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Green shoots in economy

GDP sees 4.5pc growth in 2nd quarter, but Trump tariffs may hurt recovery

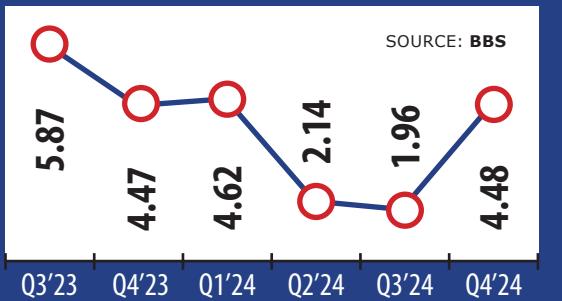
REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh's economy started showing signs of a turnaround in the second quarter of the fiscal year, official statistics show, although economists caution that Trump's tariff measures are likely to slow down the momentum.

Between October and December last year, Bangladesh's GDP expanded by about 4.5 percent to Tk 886,800 crore, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the state agency for collecting data on demographics, the economy and other facts.

In the previous quarter, the GDP growth was about 2 percent. The second quarter's recovery was led by manufacturing growth: the industrial GDP grew 7.1 percent in contrast to 2.4 percent the previous quarter.

GDP growth picking up after cratering in Q3 of 2024 (in %)



Agricultural growth was about 1.3 percent in contrast to 0.8 percent the preceding three months, while service sector growth was 3.8 percent, up 137 basis points from the previous quarter.

The second quarter GDP growth was more in line with the International Monetary Fund's latest projection of about 4 percent growth for this fiscal year, up from about 3.8 percent previously.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Vast fallow land in the Moukhali area of Dacope, Khulna. Farmers say they cannot cultivate paddy or vegetables because the land has become too dry due to a lack of rain and inadequate water in the canals that could be used to irrigate the farms.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

BNP to meet CA, push for polls roadmap

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP will meet Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus again and ask for a roadmap to the next election, according to the top leaders of the party.

The decision was made at a Standing Committee meeting on Monday night at the BNP chairperson's office in Gulshan.

During the meeting, the party plans to convey its concerns and doubts regarding the election and the political situation to Yunus.

Outcome of the meeting with Yunus will determine the BNP's next course of action.

The meeting is expected to take place after BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir returns from Singapore.

Fakhrul left for Singapore last Sunday for treatment and is expected to return in about a week.

The Standing Committee members also discussed plans to celebrate Pahela Baishakh, which will be on April 14, with events highlighting Bangla culture, across the country.

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman presided over the meeting via video link. It was the party's first policy-level gathering after Eid.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

60 arrested over Monday's vandalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested 60 people on charges of vandalism in different districts during Monday's demonstrations in solidarity with the oppressed people of Gaza.

Besides, the Chief Adviser's Press Wing in a statement yesterday said the attacks on shops were a "serious threat to public safety and the rule of law".

Two cases have been filed over the matter, the statement added.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ShopUp, Sary to merge, raise \$110m

AHSAN HABIB



ShopUp, the country's most-funded start-up, is merging with Sary, a Saudi-based business-to-business (B2B) e-commerce platform, in a deal expected to facilitate the entry of Bangladeshi products into the Saudi market.

Both companies essentially connect micro, small and medium-sized businesses with a network of wholesalers and manufacturing brands to procure supply efficiently.

"While some Bangladeshi goods are available in Saudi Arabia today, the range is limited and dominated by just a few companies -- we want to make it easy for more homegrown producers to enter that market," said Afeef Zaman, founder and chief executive officer of ShopUp.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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Chief Adviser's Office

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