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## WB to give \$300m for youth employment

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh and the World Bank yesterday signed a \$300 million financing agreement to equip about 900,000 economically disengaged rural youths with skills and alternative education needed for employment and entrepreneurship.

About 60 percent of them will be female.

The Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET (EARN) Project will help overcome barriers that prevent disadvantaged and vulnerable youths from gaining education and employment. It will provide skills training, alternative education, employment, and entrepreneurial support to rural youth who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET), according to a press release of World Bank yesterday.

The project will establish vocational training centres

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to offer a range of skills development opportunities and provide online and offline training courses in market-driven and futuristic trades. They will be in locations convenient to rural youth, especially female.

It will also offer competitive financing and mentorship support for entrepreneurial activities. It will help secondary school dropouts, particularly female students to complete vocational secondary education.

"The youth are the future of any country. Creating a well-equipped competitive workforce, where no young person is excluded, is a critical development priority for Bangladesh," said Abdoulaye Seck, World Bank country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan.

"The project will help develop a competitive workforce through skill development, continuity

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