



# More people now without jobs

Shows BBS survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Within a quarter, the number of people unemployed rose by 2.70 lakh to 25.9 lakh, shows data provided by the government.

There were 23.2 lakh jobless people in December, according to the quarterly data from the Labour Force Survey unveiled by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) yesterday.

The unemployment rate is currently 3.51 percent, which was 3.2 percent in December.

However, the unemployment number is less than that of the first quarter of 2022 when 29.50 lakh people were without work.

There are 7.11 crore people employed in the country and 4.65 crore of them are men.

Of the employed, 3.19 crore are in the agriculture sector, 1.22 crore in industrial sector, and 2.69 crore in the service sector, read the report.

The youth labour force is 2.73 crore, which was 2.60 crore in December.

According to the previous Labour Force Survey of the 2022 year, the unemployment rate declined to 3.6 percent mainly due to an upward trend in women's and youths' participation in the workforce.

Rizwanul Islam, a former employment sector special adviser at the International Labour Organisation in Geneva, said the seasonal factor might be a reason for the increase in unemployment in agriculture.

Yesterday, the survey report was revealed at a press conference at the National Economic Council of the Ministry of Planning, State Minister for Planning Shamsul Alam was the chief guest.

Shamsul said the data of every quarterly labour force survey report has seasonal factors. "We should not come to any conclusion based on this. We shouldn't get scared."

The state minister said the demand for labour is not constant, it is always fluctuating. "Usually, the January to March period is considered a lean period for the agriculture sector."

"Now the paddy harvesting season has started. Job opportunities in this sector will increase soon. As a result, the number of unemployed people will decrease again," he said.

Among others, Shahanz Arefin, secretary to the statistics and informatics division, BBS Director General Md Matiar Rahman, Labour Force Survey Project Director Aziza Rahman were present at the event.

Matiar said they would be publishing quarterly labour force survey report regularly from now on.

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**Shamsul Alam**  
State Minister for Planning



The official match ball and trophy of Bangladesh's first women's franchise football league was unveiled at a hotel in the capital on Monday. Alongside members of Bangladesh national women's team and celebrities were BFF women's wing chairman Mahfuza Akhter Kiron and K-Sports' CEO & president Fahad Karim. The four-team league is expected to kick off later this month.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Polls internal affairs of Bangladesh

Says US state dept

UNB, Dhaka

The US does not want to comment on Bangladesh's upcoming national election.

"I don't have anything else to get into that beyond as it's an internal, domestic election," said Vedant Patel, deputy principal spokesperson at the US Department of State.

He came up with the remarks on Monday when a journalist wanted to know how would the US navigate a situation where, in

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## Go tough on graft

HC tells authorities; asks nat'l archive to submit Bangabandhu's speeches, directives on the issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued some suggestions to prevent corruption and sought the speeches, lectures and directives delivered by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in this regard from the government.

The court said the authorities concerned must take a hard line on eradicating corruption and money laundering as their leniencies have been causing such offences to go unabated.

"A Nobel laureate has observed that there are leniencies regarding corruption in South Asian countries. Hard lines must be taken to prevent it."

"Three issues must be kept in mind to stop corruption and money laundering – a system has to be developed; laws and rules must be

followed strict; and accountability to the people must be established," the HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Mohammad Showkat Ali Chowdhury told Anti-Corruption Commission lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan on a suo moto (voluntary) move during its proceedings.

The bench added that corruption and money laundering cannot be eradicated only by the laws, rules and judgements.

It also expressed disappointment regarding the noncompliance of the court's earlier directive, which asked the authorities concerned to submit a report on the Bangladeshi nationals who have purchased homes in Canada's "Begum Para" and deposited money to the banks in Switzerland.

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## SUDAN CONFLICT Bangladeshis start leaving Khartoum

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

"There is a ray of hope at last. I can't express my feeling, my gratitude to the Bangladesh government. We went through hell in the last 15 days. We did not even think we could return home alive."

These were the words of relief spoken by Bangladeshi expatriate Md Saikat during a WhatsApp call with The Daily Star.

He was speaking from a bus that was headed to Port Sudan from the war-torn country's capital, Khartoum.

Like Saikat, a number of Bangladeshis stranded in the capital are on a journey to the northeast African country's port city, from where they will sail to Saudi Arabia before returning to Bangladesh.

"I left behind all that I earned in the last 18 years in Sudan, but I am still happy that I can return to Bangladesh alive."

He said they started yesterday at 9:00am (1:00pm Bangladesh time) for Port Sudan by bus, which was arranged by the Bangladesh embassy in Sudan.

Saikat, however, could not say exactly how many Bangladeshis were on a similar journey for Port Sudan, but said some 11 buses left Khartoum for Port Sudan.

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