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BBS FORECAST FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR

GDP growth to fall, per capita income to rise

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The country's GDP growth will fall 0.12 percentage point in the current fiscal year coming down to 6.51 percent due to low performance of the agriculture sector and shortage of electricity projects Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

However, per capita income is expected to increase by a record 10 percent reaching \$520 from last year's \$476.

BBS has also set its final calculation of GDP (gross domestic product) growth rate in FY2005-06 at 6.63 percent, which was 6.71 percent in its provisional estimate, a planning ministry source said.

But since the agriculture pro-

duction, especially of rice, has been hampered in the current fiscal, the overall agriculture growth might go down compared to the previous fiscal, he noted.

According to a central bank estimation, aus and amon production in the current fiscal has declined to 1.24 crore tonnes from last year's 1.25 crore tonnes.

Meanwhile, BBS estimates that boro production in the current fiscal is 1.45 crore tonnes, which was 1.39 crore tonnes last year. The estimated boro production might not be achieved due to a problem of sterility in paddies, sources concerned said.

Zaid said if the production of

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No new power generation before Sept '08
Says Tapan Chy

UNB, Dhaka

Pointing to a grim scenario of the country's power and energy sector, Energy and Power Adviser Tapan Chowdhury yesterday said no new electricity generation is coming before September 2008.

He said the country's only future option for alternative energy will be coal as the existing gas reserves are likely to be depleted by 2011 or 2012.

"If we don't have a new discovery of natural gas, then coal will be the only option," he told reporters at Meet the Press programme. The Forum for Energy Reporters, Bangladesh (FERB) organised the function at Square Hospital auditorium in the city.

Tapan Chowdhury said the caretaker government is trying to add about 200MW electricity to the

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PHOTO: STAR

This steel bridge connecting the capital with suburb on Kamrangirchar on the other side of the Buriganga River is now in a vulnerable condition as the ground holding the pillars has loosened.

Salman, Sohel sued on land grabbing charge

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Beximco Chairman Sohel F. Rahman and his brother Salman F. Rahman, vice-chairman of the same company, were sued for grabbing government land and building a business establishment in it in Gazipur.

Borhan Uddin, an official of Kashimpur union land office, filed the case with Joydebpur Police Station Thursday night.

In the case the complainant alleged that the accused on different dates since 1997 filled a government land of 2.68 acres at Kashimpur in Gazipur with earth and illegally established Shinepukur Ceramics Ltd, a sister

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after he assumed the bank presidency in June 2005, according to an internal World Bank report made public Monday.

Riza ended up earning almost 200,000 dollars a year when she was transferred to the State Department while still on the Bank's payroll.

The report also said the bank gave Wolfowitz vague instructions on how to resolve the possible conflict of interest over Riza.

Wolfowitz said in his statement that he "acted ethically and in good faith" in what he believed "were the best interests of the institution, including protecting the rights of a valued staff member."

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statement after three days of deliberations by the World Bank board.

Wolfowitz violated bank rules in arranging a generous promotion and pay package for Riza shortly

On the 14th of this month after meeting the chief adviser, the CEC told the nation, through the press, that he was ready to start the field level work from August. Obviously this implies that all preparatory work will be completed by July, which means he will have done in four months what he had planned to do in six.

Let us go back a bit. The chief election commissioner (CEC) on April 5 said he would need 18 months to hold the election. He divided the time required into two parts -- 6 months for preparatory work and 12 months for field work -- so that the election could be held at the end of that period. Later, on several occasions, he even mentioned that the election might be held earlier if things move fast enough. In fact, we should congratulate him because he did move fast.

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Foreign student 'abducted' earlier leaves SBMC without notice

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Bangladesh, a political party cannot do without reforms and decisions on the prospective changes should follow discussions at different tiers including the grassroots level leaders," Sardar Shakhat Hossain Bakul, a former lawmaker, told The Daily Star last night.

The grassroots level leaders and workers meanwhile continue to be in the dark about what would become of the party and them.

Many of the former ministers and lawmakers are trying to mobilise support in favour of reforms as they feel the imperative now is to ensure intra-party transparency, accountability and democracy through bringing about radical changes, said party sources.

Meanwhile, the recent extortion

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"In the post-emergency

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