



INFLATION EASES

The rate falls to 6.04pc in October due to a decline in food prices

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VINCI'S WORK SETS RECORD

The maestro's 500-year-old painting sold for \$450.3m in NY

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Record growth in tough year

Agriculture sector grows despite huge crop loss; service sector contributes most to 7.28pc GDP growth

- 9 lakh tonnes shortfall in rice production due to floods
- Small industry, construction, water sector growth increases
- Gas, electricity, large & medium industries growth falls

GROWTH IN 2016-17

- AGRICULTURE 2.97% ↑
- SERVICE 6.69% ↑
- INDUSTRY 10.22% ↓

SOURCE : BBS

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh has achieved a record economic growth of 7.28 percent in the last fiscal year despite a fall in rice production and also in industrial growth.

The gross domestic product rose by 0.17 percentage points in fiscal 2016-17 from 7.11 percent in the previous fiscal year, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics data.

The country attained the feat riding on the faster growth of the service sector. In the final count, the GDP growth increased by 4 basis points from the BBS' provisional estimate of 7.24 percent.

Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal unveiled the data of the state-run statistical agency at a press conference at the National Economic Council auditorium yesterday.

Bangladesh secured more than 7 percent GDP growth for the last two consecutive years. "Only three countries, including Bangladesh, achieved such a feat," he said.

The BBS data shows that the agriculture sector grew 2.97 percent in the

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ICT export fetches \$800m in 2017

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh earned nearly \$800 million this year exporting locally made software, and providing ICT-related services like outsourced and freelance work, said State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak.

The government aims to get the earnings up to the \$1 billion mark next year and \$5 billion by 2021, Palak said quoting data from Bangladesh Bank and the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS).

Bangladesh's top export earners are the ready-made garments sector, leather and leather goods industries, jute and jute products, and then ICT and IT services.

"Our export earnings from this sector [ICT] is growing exponentially after we took some effective measures in policy and regulations and now we are getting the results," said Palak during a press conference at Janata Software Technology Park yesterday.

The ICT state minister said they had prepared a list that has names of a

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\$500m came from software export

\$130m from outsourcing

\$15-20m from games, app development

Govt aims \$1b earnings next year



Rohingya children playfully slide down a sloping road at Balukhali refugee camp in Cox's Bazar yesterday. Inset, a Rohingya boy flies a kite at the same camp. Over 600,000 Rohingyas have entered Bangladesh since the crackdown by Myanmar army began on August 25. According to Unicef, majority of the refugees are women and children.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Take Rohingyas back, give them citizenship

UN committee asks Myanmar in a resolution backed by 135 states, opposed by 10 including China, Russia; calls for end to military ops, human rights abuse

AFP, New York

UN member-states yesterday urged Myanmar authorities to end a military campaign against the Rohingya in a resolution adopted despite opposition from China, Russia and some regional neighbours.

The General Assembly's human rights committee overwhelmingly endorsed the measure presented by Muslim countries by a vote of 135 to 10, with 26 countries abstaining.

UN member-states said they were "highly alarmed" by the violence and "further alarmed by the disproportionate use of force by the Myanmar forces" against the Rohingya.

The resolution drafted by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) called on the government to allow access for aid workers, ensure the

return of all refugees and grant full citizenship rights to the Rohingyas.

It requested UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to appoint a special envoy to Myanmar.

Aside from Russia and China, Cambodia, the Philippines, Laos and Vietnam voted against the measure as did Syria, Zimbabwe and Belarus, along with Myanmar.

The non-binding measure now goes to the full assembly for debate next month.

More than 600,000 Muslim Rohingya have fled the mainly Buddhist country since the military operation was launched in Rakhine in late August.

Myanmar authorities insist the campaign was aimed at rooting out Rohingya militants who attacked police posts on August 25 but the UN has

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Rohingya return a long way off
Myanmar's army chief hints, says first they have to be accepted by 'real citizens'

AFP, Yangon

Rohingya refugees cannot return to Rakhine state until "real Myanmar citizens" are ready to accept them, the country's army chief said yesterday, casting doubt over government pledges to begin repatriating the persecuted Muslim minority.

More than 600,000 Rohingya are languishing in Bangladeshi refugee camps after fleeing a brutal Myanmar army campaign launched in late August.

The UN says the scorched-earth operation, which has left hundreds of villages burned to ash in northern Rakhine state, amounts to ethnic cleansing of the stateless minority.

But Myanmar's hardline army chief Min Aung Hlaing has steadfastly denied all allegations of abuse, insisting troops along with many having lived in Rakhine for generations.

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Doubtful about getting justice
Says Khaleda about orphanage trust case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday once again expressed doubt whether she would get justice in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

"The scope and atmosphere of getting justice have totally been destroyed in a very planned and nasty way.... Many people are saying that an atmosphere of impunity has also been created due to unruly activities of the ruling quarter," she told a press conference in the capital's Bakshibazar while making a statement of self-defense in the case.

Referring to the resignation of Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, the BNP chief said the former chief justice was "declared ill and was compelled to step



A mangled lorry wedged between a train and a tree near Barapukuria level crossing in Dinajpur yesterday. Earlier in the day, a freight train and the lorry collided as the gate of the level crossing was left open, killing the driver's assistant on the spot. Rail communication between Dinajpur and several other districts, including Dhaka and Rajshahi, remained snarled for nearly five hours after the accident.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

SECTION 57

Over 300 cases filed this year

Two dozen journos sued; no govt decision yet on the controversial law

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Cases filed under section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act are piling up, as the government remains "undecided" about what to do with the controversial section.

At least three people, including a journalist, have been sued under section 57 recently after a brief pause in the flow of filing such cases following severe criticism and protest against the section.

Some 300 cases were lodged under the section in the first seven months of this year. Over two dozen journalists were sued and several were arrested.

Amid the growing demand for the repeal of section 57, the government in July said it would decide the section's fate next month while finalising the draft of the proposed Digital Security Act.

But the government is yet to come up with any decision and four months have passed, frustrating rights activists and journalists who have been demanding the repeal of the section for its widespread misuse.

Rights activists and journalist leaders alleged that the government had taken up a delaying tactic to keep the law alive.

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