



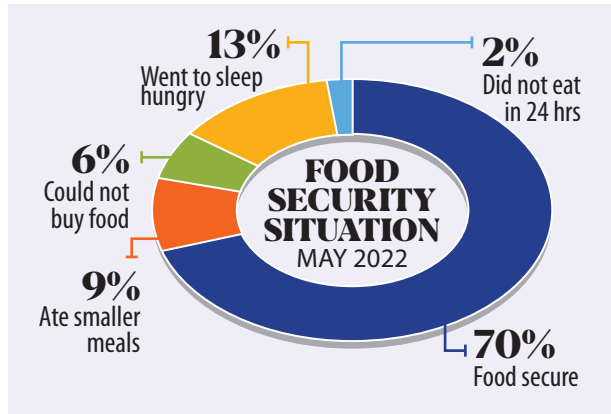
## 30pc people facing food scarcity

Finds World Bank survey on Covid impact on Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 30 percent people in Bangladesh are facing food scarcity though the country's economy made a recovery from the pandemic-induced shocks, says a World Bank survey.

The number of people, who went to sleep hungry,



almost doubled to 13 percent in May this year from 7 percent in June last year, according to the survey.

WB Senior Economist Ayago Wambile presented the keynote paper on the survey at a seminar, organised by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) in the capital yesterday.

Six percent of the people surveyed in May this year said they could not buy food. The figure was 5 percent in June last year. The number of those who didn't eat in 24 hours rose to 2 percent in May this year from 1 percent in June last year, the survey said.

However, there has been a significant decrease in the number of people, who ate smaller meals, over the last one year. It fell to 9 percent in May this year from 17 percent in June last year.

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PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Three children play on a carrom board beside the Outer Ring Road in Dakkhin Halishahar of Chattogram yesterday. While these children have been sleeping under the open sky since Sitrang destroyed their homes on Monday, their spirits did not dampen.

## 'No factory has to shut'

PM assures importers, exporters as they raise issues of energy, gas, LC

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Consumer goods importers and processors yesterday told the prime minister how the deepening energy and power crises were affecting their industries.

They also spoke about issues they were facing while trying to open letters of credit to import goods.

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## 'Ready to pay more'

Businesspeople tell govt, demanding uninterrupted power, gas supplies to factories

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Businesses yesterday reiterated their demand for uninterrupted gas and power supplies to industrial units as they are having to operate at half capacity because of the ongoing energy crisis.

In desperation, they even proposed that the government hike power and gas prices to ensure uninterrupted supply to industrial units for continuous production.

In the last couple of months,

businesspeople from different sectors have held meetings with the government to discuss their demand for uninterrupted gas and power supplies.

Importers, exporters, owners of big businesses and leaders of major chambers and trade bodies again raised the demand at a meeting yesterday with Salman F Rahman, prime minister's private industry and investment affairs adviser, and Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources.

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Ireland players acknowledge the crowd's support following their stunning five-run victory over England in a rain-affected Super 12 stage match of the Twenty20 World Cup at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday. The other scheduled fixture of the day, between New Zealand and Afghanistan at the same venue, was washed out.

PHOTO: AFP



## Recharged Tigers face wounded SA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will hope to reap rewards following the momentum gained from winning their campaign opener as Shakib Al Hasan and his troops take on South Africa in the two teams' second Super 12 fixture of the T20 World Cup at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Australia today.

South Africa, on the other hand, will be desperate to grab two crucial points after rain played spoilsport in their first match against Zimbabwe, leading to both teams sharing one point apiece. The Proteas were well on course for a comfortable win if bad

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## BY-POLLS IRREGULARITIES

# EC probe finds 100 involved

They include election officials, says committee member; report submission today

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission's probe committee has found that around 100 people, including election officials, were involved in electoral irregularities during the Gaibandha-5 by-polls on October 12.

A committee member said almost all the 100 carried out duties as presiding officers, assistant presiding officers or polling agents appointed by party candidates.

The member said the probe report is almost complete.

The EC formed the committee on October 13 to find out how the irregularities took place and identify those responsible. The irregularities led to postponement of the by-polls.

Asked about the report, probe committee chief Ashok Kumar Debnath, also an additional secretary at the

EC secretariat, refused to make any comment.

"We are working on the report and will submit it to the Election Commission on Thursday [today]," he said.

The committee was given seven working days to submit its report. The deadline was later extended by three working days, which expires today.

In an unprecedented move, the EC stopped the Gaibandha-5 by-election, saying that the situation went "out of control" due to widespread electoral irregularities.

This was the first by-polls conducted by the current EC. Also, this was the first time an EC halted an entire by-election to a parliamentary seat.

The probe body recorded statements of over 600 people, including the deputy commissioner and superintendent of

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