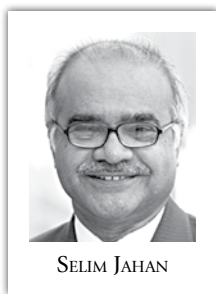


HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN BANGLADESH

We must focus on rooting out inequalities



OVER the past 50 years, Bangladesh has undoubtedly made impressive progress in overall human development

as well as on specific human development fronts. Yet, the achievements have not been even or uniform across several planes, such as socio-economic groups, regions, gender, rural-urban divide, and so on.

indicators. For example, while the under-five mortality rate was a little more than 20 per 1,000 live births for the richest quintile, it was nearly 50 per 1,000 live births among the poorest quintile.



PHOTO: STAR

percent. The mean years of schooling for females is 5.7, which is also lower than that for males at 6.9 years.

Gender inequality in employment has been a salient feature of Bangladesh's labour market. According to the Labour Force Survey 2016-17, only 36 percent of women participate in the labour market

management was just 11.5 percent in 2017. The share of seats in parliament held by women stood at 20.6 percent

With regard to climate change impacts, the climate vulnerable districts are also the districts with a higher incidence of poverty, which we can observe in flood-prone districts like Kurigram and Gaibandha.

collapse, spoilt books, and reduced earnings of parents during disasters, school attendance is negatively affected.

The significant lingering human deprivations on various fronts can also be seen through the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) — a composite measure of the non-income aspects of deprivation— which indicates that almost one in every four persons in Bangladesh suffers from multidimensional poverty.

Just like any other country, the Covid-19 pandemic may erode the human development gains and create new human deprivation in the country.

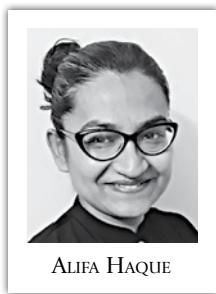
million people were still in income poverty. Covid-19, through its economic repercussions, may push another 30 million into poverty.

These disparities and deprivations in human development in Bangladesh will create some lingering challenges, some deepening challenges and some emerging challenges for the country.

Selim Jahan is Former Director, Human Development Report Office and Poverty Division, UNDP.

WORLD OCEANS DAY

Our local marine megafauna need urgent protection



IT is rather thought-provoking to see how the growing interest in conserving terrestrial megafauna (for example, the Bengal Tiger) is

starkly different from the interest in preserving marine megafauna (sharks, rays, turtles, whales). Animals living in water are generally considered as "fisheries-related" and inherently tied to food consumption and livelihoods, although ecologically, a tiger and a shark are equally important for ensuring the balance of the natural world.

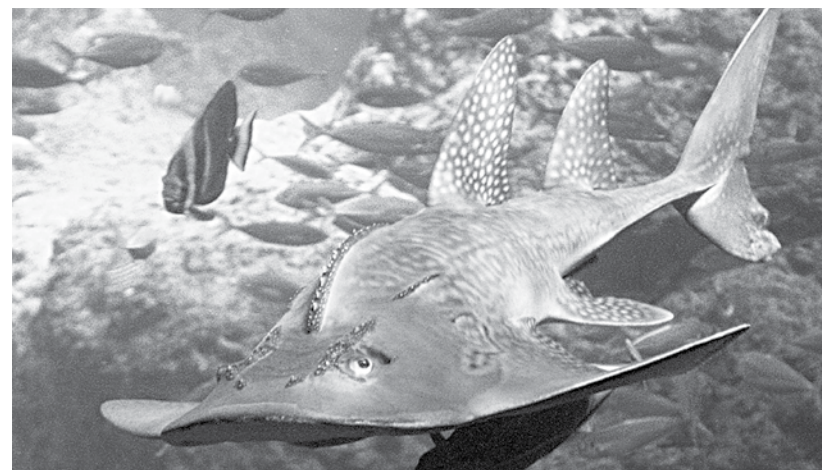
studies is substantially higher than previously reported. They are caught with a variety of fishing gear, both as by-catch and targeted fishery.

At least 13 different rhino rays exist in Bangladeshi waters; it could be more. They belong to three broad groups—sawfish (with a saw-like rostrum which alone can be as big as five feet, whereas the whole animal can be 21 feet or more), guitarfish (the body looks like a guitar) and wedgefish (which have amazingly spotted bodies).

There are ample reasons for rhino rays to thrive in the Bay of Bengal. Between India and Indonesia, the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) spans across six million square kilometres and includes

internationally. In contrast to other countries involved in the fin trade (such as Indonesia, Malaysia and China, to name a few), almost every part of the rhino ray is sold in Bangladesh.

The scenario mentioned above is aggravated by continuous habitat loss and degradation in the nearshore soft-bottom habitats preferred by these species. Similar degradation has been reported in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans due to shrimp aquaculture, increasing salinity, illegal fish poisoning, and intensive and unregulated fishing.



A Bowmouth Guitarfish, which is one of the rhino rays that can be found in the Bay of Bengal.

vulnerable marine habitats forming four percent of the world's coral reefs and seamounts, as well as nearly a tenth of the world's mangroves, seagrass beds and extensive estuaries.

Our studies revealed that the warm tropical waters and shallow soft-bottom habitats along the coastline of southwest and south-central Bangladesh are very favourable to rhino rays.

Landing and catch surveys in Bangladesh and neighbouring India and Myanmar indicate that the Bay of Bengal is a hotspot for several threatened and genetically distinct rhino rays.

Rhino rays have been a source of marine protein for coastal communities since the Bronze Age. The most valued rhino ray product is the fin, sold at very high prices

we mitigate fishing pressures and trade, expecting a recovery of these species is impracticable. The steep decline of several rhino ray species in Bangladesh is evident.

Rhino rays comprise a complex socioeconomic component in global and Bangladeshi fisheries. They are not just commercially significant; they also contribute to the protein intake of indigenous and other coastal communities.

Millions of small-scale fishers in Bangladesh are highly dependent on marine resources for food security and micro-nutrients. By 2050, we expect our planet will need to provide sufficient and nutritious food for approximately 10 billion people, which suggests the need

for continued expansion of global fisheries to maintain or improve human well-being. Yet, fish stocks and marine ecosystems already face depletion under current levels of fishing pressure.

The scenario mentioned above is aggravated by continuous habitat loss and degradation in the nearshore soft-bottom habitats preferred by these species. Similar degradation has been reported in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans due to shrimp aquaculture, increasing salinity, illegal fish poisoning, and intensive and unregulated fishing.

sustainable rhino ray fishery practices that will help stabilise population declines, we need a holistic framework and a precautionary approach where conservation actions are taken before species reach a critical limit.

is precisely the theme for this year's Oceans Day: "Life and Livelihoods". The fate of rhino rays in the Bay of Bengal depends on the individual and collective efforts of all stakeholders, and ultimately, the political will of all surrounding nations.

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To read more about rhino rays in Bangladesh, please visit https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2021.105690

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
কমান্ডিং অফিসারের কার্যালয়
২ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন
মুজাগাছা, ময়মনসিংহ
'উন্নুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি'
স্মারক নং-প্রশাঃ-২৭৩/১৮২০
২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরে ২ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, মুজাগাছা, ময়মনসিংহ কোর্সের ১ম কোয়ার্টারের (জুলাই ২০২১ খ্রিঃ হতে সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) উন্নুক্তমানের জোজাতেল (সেয়াবিন) এবং উন্নুক্তমানের হোটেলানা দেশী মতর ডাল সরবরাহ কার্যের জন্য 'দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিবিএল' -২০০৮, ২০০৮ এবং তদীয় সংশোধনী অনুসারে নির্দিষ্ট শর্ত সাপেক্ষে টিকাদার নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী টিকাদারদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত উন্নুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।