

GDP growth rate to be calculated quarterly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed two high-profile committees to monitor and update GDP (gross

domestic product) growth rate, indicators and related data on a quarterly basis as well as to compile employment data across the country. The decision was taken at an

expert-level consultation meeting on 're-basing and revision of national accounting system and its related indices,' chaired by Finance

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JS body to talk judge appointments, president's amnesty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body has decided to discuss the presidential amnesty granted to a person sentenced to death for murder, the appointment of 19 additional judges to the High Court and the judicial commission probe report on the August 21 grenade attack.

The parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs at a meeting on Thursday took the decision following demands raised by the committee members from the main opposition Awami League.

The committee chairman has already instructed the parliament secretariat to incorporate the issues in the agenda for its next meeting,

sources said.

President Iajuddin Ahmed last month granted amnesty to Mohiuddin Jintu, who was given the death penalty 23 years ago in a double murder case. Jintu claims himself as the founder president of the ruling BNP's Sweden chapter.

Interestingly, Jintu, an expatriate living in Sweden, surrendered at the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court in Dhaka on January 3 this year after evading arrest for more than two decades and got the amnesty within ten days.

Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka Motiur Rahman in 1982 sentenced Jintu to death for murdering businessmen Abdul Khaleq Rana and Firoz Al Mamun of Demra

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Chinese PM may visit in April

UNB, Dhaka

Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao is likely to pay an official visit to Bangladesh in the first week of April, the foreign minister said here yesterday.

"Exact date and other details of his visit are being firm up,"

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SEDITION CHARGE AGAINST AL-HIQMA CHIEF

Home's nod didn't come in 15 days

Police seek more time from court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Rajshahi police once again needed yesterday to plea for 15 more days to file the second seditious case against the self-proclaimed Shahadat-e-Al-Hiqma Chief Sayed Kawsar Hussain Siddiki Raja.

A metropolitan magistrate court yesterday granted the time after police explained they were waiting for a home ministry response to an earlier request to press seditious charges against Kawsar.

The court also sent Kawsar to jail, rejecting his bail appeal, after he was produced before the court.

Detective police here have been awaiting a response since January

18, when a plea seeking the ministerial clearance was sent to Dhaka along with a draft of the charges against Kawsar.

Police had earlier been granted a 15-day extension on February 9, as no-one arrested under section 54 can be kept behind bars for more than three months.

"We will take a day or two to file the case once we receive the required ministerial clearance," said a Rajshahi Metropolitan Police official.

Kawsar was arrested under Section 54 for storming the Boalia Police Station on November 6 last year. The Joint Interrogation Cell has since quizzed him thrice.

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KILLED PEACEKEEPERS



Capt Md Shahid Ashraf



Sgt Md Serajul Islam



WO Md Sohrab Hossain



Cpl Md Atawar Rahman



LSeaman Md Nurul Islam



Pvt Md Abdus Salam



Pvt Md Belal Hossain



Pvt Md Abdus Salam



Pvt Md Zahirul Islam

Brac chief urges govt to ensure safe working environment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac Founding Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed in a statement yesterday called upon the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the country's development organisations can carry on their work in a safe and secure environment.

Referring to the recent bomb attacks on Brac (Bangladesh Rural

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Music legend Abdul Latif passes away

BSS, Dhaka

Music legend and Language Movement veteran Abdul Latif died of old age complications at Suhrawardy Hospital yesterday. He was 78.

Abdul Latif, who was suffering from asthmatic problem for a long time, had severe respiratory problems last night and was first given

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Prayer Timing

February 27

| | Azan | Jamaat |
|---------|-------|--------|
| Fajr | 5-20 | 5-55 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 4-30 | 4-45 |
| Maghrib | 6-03 | 6-07 |
| Esha | 7-30 | 8-00 |

Source: Islamic Foundation