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Demographic dividend fading

WB warns weak jobs, healthcare, pensions leave Bangladesh ill-prepared

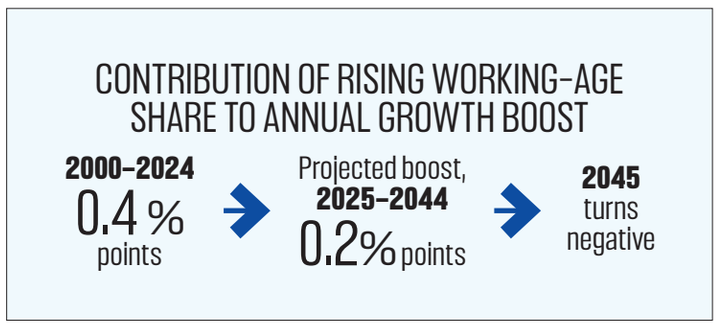
REJAUL KARIM BYRON *and* **TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY**

Bangladesh's growing share of working-age people has supported economic growth over the past two decades, but that share is shrinking and will turn into a drag on growth from 2045, the World Bank has warned in a new report.

Between 2000 and 2024, the rise in working-age people translated to a favourable demographic change and added about 0.4 percentage points a year to per capita real GDP growth, or economic output per person.

That contribution is expected to halve to 0.2 percentage points a year between 2025 and 2044 before turning negative from 2045, as the population ages, according to the report titled "Demographic Change in South Asia: From Tailwinds to Headwinds for Development".

"Bangladesh's transition from 'ageing' to 'aged' will start next year and will end in this generation," Franziska Ohnsorge, the WB's chief economist for Asia, said while presenting the report in Dhaka yesterday. "Policy response is urgent ... ."



When Bangladesh enters the "ageing" stage next year, people aged 65 and above will account for 7 percent of the population.

Their share is projected to double to 14 percent by 2051, making the country an "aged" society.

The transition will take just 24 years, much faster than the average of 32 years for other emerging markets and developing economies and 46 years for advanced economies.

France took 126 years and the United States 72 years for the shift.

The challenge is not simply how quickly Bangladesh is ageing, but how little time it has to prepare.

Most South Asian countries will become aged societies at lower income levels than other emerging and developing economies did. Bangladesh is slightly better placed than its neighbours regarding income level but is

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Readymade garment workers hurl brick chunks as law enforcers fire tear gas and stun grenades to disperse demonstrators in the capital's Mirpur-11 area yesterday. The workers took to the streets for a fourth consecutive day, demanding a minimum monthly wage of Tk 30,000. PHOTO: STAR

RMG workers fear being short-changed

Wage board meeting likely today; violence rages; several roads, highways blocked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment workers demanding higher wages took to the streets for the fourth consecutive day yesterday, clashing with police in Mirpur, Ashulia, and Gazipur.

The protests disrupted traffic in Gazipur, Narayanganj, and Mirpur, forced at least 200 factories to remain closed in Savar and Ashulia, and prompted 15 factories in Gazipur to declare holidays.

Meanwhile, the newly formed wage board is expected to hold its first meeting today.

Workers, who currently receive a minimum monthly wage of Tk 12,500, are demanding Tk 30,000.

Many said they were protesting to put pressure on the wage board, fearing it might

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Tk 822cr profit, unpaid bills Tk 7,000cr

JS bodies scrutinise Biman's financial state

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR *and* **MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN**

Biman Bangladesh Airlines reported a net profit of Tk 822.34 crore last fiscal year, up 4.75 percent year-on-year, driven by an improved passenger load factor.

In fiscal 2025-26, the national flag carrier earned Tk 11,753 crore against an expenditure of Tk 10,930.66 crore, according to financial statements presented at the November 1 meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on civil aviation and tourism.

The reported profit of Tk 822.34 crore remains subject to audit.

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