



Debapriya Bhattacharya

“Prolonged Rohingya crisis will affect the economy”

**In conversation with Debapriya Bhattacharya,
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The Daily Star (TDS): What could be the long-term economic impact in Bangladesh if the Rohingya crisis prolongs?

Debapriya Bhattacharya (DB): If Rohingyas continue to stay in Bangladesh for long, they will gradually be absorbed by the national labour force. This essentially means that they too will be contending for the already limited employment opportunities available in the country. Further, the population growth rate among the Rohingya refugees is higher than that of the Bangladeshis. Therefore, their share in the Bangladesh's labour

force will increase in the future.

Rohingya children, born on this soil, must be taken care of by ensuring health, education, social protection and other basic provisions. This will obviously add a new burden on our tight fiscal situation. Rohingya settlements are located in the ecologically vulnerable areas, so increased population density will affect the environment adversely.

It needs to be kept in mind that permanent settlement of the Rohingyas in Chittagong hill tracts is going to undermine the local religious