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BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY DECEMBER 23, 2013, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

### Muhith vows to protect economy against political violence

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government will take stern actions against any form of political demonstrations following the parliamentary election to prevent the economy bleeding further, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

"The blockade has to be stopped as quickly as possible. Our target is to take action in this regard after January 5," Muhith told reporters after a meeting with Heather Cruden, the Canadian high commissioner, at his secretariat.

Cruden dropped by his office to discuss some trade issues and tangentially expressed her concerns about the continued political unrest.

"The political violence has been going on for almost two months now. She asked how long a country can continue to be resilient."

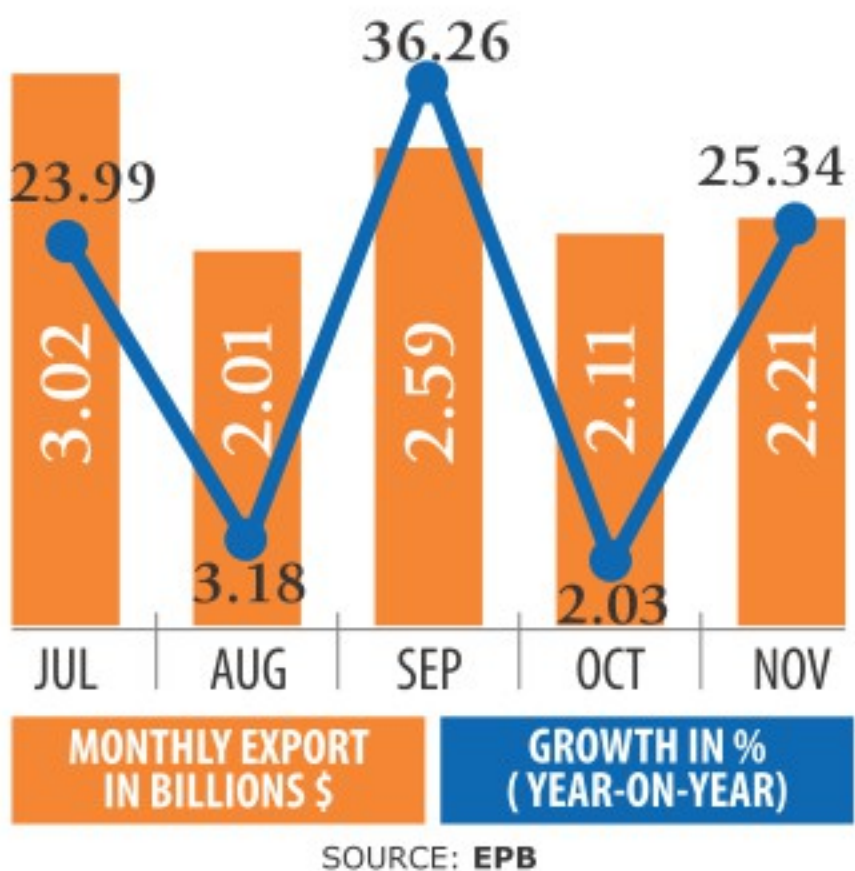
## Exports surge 25pc in Nov

Overall shipments exceed target

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Exports rose more than 25 percent year-on-year in November despite the nation's image crisis over the Rana Plaza collapse and political violence.

### EXPORT PERFORMANCE



The country earned \$2.21 billion last month, which was 6.05 percent more than the target, according to the data released yesterday by the Export Promotion Bureau.

As usual, the garment sector, which accounts for the bulk of the country's

total exports, led the way, raking in \$1.77 billion alone. Knitwear products brought home \$877.61 million in November, up 34.2 percent from the previous year, while woven garments fetched \$889.35 million, an improvement of 25.3 percent over 2012's November receipts.

The latest data from the EPB might go some way towards easing the exporters' helplessness in the face of tough business conditions at home for almost a year now due to political turbulence.

Shubhashish Bose, vice-chairman of EPB, gave full credit to the exporters for the continued rise in exports earning. "It proves that the entrepreneurship of our exporters has developed to great lengths - they defied all odds to carry on their production."

"It also manifested that the sourcing countries still see Bangladesh as a major supplier. Very few nations will be able to supply basic garments to the European Union than Bangladesh does," he told The Daily Star.

Bose also said the country's pharmaceuticals sector is increasingly getting special attention from overseas buyers. "They have started to call Bangladesh a haven when it comes to sourcing medicines."

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## Cross-border seed trade hits limelight

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bilateral cooperation on cross-boarder exchange of rice seeds will benefit both Bangladesh and India significantly because of their similarities in agro-climate conditions, said a study.

"Increased cooperation will help millions of farmers to have more access to better quality seeds at a cheaper price," said Mahfuz Kabir, coauthor of the study -- Bangladesh-India rice seeds trade: trends, issues and policy perspective.

There is a persistent demand and supply gap in rice seeds in Bangladesh hovering around 180,890 tonnes to 189,415 tonnes in last several years, he said.

In India, the situation is reverse. In 2013, there is a surplus of 42,572 tonnes of rice seeds in four eastern Indian states -- Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.

"This gap can potentially be filled by export of Indian rice seeds of both hybrid and high yielding varieties," said Kabir, also senior research fellow of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic

Studies.

He spoke at an international conference on "addressing barriers to rice seeds trade between India and Bangladesh" co-organised by CUTS International and Unnayan Shamannay at BRAC Centre Inn in the city yesterday.

CUTS International and Unnayan Shamannay, two development organisations of India and Bangladesh, conducted the study with support from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The findings of the study were shared at the conference.

## MTB Network Expands with 6 New Branches in December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Mirpur	24 Kadair Bazar	25	26 Jamirdia Masterbari	27	28
29 Ashulia Kalurghat I/A Monipur Bazar	30	31				

### MTB Branches Opening in December 2013

**MTB Mirpur Branch**  
Fahad Plaza, Plot No. 1, Road No. 1  
Section 10, Kafur, Mirpur  
Dhaka 1216  
Phone: 0171 3204 870

**MTB Jamirdia Masterbari Branch**  
Abdur Rashid Plaza  
Jamirdia Masterbari, Habirbari  
Bhaluka, Mymensingh 2240  
Phone: 0191 4107 363

**MTB Kalurghat I/A Branch**  
Wajib Tower  
C & B Mor, Arakan Road, Chandgaon  
Kalurghat, Chittagong 4212  
Phone: 0181 1422 096

**MTB Kadair Bazar Branch**  
Mollah Market, Kadair Bazar  
Shuvopur, Choudhagram  
Comilla 3500  
Phone: 0191 1682 484

**MTB Ashulia Branch**  
Rajobi Plaza  
Jamgora, Yearpur, Ashulia  
Dhaka 1341  
Phone: 0171 6594 574

**MTB Monipur Bazar Branch**  
Sikder Market  
Monipur Bazar, Nuhash Palli Road  
Gazipur 1700  
Phone: 0191 3686 897



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## Mobile banking in steady growth

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The number of mobile banking subscribers rose by 15.7 percent to 1.15 crore in November, thanks to a rapid expansion of commercial bank outlets. The value of mobile banking transactions stood at Tk 5,533.6 crore in November, Bangladesh Banksaid in a statement yesterday.

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