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Bangladesh has second lowest per capita GNP

By A Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh has the second lowest per capita Gross National Product (GNP) in the world.

Per capita GNP in Bangladesh, according to World Economic Indicators given in the just-published World Development Report, 1987 of the World Bank was 150 US dollars in 1985, only next to Ethiopia at 110 US dollars. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) had the highest per capita GNP at 19,270 US dollars.

The Indicators shows that the average annual per capita GNP growth rate of Bangladesh at 0.4 per cent over the period, 1965-85.

Among the 37 low-income countries including India and China, Bangladesh's GNP per capita growth performance stood at 13th position. The highest recorded growth performance among the low income economies during the period under report was that of Sri Lanka's at 2.9 per cent. The weighted average annual GNP growth rate for the low-income economies as a whole was estimated at 2.9 per cent during 1965-85.

The average annual rate of inflation among the low income economies, according to the Indicators, stood at 7.5 per cent during the period, 1980-85. In Bangladesh, the same rate was registered at 11.5 per cent for the period under report.

In agricultural sector, the average annual growth rate during the first half of the eighties was maintained at 4.7 per cent compared to 7.1 per cent of the low income economies as a whole. In industry, the related growth rate for Bangladesh has been estimated in the report at 4.7 per cent against 9.3 per cent for the low income economies as a whole.