawhide merchants so far," said Delwar Hossain, president of the Bangladesh Hide and Skin Merchants' Association.

The rawhide merchants want to sign a deal with tanners involving the FBCCI and the government to avoid any kind of crisis in rawhide trade in future, Hossain said, after emerging from the joint meeting of tanners, rawhide merchants, and government officials. The meeting was held at the FBCCI office in Dhaka with FBCCI Vice-president Rezaul Karim Rezu in chair.

"We want to sign the deal with tanners within the next 29 days," Hossain said.

If there is a deed on rawhide trade, everybody will have to follow the rules.

"So, there will not be a repeat of the

situation we experienced during this Eid-ul-Azha," Hossain said.

The tanners have been owing rawhide merchants Tk 350 crore since 1990. They were supposed to pay 50 percent of the dues incurred between 2015 and 2019.

"I do not know whether the tanners paid this amount to the rawhide merchants. But they started paying the arrears to the merchants," he added.

According to the decision of the previous meeting of the FBCCI, the tanners are supposed to clear their arrears to rawhide traders in three phases: from 1990 to 2010, 2010 and 2015, and 2015 to 2019.

Earlier in an emergency meeting at the commerce ministry, Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun tasked the FBCCI with mediating the dispute of non-payment of more than Tk 400 crore to rawhide merchants.

They tasked the FBCCI to resolve the non-payment issue when reports were surfacing in the media that nearly 35 percent of more than 1 crore units of rawhides were being thrown away by the seasonal small traders and farmers in the absence of buyers.

READ MORE ON B3

Listed cement makers' earnings on the decline

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Out of the seven cement manufacturers listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), earnings per share of three companies rose in recent quarters while the rest witnessed a decline.

Small investors, however, complained that the listed cement companies are not paying good dividend using excuse of lower profits or losses. According to DSE data, the EPS of Aramit Cement dropped to Tk 2.46 in the three quarters of the last fiscal year (from July 2018 to March 2019), down from Tk 7.54 year-on-year.

The EPS of Confidence Cement fell to Tk 4.47 during the same period from Tk 5.09.

Heidelberg Cement Bangladesh Ltd, a foreign firm, saw a decline for two quarters from January through June this year and MI Cement Factory, which produces Crown brand cement, witnessed a declining trend from July 2018 to March 2019.

The earnings of Premier Cement, Meghna Cement and LafargeHolcim Bangladesh are on the rise, DSE data showed.

The EPS is calculated as a company's profit divided by the outstanding shares of its common stock. The resulting number serves as an indicator of a company's profitability. The higher a company's EPS, the more profitable it is considered.

"Unhealthy competition among the manufacturers and excess production than demand are shrinking profit margin," said Alamgir Kabir, managing director of

EARNINGS PER SHARE		
COMPANY	JUL 2018-MAR 2019	JUL 2017-MAR 2018
Aramit	Tk 2.46	Tk 7.54
Confidence	Tk 4.47	Tk 5.09
Heidelberg	Tk 2.69 (Jan-Jun 2019)	Tk 9.55 (Jan-Jun 2018)
LafargeHolcim Bangladesh	Tk 0.68 (Jan-Jun 2019)	Tk 0.45 (Jan-Jun 2018)
Meghna	Tk 1.61	Tk 1.15
MI	Tk 1.07	Tk 1.15
Premier	Tk 3.09	Tk 2.70

SOURCE: DSE

Crown Cement, and also the president of Bangladesh Cement Manufacturers Association (BCMA). According to the BCMA, the sector has grown 12 percent on an average in the last eight years.

At present, 42 cement factories are active, with a combined installed manufacturing capacity of 5.5 crore tonnes per year. The annual demand is 3.5 crore tonnes.

The market size of the sector is Tk 13,000 crore. Manufacturers have invested Tk 30,000 crore in the sector. Of the total consumption, individuals account for 25 percent, real estate and developers 30 percent, and the government 45 percent.

READ MORE ON B3

ADP spending hits five-year high in July

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Development spending witnessed a five-year high in July, the first month in the current fiscal year, thanks to the power division's outstanding performance in implementing the annual development programme (ADP).

Moreover, the amount was four times the sum spent in the corresponding month last fiscal year, according to a monthly progress report of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED).

A total of Tk 3,951 crore was spent in July, which accounted for 1.84 percent of the current fiscal year's allocation. In comparison, Tk 1,027 crore was expended in the same month a year ago, which was 0.57 percent of the annual allocation.

In July in the past five years, the implementation of the ADP had been below 1 percent.

Planning Minister MA Mannan recently attributed the outstanding implementation to the outcome of some initiatives.

READ MORE ON B3

MTB Navana Car Festival

Exclusive Cash Discount for MTB Customers

50% Discount on processing fee

Special Interest Rate

Navana Limited

16219

মিউচুয়াল ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.

you can bank on us

CEMS Global presents

3 Comprehensive Int'l Exhibitions Serving the Entire Textile & Garment Industry of Bangladesh for the last 20 Years

Pre-register your visit at www.e-registrations.com

Follow us on

CEMS-GLOBAL

20th ANNIVERSARY

TEXTTECH BANGLADESH INTERNATIONAL EXPO 2019

Bangladesh's Oldest B2B Exhibition for the last 20 years featuring Int'l Textile Apparel Technology & Machinery

4-7 SEPTEMBER 2019

10:30AM - 7:30PM

ICCB INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CITY BASHUNDHARA, KURIL, DHAKA

Concurrent Exhibitions

Bangladesh's Oldest B2B Exhibition featuring Int'l Yarn, Fabric, Trims & Accessories Manufacturers & Suppliers

Bangladesh's Oldest B2B Exhibition featuring Int'l Dye stuff, Fine & Specialty Chemicals Manufacturers & Suppliers

Host Country Partner

Technical Partner

Digital Sourcing Partner

Broadcast Partner

Media Partners

Radio Partner

Magazine Partners

Media Monitoring Partner

66 firms to get export trophies

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government is awarding 66 companies with the national export trophy for their outstanding contribution during 2016-17.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to hand over the awards at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka today.

The trophy winners will be awarded a crest and a certificate, said an official of the Export Promotion Bureau. Of the recipients, 29 would receive gold trophies, 21 silver and 16 bronze, said a circular.

The recipients were selected in 28 categories this time, said an official of the commerce ministry.

READ MORE ON B3

SAVE 400 TK

SCAN TO BROWSE

For more info visit: www.sslcommerz.com/visa

Offer valid till 24th September, 2019

*Conditions apply

Get exciting offers* at over 30 merchants on your first 2 transactions with your saved Visa card.

Shop across categories with Visa

Digital Service

Entertainment

Grocery

Insurance

Online Shopping

Recharge

Travel

Powered by

VISA

SSLCOMMERZ