



EXPORTS RISE

Earnings grew 9.2pc year-on-year to \$2.83b in March

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ASSEMBLY POLLS 2016

In the first phase, Indian states of West Bengal and Assam see high turnout

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SHINING SUCHITRA

Tribute to the queen of Bangla cinema on her 85th birth anniversary

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Iceland PM quits over data leak

BBC ONLINE

The prime minister of Iceland yesterday resigned -- the first major casualty of the Panama Papers leaks which have shed an embarrassing spotlight on the world of offshore finance.

The leaks, from Panama law firm Mossack Fonseca, showed PM Sigmundur Gunnlaugsson owned an offshore company, Wintris, with his wife.

He was accused of concealing millions of dollars worth of family assets.

A big protest was held in front of parliament in Iceland on Monday.

Reports suggest the agriculture minister will be the new PM.

Dozens of high-profile global figures are named in the huge Mossack Fonseca

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160 doctors to lose job

Termination in a week as per court order over recruitment anomalies at BSMMU in 2005

PORIMOL PALMA

Some 160 experienced doctors of the BSMMU, the country's lone medical university, are going to lose their jobs due to irregularities in recruitment by the authorities concerned 11 years ago.

They have not been paid in March and necessary actions on their termination would be taken in a week or so as per a court verdict, said Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed, pro vice-chancellor (administration) of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

The doctors include more than 80 female physicians and 12 are assistant and associate professors. They would be humiliated, the physicians said.

"We had no fault on our part. We maintained each and every procedure of the recruitment. Why should we become the victim?" said Nahida Parveen, a medical officer of the university that has a 1,500-bed hospital.

She said she did her duties with outmost diligence for around a decade. "But, suddenly now the BSMMU is not paying our salaries for the month of March. This is unfortunate."

Prof Sharfuddin said they could do nothing.

"The BSMMU authorities are sympathetic [towards the doctors] but it is a court verdict and they [BSMMU authorities] have to comply," he told this correspondent on April 3 when asked why the doctors would have to be victims of the

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A distraught Kanij cries as she mourns the deaths of her father, paternal uncle and brother-in-law at her home at Char Para of Banshkhali in Chittagong yesterday. The three were among the four victims who were killed on Monday in a clash between law enforcers and locals over setting up of a power plant in the area.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

PANAMA PAPERS

The big trio from subcontinent

AGENCIES

Last year, it was Swiss Leaks, a global list with over 1,100 Indians with secret bank accounts in Geneva, which shaped the debate over black money parked overseas.

Now came the Panama Papers.

The secret files of Mossack Fonseca, a law firm headquartered in tax haven Panama, reveal a list of individuals who have paid the firm and bought the benefits of the secretive, lax regulatory system in which it operates -- to set up offshore entities in tax havens around the world.

Over 500 Indians figure are on the firm's list of offshore companies, foundations and trusts. They include Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan and his daughter-in-law, famous actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan.

In the stories on the Panama Papers, another big name from South Asia surfaced -- Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Two years before the launch of Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Limited (ABCL) in 1995, the Bollywood legend was appointed director in at least

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7pc growth first time in 9 years

BBS releases provisional data for FY 2015-16

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) growth would exceed the 7 percent mark in the current fiscal year, according to provisional data.

Riding on the growth in the industry and service sectors, especially an increase in public-sector wage, the country is going to achieve an above-7-percent GDP growth for the first time in nine years.

According to provisional data of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) for fiscal year 2015-16, the GDP would grow to 7.05 percent, which was 6.55 percent in the last fiscal year.

In 2006-07 fiscal year, the GDP growth was 7.06 percent, and according to BBS officials, the higher growth in 2006-07

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Per capita income rises to \$1466

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The per capita income in Bangladesh will increase by 11.39 percent to \$1,466 this fiscal year, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

It was \$1,316 in the last fiscal year, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said at a meeting of the National Economic Council yesterday.

Alongside an increase in the gross domestic product (GDP), the per capita income also soared, said officials of the BBS, adding that they estimated the GDP growth to be 7.05

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BANSHKHALI POWER PLANT

Locals see bleak days ahead

Fear environmental disaster, threat to life and livelihood, over 3,000 accused in 3 cases filed for Monday's clash

ARUN BIKASH DEY and MINHAJ UDDIN, Chittagong

Thousands of people in Gondamara union of Chittagong's Banshkhali fear that a coal-based power plant would not only affect their livelihood but also make the area inhabitable and force them to leave.

They have been holding protests against the move to install the power plant the moment they saw its signboard on the proposed site two months ago. And one such protest led to a clash with police on Monday that left four people killed and several others injured.

The locals, most of whom are farmers, fishermen and salt producers, vowed not to let anyone go ahead with the project "at any cost", saying it

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Rain eases dust menace

Air pollution doubles in a year; children worst victim

TAWFIQUE ALI

Intermittent showers over the last few days have given the city residents a respite from dust pollution.

Dust concentration in the air usually increases five times during dry season, and dust particles from construction sites worsens the situation, observes Prof Atiqur Rahman, chairman of the respiratory medicine department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

This contributes greatly to the overall air pollution in the capital, which almost doubled in early March this year compared to last year's, show records.

On March 1, the daily air quality index value in the capital was recorded at 331, considered extremely unhealthy, says the Department of Environment (DoE).

As per the standard, an index value up to 50 is considered healthy.

The value was 175 (considered unhealthy) on the same

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TONU MURDER

Cops now wait for 2nd autopsy report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The CID officials investigating TONU murder case now look to the second autopsy report for clues as the first report gave almost none.

Nazmul Karim Khan,

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Commuters cross Folder Street in the city's Wari area yesterday. Intermittent rain over the last few days brought some relief for city residents as there was no dust pollution. Inset, a student along with her parent passing through the area covering their faces as the air was full of dust on March 1.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

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