

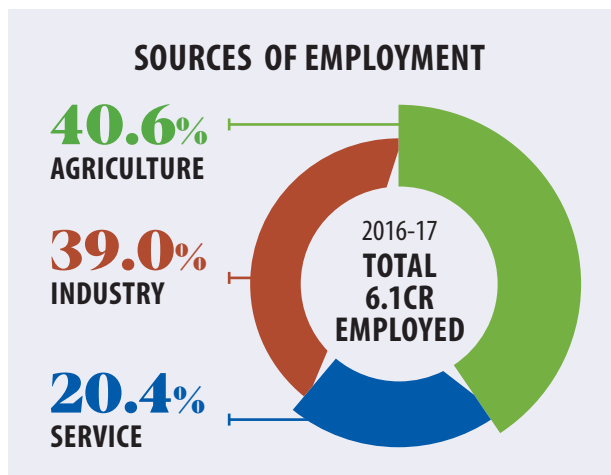
## LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2022

# Agriculture still main job generator

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

It seems the Bangladesh economy is stuck in a time warp, going by the latest edition of the Labour Force Survey unveiled yesterday.

As an economy develops, more and more labour move out of the agriculture sector and join the manufacturing sector. In the next stage of transformation, workers move out of manufacturing and on to the services sector.



In Bangladesh, agriculture continues to be the chief source of employment -- in 2022. In 2016-17, the sector accounted for 40.6 percent of employment. In 2022, that ratio increased to 45.33 percent -- indicating that the country continues to be a largely agrarian society.

The share of manufacturing in total employment declined from 20.4 percent in 2016-17 to 17.02 percent -- raising questions about the nature of economic development in recent years.

Over the past decade, the Bangladesh economy clocked in respectable GDP growth of about 6 percent on average, and just before the global coronavirus pandemic started, it was amongst the fastest growing nations in the world.

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Covering their mouth, members of leftist student platforms form a human chain in front of the Raju Memorial Sculpture in Dhaka University yesterday demanding immediate release of daily Prothom Alo journalist Samsuzzaman Shams. Shams was detained in a DSA case.

## 2 ministers, AL leaders slam Prothom Alo over report

STAR REPORT

Two ministers and ruling party leaders yesterday came down heavily on Bangla daily Prothom Alo for a report it ran online on March 26.

Their comments came after Prothom Alo reporter Samsuzzaman Shams was picked up from his home

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## Prothom Alo journo held at dead of night

Case filed under Digital Security Act

STAR REPORT

A Prothom Alo reporter was picked up from his home in Savar by law enforcers wearing plainclothes around 4:00am yesterday, triggering widespread criticism.

Samsuzzaman Shams, a staff correspondent based in Savar, was detained less than two hours after a Jubo League leader sued him under the Digital Security Act (DSA).

Journalist organisations and rights bodies condemned the incident and demanded his immediate release.



S Shams

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## Editors, journo, rights bodies voice concern

STAR REPORT

The Editors' Council has expressed deep concern over the detention of Samsuzzaman Shams, a reporter of Bangla daily Prothom Alo, and filing of a case against him under the Digital Security Act.

The DSA has already created barriers to journalism as well as freedom of speech and freethinking, the organisation said in a press release

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## AL serves people while BNP-Jamaat destroy: PM



STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the BNP-Jamaat clique destroys people's properties but the Awami League builds to serve the nation as it emerged from the struggle to ensure people's rights.

"From the very beginning, the Awami League is continuing

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## Prothom Alo editor sued under DSA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matir Rahman, reporter Samsuzzaman Shams, an unnamed assistant cameraman, and unnamed others were sued late last night under the Digital

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PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan bagged five wickets as Ireland were handed a 77-run defeat in a curtailed-over match in Chattogram yesterday. The performance put another feather in his cap in becoming the highest wicket-taker in T20Is with 136 scalps. The Tigers took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match T20I series.



## Nur-E-Alam Siddique passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nur-E-Alam Siddique, whose name is etched in the history of the nation's struggle for freedom, passed away early yesterday.

An organiser of the Liberation War, he was widely known as one of "four caliphs" -- the four key leaders of Swadhin Bangla Kendriya Chhatra Sangram Parishad, which was at the forefront of the non-cooperation movement in March 1971.

The former lawmaker

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## Rice, wheat intakes get smaller for poor

Finds survey by Sanem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poor people are eating smaller portions of the staples rice and wheat while their protein intake has become few and far between as they strive to make ends meet amid the persistently high inflation, according to a recent survey.

In the first eight months of the fiscal year, inflation averaged 8.74 percent, way above the budgetary target of 5.6 percent, according to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

"Low-income families have become big victims of high inflation, supply chain disruptions and imperfections in the domestic market," said Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (Sanem), which conducted the survey.

The findings of the survey titled "Effects of Inflation on the Livelihoods of the Poorer Households in Bangladesh" were revealed at a press briefing at the Brac Centre Inn in the capital yesterday.

Sanem surveyed 1,600 households in eight divisions between March 9 and

March 18 and found the average cost for families is 13 percent more than six months ago. The highest cost increase was in food.

Poor households have reduced their consumption of staples like rice and wheat by 37.08 percent and 56.55 percent respectively.


More than 96 percent of the poor have slashed their meat consumption and 88.22 percent have reduced fish consumption. Egg and oil consumption was down 77.06 percent and 81.43 percent respectively.

However, the income of the households remained unchanged in the six months -- from September last year to February this year.


To cope with the situation, 90 percent of the households are changing their food habits and 74 percent are forced to borrow, Raihan said.

"Poorer households are eating less -- they are more food insecure now," he said, adding that the extent of the impact is higher in urban areas than in

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