



THE DAILY

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Poverty set to drop further

WB forecasts about fiscal year 2022-23

POVERTY RATE

2018-19	11.9%
2019-20	12.9%
2020-21	12.5% (estimate)
2021-22	11.9% (forecast)
2022-23	11.2% (forecast)

SOURCE: WORLD BANK

GDP GROWTH FORECAST (2021-22)

Bangladesh	6.4%	"A gradual recovery in the employment and earnings helped reduce the poverty rate."
India	7.5%	
Sri Lanka	2.1%	
Pakistan	3.4%	
Nepal	3.9%	

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and AKANDA MUHAMMAD JAHD

The World Bank in a report noted a gradual recovery in employment and earnings in Bangladesh, forecasting that the country's poverty rate will come down to pre-pandemic levels in the current fiscal year.

The pandemic reversed the country's steady trend of poverty reduction, lifting the poverty rate to an estimated 12.9 percent in the 2019-2020 fiscal year from 11.9 percent the previous year.

In the report launched yesterday, WB said the poverty rate is set to go down to 11.9 percent by the end of the 2021-22

fiscal year.

A "gradual recovery in employment and earnings" helped reduce the poverty rate, according to the WB report.

The global lender released the report as part of its fall 2021 economic update for South Asia titled "Shifting Gears: Digitization and Services-Led Development".

"The Covid-19 pandemic has put the substantial poverty reduction gains of the past decade at risk. Poverty increased from 11.9 percent in FY19 [fiscal year 18-19] to an estimated 12.9 in FY20 [19-20], using the international poverty rate [\$1.9 in 2011 PPP]," said the report.

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Exhausted, an elderly woman sits on the street while waiting to buy daily essentials at subsidised prices from a truck of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) near the capital's Jatiya Press Club. The queue of buyers in front of the truck was long and the woman sat down after standing in the line for more than two and a half hours when this photo was taken around 12:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

No time to make law for EC formation

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the next Election Commission would be constituted through a search committee as formulating a law for its formation is not possible right now because of time constraints and Covid-19.

"The tenure of the existing EC expires this February. Besides, the pandemic is still underway. In such a situation, it is not possible to formulate a law for forming the Election Commission," he said.

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Compromise, yet again

Late fines waived the fourth time in 2yrs for vehicle owners, drivers who failed to update documents on time

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Apparently giving in to pressure from transport associations, the government once again waived the fines for failing to update documents of vehicles on time.

Road Transport and Highway Division announced in a circular yesterday that motorists would enjoy the waiver until December 31 this year.

Motorists have to pay fines for a vehicle's outdated fitness certificate, tax token, and route permit, and for an expired driver's licence.

This is the fourth time the government has waived the fine since January 2020. Defaulters will be enjoying the waiver for almost two years, excepting the period between July and September this year.

Such periods of remission were also announced several times in between 2015 and 2020.

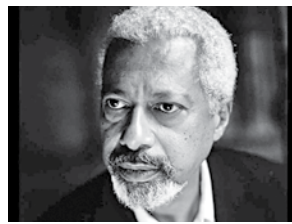
In each of the three previous circulars since January 2020, it was mentioned that it would be the last time the government would offer the waiver. The one issued yesterday mentioned no such thing.

On all three occasions, the ministry asked Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to circulate the information among transport owners. The latter even published the notice in newspapers earlier this year, inviting people with expired vehicle documents to get the papers updated by June without paying anything in fines.

Yesterday's circular came several weeks after a section of transport owners and workers observed a two-day strike to press home a 15-point demand that includes the waiver of the fines.

Contacted, eminent road safety campaigner Ilias Kanchan said the latest

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Tanzania's Gurnah wins Nobel Prize for literature

REUTERS, Stockholm

Tanzanian novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah, 72, won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature "for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee," the award-giving body said

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UAE VISIT VISAS Only 'real' tourists to fly

No workers to get past Bangladesh immigrations

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and ZYMA ISLAM

Twenty-year-old Md Bijoy has already paid Tk 2 lakh for taking a cleaner's job in Dubai and has even got a visa to the Gulf emirate.

All he is waiting for now is to buy an air ticket, for which he is finding it difficult to gather the money.

"I got a three-month tourist visa. Once I go there, I will be given a work visa. My local agent Kalam has made all the arrangements," said Bijoy, son of a tea stall owner.

But there's a snag. According to letter issued by the immigration police of Bangladesh on September 22, holders of tourist visas intending to work in the UAE will not be able to go past immigration. The decision came into force that day.

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THE THIRD VIEW



MAHFUZ ANAM

ELECTIONS: Déjà vu or a move forward

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Congratulations and gratitude to the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina