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BIDS ANALYSIS OF 2021 DATA

Unpaid domestic, care work made up 15pc of GDP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The value of women's unpaid domestic and care work accounted for 14.8 percent of Bangladesh's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021, said a study by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) yesterday.

The value of unpaid domestic and caregiving services by men was 2.8 percent during that time, said the study titled, "Valuation of Women's Unpaid and Non-Market Household and Care Work: Evidence-based on the Bangladesh Time Use Survey 2021".

Women make a significant contribution to social and economic development through unpaid household and caregiving work, said Tanima Ahmed of the American University of Washington, presenting the findings of the study at the Annual BIDS Conference on Development.

The BIDS organised the three-day event at a city hotel. Co-authored by BIDS Director General Binayak Sen, and its research directors Kazi Iqbal and Mohammad Yunus, the study found that Bangladesh is at par with India and Sri Lanka on the ratio of unpaid domestic work to GDP.

In India, the share of unpaid domestic work is 14 percent of its GDP. In the case of Sri Lanka, the ratio is 15 percent, said Tanima.

To estimate the monetary value of unpaid domestic work, the researchers multiplied three factors: the average number of hours spent by an individual on unpaid care work annually, the hourly replacement wage, and the

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Bangladesh's Shahadat Hossain Dipu takes evasive action at silly point as New Zealand batter Glenn Phillips smashes one during his 87-run knock in their first innings of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Mirpur Test on knife edge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite bad weather having spoiled more than half of three days' action, the penultimate day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand at Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium today could still end up providing a dramatic climax.

Both camps possess valid reasons to back themselves for a win, with the weather predicted to get better. The fourth day's play is scheduled to begin at 9.15 am local time to recover some of the lost overs.

The Tigers will resume their second innings on 38 for two, leading by 30 runs, with opener Zakir Hasan (16*) and Mominul Haque (naught*) at the crease, looking to set an uphill task for the Kiwis on a rank turner Mirpur track.

Rain and bad light restricted the third day's play to 32.3 overs. Prior to it, the visitors staged an impressive recovery in their

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34kg gold seized from Biman flight

4 passengers held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) yesterday seized over 34kg gold and detained four passengers from a Biman Bangladesh flight at Osmani International Airport in Sylhet.

On information, the officials searched the Dhaka-bound flight from Dubai (BG-248) and seized the gold from under some of the seats and the washroom.

A total of 280 pieces of gold bars weighing 32.78kg and six gold eggs weighing 1.591kg were seized. The gold is worth around Tk 26.5 crores, CIID Director General (additional charge) Abdur Rouf told a press conference at his office in Dhaka's Kakrail.

The officials also detained four passengers after the flight landed at the Sylhet airport at 8:35am, he added.

All the detainees-- Habibur Rahman, 38, Sanu Mia, 36, Md Akhtaruzzaman, 40, and Mishfa Mia-- are expat Bangladeshis, the CIID official said.

Replying to a query, Rouf said gold smuggling in the country has recently increased in the country and they have doubled their vigilance to prevent it.

"Apart from the passengers, staffers of the different airlines including Biman Bangladesh airlines are involved in gold smugglings. Some consignments are recovered earlier from such a place of the aircrafts which are beyond reach by any the passengers," he said.

Filing of a case in this regard is underway.

CIID statistics show they have seized over 383kg of gold in last two fiscal years.

Dozens killed as Israel ramps up Gaza strikes

US 'alarmed' as 450 targets hit in 24hrs; UNSC delays vote on ceasefire

AGENCIES

Israel sharply ramped up strikes on the Gaza Strip, pounding the length of the Palestinian enclave and killing hundreds in a new, expanded phase of the war that Washington said veered from Israeli promises to do more to protect civilians.

The Israeli military yesterday said it had struck more than 450 targets in Gaza from land, sea and air over the past 24 hours - the most since a truce collapsed last week and about double the daily figures typically reported since then.

With 85 percent of Gazans now displaced and unable to access any aid, hospitals overrun and food running out, the main UN agency there said society was "on the verge of a full-blown collapse".

Meanwhile, a UN Security Council vote on a demand for a humanitarian ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war was delayed by several hours yesterday until after a planned meeting between Arab ministers and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The 15-member council had been due to vote on a brief draft resolution yesterday morning, but it was delayed at the request of the United Arab Emirates, which put forward the text with the support of Arab and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation states.

To be adopted, a resolution needs at least nine votes in favor and no vetoes by the five permanent members - the United States, Russia, China, France or Britain. The US has said it does not support any further action by the council at this time.

On the ground, residents and the Israeli military both reported intensified fighting in both northern areas, where Israel had previously said its troops had

strikes were reported yesterday morning in Khan Younis in the south, the Nusseirat camp in the centre and Gaza City in the north.

"As we stand here almost a week into this campaign into the south... it remains imperative that Israel put a premium on civilian protection," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told a press conference in Washington on Thursday.

"And there does remain a gap between... the intent to protect civilians and the actual results that we're seeing on the ground."

Israel launched its attack on Gaza after Hamas fighters intruded into Israel on Oct 7, killing 1,200 people and seizing more than 240 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Since then, the vast majority of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been driven from their homes, many forced to flee three or four times, with only the belongings they can carry.

With the fighting now extended across both halves of the Gaza Strip at the same time, residents say it has become almost impossible to find refuge.

Reuters journalists in the southern Gaza Strip have seen dead and wounded overrunning the main Nasser hospital in Khan Younis, where there was no room on the floor for arriving patients sprawled across bloodstained tiles.

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16,800-year-old cave dwelling found in Spain

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Archaeologists have found a pre-historic cave dwelling, thought to have been constructed 16,800 years ago.

The discovery was made in the La Garma caves in Cantabria, Spain, which is famed for its artwork previously found on its walls.

The University of Cantabria, whose prehistoric research team led the project, said it was "one of the best preserved Paleolithic dwellings in the world".

The home is described as an oval space of about five square metres with stone blocks and structures of "sticks and skins".

Researchers believe there was a small bonfire in the centre of the space, in which a multitude of daily tasks would have taken place.

They believe a group of Magdalenian hunters and gatherers shared the space and they have documented 6,614 objects from the dwelling including deer, horse and bison bones as well as 600 pieces of flint, needles and shells of marine molluscs.

Among the discoveries was a decorated bone and several pendants that researchers believe dwellers wore as jewellery.

The research took two years of continuous work by an interdisciplinary team using innovative methodology such as non-invasive techniques such as 3D mapping, soil analysis, and radiocarbon dating.

RMG WORKERS

Plots afoot to use them for vested interest

Says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader has alleged that conspiracies are being hatched centring the readymade garments sector of the country as a quarter is trying to use workers for vested interests.

"There have been attempts to use the garment workers for some people's own interests nationally and internationally," said Quader while briefing reporters at the AL president's Dhanmondi office in the capital.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has hiked the wages of the workers for the sake of the garment sector. The present government is sincere about the interests of the workers in this sector," he added.

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An injured Palestinian child is being carried into a hospital following Israeli bombardment on Khan Yunis in southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Get out of comfort zones, work together

COP28 leader urges nations as differences remain over phasing out fossil fuels

REUTERS, Dubai

COP28 President Sultan al-Jaber yesterday urged countries to get out of their comfort zones and work together to reach agreement before the two-week summit ends.

"Let's please get this job done," he said, opening a plenary session as the summit entered its toughest phase of negotiations. "I need you to step up and I need you to come out of your comfort zones," he said.

With five days left before the conference ends on December 12, country ministers were joining the deliberations yesterday.

Still unresolved is how the nearly 200 countries at COP28 will handle the issue of fossil fuels, the main source of climate-warming emissions. At least 80 countries are demanding a COP28 agreement that calls for an eventual end to fossil fuel use.

Such a position would be unprecedented, after three

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