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One in three graduates unemployed

Says WB's latest report on Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Graduates struggle to find jobs, with more than a third of them remaining unemployed one or two years after graduation, said the World Bank in its latest report -- a damning evidence of the poor state of the country's education system.

"This indicates a major skills gap," said the Washington-based multilateral lender in the report 'Bangladesh Development Update October 2019: Tertiary Education and Job Skills', which was launched yesterday at its office in Dhaka.

Only 19 percent of college graduates are employed full-time or part-time, while nearly half are unemployed.

Furthermore, female graduates are far more likely to be unemployed and out of study two years after graduation: 43 percent of the female university graduates remain unemployed in contrast to 37 percent male graduates.

Many unemployed graduates opt to pursue higher levels of education, with mixed results.

Graduate tracking surveys found that around 75 percent of the polytechnic graduates, 30 percent of the college graduates and 20 percent of the university graduates have experienced joblessness lasting more than a year.

Unemployment is most problematic for graduates of affiliated colleges, which account for more than two-thirds of tertiary enrolled students.

"The high incidence of prolonged unemployment

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Workers applying salt on hilsa to make *Nona Ilish* in Chattogram city's Firingi Bazar yesterday. Traders at the market are now busy preparing the salted hilsa amid the ongoing 22-day ban on catching and transporting the fish. They said they supply *Nona Ilish* to different parts of the country for Tk 12,000-16,000 per maund.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

93 more migrant workers return empty handed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sent back 93 more Bangladeshi migrant workers on Wednesday as part of a crackdown on undocumented workers in the kingdom.

With the 93, a total of 448 migrant workers returned from the Middle Eastern country in the last seven days.

A Saudia Airlines flight, carrying the migrant workers, landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 11:25pm on Wednesday.

Following their arrival, a support team -- comprising of Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and Brac Migration Programme officials -- arranged food for the returnees and assisted them at the immigration office, officials said.

Saudi Arabian authorities sent back 105 Bangladeshi migrant workers in two separate flights on Tuesday night and early Wednesday.

Some 120 Bangladeshi workers returned from the oil-rich country on Friday night. On October 3, 130 migrant workers returned home from the kingdom.

Shariful Hasan, programme head of Brac Migration Programme, said so far this month, the number of returnee migrant workers from Saudi Arabia stands at 534.

Don't waste water

PM asks city dwellers, inaugurates two water treatment plants

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged city dwellers to exercise austerity while using water since a significant amount of money is spent on water treatment.

"I'd like to urge all to be conscious over the use of water. Everyone will have to pay special attention to ensure that water is not being wasted," she said.

She made the announcement while digitally inaugurating two water plants and laying the foundation stone of another of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Dwasa) at a city hotel.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Md Tazul Islam presided over the programme.

Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Padma (Jashaldia) Water Treatment Plant (Phase-1) and the Well Field Construction Project (Phase-1) in Savar's Tetuljhora-Bhakurta area.

Dhaka will receive a total of 600 million litres of water a day from the two plants -- 450 million from the Jashaldia plant and 150 million from the Savar plant.

The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Gandharbpur Water Treatment Plant at Rupganj under the Dhaka Environmentally Sustainable Water Supply Project.

Pointing out that Dwasa is a commercial service provider, she urged all to extend all-out cooperation to Dwasa.

At the same time, Hasina also directed Dwasa to be more active and dynamic in implementing the development projects and goals for expanding the facilities.

She urged Dwasa to be sincere over the maintenance of the newly-opened water plants and expediting the construction work of the Gandharbpur Water Treatment Plant.

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BSF detains 3 Rab men, returns them after 5 hrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Members of Indian Border Security Force yesterday detained and released three members of Rapid Action Battalion and two of their informers at Ashabari border in Cumilla's Brahmanpara upazila.

The Rab members are Constable Regan Barua, Constable Abdul Matin and Sepoy Sainik Wahid and their informers are Moni Begum and Khuki Liza.

BSF picked up the five around 9:00am as they mistakenly crossed the border line. Later, they were handed over to BGB through a flag meeting around 5:30pm, said Shahjahan Ali, officer-in-charge of Brahmanpara Police Station.

The elite force members were in uniform when they were picked up, said Assistant Superintendent of Police Mohitul Islam, who is now in charge of CPC-2 of Rab-11.

3D printer makes meat in space



AFP, Moscow

The prospect of astronauts tucking into a roast dinner has grown slightly closer after a successful experiment used a 3D printer to create meat on the International Space Station.

The bioprinter produced beef, rabbit and fish tissue using magnetic fields in microgravity, a Russian medical technology company involved in the experiment said Wednesday.

The experiment -- an international collaboration involving US, Russian and Israeli companies -- was carried out in September by cosmonaut Oleg Skripochka in the station's Russian segment using a 3D printer developed in Moscow.

The creators say it is the first to create a small amount of artificial meat in conditions of weightlessness.

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'MURDER-SUICIDE' Police find 3 of a family dead in city's Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the bodies of a man, his wife and son from a flat in the capital's Mirpur yesterday.

The victims are SM Bayezid, 45, a businessman, his wife Kohinur Akter Anjana, 42, and son Farhan, 16, a student of Dhaka Commerce College.

Police suspect that Bayezid died by suicide after killing his wife and only child.

A victims' relatives called police as he did not get any response from the flat of Bayezid when he went to visit them around 1:30pm, said Selimuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station.

"Three to four men whom Bayezid owed money to came and asked me about his whereabouts. They forcibly went upstairs and knocked at the door of Bayezid's flat. But getting no response, they left," said

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CRITICISING INDIAN DEAL Facebook post causes AL leader's suspension

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The Khulna district Awami League (AL) has suspended its executive committee member Sheikh Baharul Alam for criticising the recent India-Bangladesh deals on Facebook.

Baharul was also asked to show reasons why he should not be expelled from the party. He was given seven days to reply.

Khulna district AL Office Secretary Farid Ahmed

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 11

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-30 4-15 5-45 7-15
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



SQUIRRELLING AROUND

A Five-Striped Palm squirrel spotted on a jujube tree in Kalyanpur area of Chapainawabganj town. These small squirrels usually climb trees to look for food, including fruits, seeds and insects. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

TURKEY OFFENSIVE IN SYRIA Kurds fight back invasion 60,000 flee in less than a day

AFP, Beirut

Syria's Kurds battled to hold off a Turkish invasion yesterday as thousands of civilians fled air strikes and shelling that deepened fears of a humanitarian crisis.

US President Donald Trump tried to justify the de facto green light he gifted his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan for an assault seen as a blatant betrayal of Washington's erstwhile Kurdish allies.

Syrian Kurdish forces lost 11,000 personnel and played a key role in the years-long battle to eliminate the "caliphate" the Islamic State group had set up in the region.

In scenes all too familiar since the start of Syria's war more than eight years ago, civilians were seen abandoning their homes on Thursday, in vehicles or on foot with their belongings on their backs.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said more than 60,000 people had been displaced in less than a day.

"We're heading to the countryside because we're scared of renewed bombing and intensified clashes," said Rizan Mohammad.

"We no longer feel safe," added the 33-year-old, who was fleeing the Kurdish-majority city of Qamishli with this family after it was hit by Turkish artillery attacks on Wednesday

The broad offensive -- which Erdogan dubbed "Operation Peace Spring" -- drew international outrage and warnings, including from within Trump's own camp, and will be discussed in an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council today.

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