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Govt plans to use \$7.55b in 2017-18
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New French president pledges to work to heal divisions in society
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Govt claims a record 7.24pc GDP growth

WB sticks to its projection of 6.8pc this year; ADB, IMF also project below 7pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday announced that the country's GDP growth would hit a record 7.24 percent in the outgoing fiscal year, while the World Bank sticks to its earlier growth projection of 6.8 percent.

Another multilateral lender, the Asian Development Bank last month predicted that Bangladesh's economy would grow 6.9 percent this fiscal year. In the same month, the International Monetary Fund made a similar projection.

Lower GDP growth forecast by the WB and other development partners is nothing new for Bangladesh. This happens almost every year.

Last year, the WB forecast that Bangladesh's economy would grow by 6.7 percent in fiscal 2015-16. But in the end, the government put the growth rate at 7.1 percent.

At a briefing on Bangladesh Development Update in the capital yesterday morning, WB officials said Bangladesh's economy would grow by 6.8 percent this fiscal year, down from 7.1 percent last year, due to sluggish export growth, falling remittance and slowdown in import of industrial raw materials.

"These three indicators are very important [for calculation of GDP growth]," said Zahid Hussain, lead economist

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Work is going on in full swing to transform the 53km Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga road into a four-lane one with the government's own fund. The expanded road is expected to help boost trade and communication between the capital and the country's south-western region. The photo was captured in Keraniganj this month.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

ISLAMIC GAMES Baki, Disha bring gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh produced their first ever Islamic Solidarity Games gold medal as shooters Abdullahel Baki and Syeda Atkiya Hasan Disha won gold in the 10m air rifle team event in the 4th iteration of the tournament in the Azerbaijan capital of Baku yesterday.

Their exploits came just a day after Rabbi Hasan Munna clinched silver in the men's 10m air rifle event.

The Bangladeshi duo eased past Iran's Najmeh Khedmati and Pourya Norouziyan in the gold medal match, winning by a margin of 5-1. Turkey won bronze after defeating another Iranian duo.

Bangladesh's other participating pair, Rabbi Hossain Munna and Mahfuza Jannat Jui, finished sixth in the event.

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Santner sets up easy win

AFP, Dublin

Mitchell Santner's career best ODI figures set up a 51-run victory for New Zealand in their opening tri-nation series game against Ireland in Malahide.

Santner finished with five for 50 as Ireland were bowled out for 238 in the 46th over, the hosts losing their last five wickets for 26 runs.

Niall O'Brien provided valiant resistance as Ireland threatened an upset, but once he became the eighth man out for 109 the game

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63 jails have no doctors

Inmates deprived of proper treatment as jail authorities have only 6 doctors

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

On the midnight of April 26, Jahir Uddin complained of severe chest pain at Dhaka Central Jail. The jail authorities decided to take him to DMCH since the hospital inside the jail does not have facilities to tackle any emergency situation.

Jail guard Mohammed Shawon whisked 70-year-old Jahir to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in an ambulance -- only to hear from doctors around 2:00am that he was dead already.

Jahir had been serving life term in his wife's murder case since 2008. In the first week of April, his son Anowar Hossain met him in Kashimpur jail when he said he might be shifted to Dhaka for treatment.

"Finally, we got his death news on April 27," Anowar said, claiming that his father died for not getting proper treatment.

Jahir's case is not an isolated one; The Daily Star found at least seven similar cases seen at DMCH alone in the last one and a half months. Prisoners died after they had been taken there from jail with sudden complaints of health issues.

Jahangir Kabir, senior jail super of Dhaka Central Jail, said the jail

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TEACHER ASSAULT CASE Salim Osman surrenders to court for bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party lawmaker AKM Salim Osman yesterday surrendered before a Dhaka court and sought bail in a case filed over the assault on Narayanganj school teacher Shyamal Kanti Bhakta.



Chief Judicial Magistrate Jesmin Ara Begum asked the Narayanganj MP to appear again on May 23 when the court will hear his bail petition.

Following a March 29 order, Salim appeared before the court around 10:00 am and sought bail through his lawyers.

The court did not hear his petition as he was on a 15-day bail granted by the High Court which would expire on May 22.

In the second week of May last year, a video clip of the headmaster of Piyar Sattar

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BANANI RAPE CIID goes after Apan Jewellers, Raintree hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid allegations that Ahemd Shafat, son of one of the owners of Apan Jewellers, bragged about being a gold smuggler to the victims of Banani rape, customs intelligence officials yesterday raided five stores of Apan Jewellers.

Authorities of Apan Jewellers could not provide valid documents of all the gold and diamonds stored in its Gulshan, Uttara, Mouchak and Shimanto Square outlets, Moinul Khan, director general of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID), told The Daily Star.

The CIID is looking into the sources of the 286kg gold and 61 grams of diamonds and investigating whether any payable taxes were dodged, he added.

The university student, who filed a double-rape case accusing Shafat and four others, said Shafat bragged about being the top gold smuggler in the country when he raped her and her friend.

In yesterday's drive, the CIID sealed off one of the two outlets in Gulshan as it was closed during the raid. The store

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TOP! QUOTE

"The Anti-Corruption Commission has no friends. It has friends in one sector ... they are journalists."

ACC CHAIRMAN IQBAL MAHMUD AT A SEMINAR AT ITS OFFICE IN THE CAPITAL



FOR THE LOVE OF PIGEONS

A homeless family keeps pigeons inside their mosquito net on a pavement at Palashi intersection in the capital. The family members even scattered some rice for the birds to eat at the place where they all huddle together at night to sleep. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

All NEW PRIDE AND Urban Faith STORES ARE NOW OPEN IN

DHAKA ABC MAHZABIN SQUARE, 1/1 NEW BAILY ROAD	CHITTAGONG 998, CDA AVENUE (1ST FLOOR), EAST NASIRABAD	20/21 AFMI PLAZA, PROBORTOK MORE, NASIRABAD
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