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DHAKA TUESDAY MAY 20, 2014, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

COMMODITIES

Gold A

## Muhith rules out new fund for agriculture

Shykh Seraj hands 56 proposals on agriculture to minister

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

**STOCKS** 

DSEX

CSCX

The government will not allocate any new fund for agriculture as it is not utilised properly, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

The government has no plan to increase the agricultural research allocation either, as the Tk 500 crore fund has remained unutilised for years, he said. "We will rather strengthen the local government for

proper utilisation of budgetary allocations in rural areas," Muhith said at a discussion on 'Krishi Budget Krishoker Budget 2014-15' at his secretariat office in Dhaka. Shykh Seraj, director and chief of news of Channel i,

handed over a set of 56 recommendations to Muhith on agricultural development-to be incorporated in the national budget for the next fiscal year. "Land management in our country did not change despite several attempts. Strengthening the local govern-

ment might be the answer to effective land management," Muhith said. "We will introduce a landholding certificate system

which will reduce land-related disputes." Once land-related disputes are settled, sharecroppers and landowners will feel encouraged to undertake commercial farming, which will help maintain an adequate

supply of food. Landholding certificates will be delivered through a public private partnership for transparency of ownership, the minister said.

"I want to do something for the poultry sector, as it has been damaged in the last few years," said Muhith, without mentioning any particular plan of action for the sector. Seraj urged the government to form a separate commis-

sion for the poultry, as the sector has been severely affected in recent times; only 89,000 poultry farms are in operation at present, down from 1.28 lakh five years ago. Economic growth will rise to 10 percent by the end of

2018, due to some positive changes, Muhith said. "We are stuck at 6 percent." In his discussion, Seraj urged the government to extend

policy support to farmers during the peak harvesting seasons of different crops so that they get fair prices for their produce.

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# Too many projects under ADP

**CURRENCIES** 

SHANGHAI

SINGAPORE

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is set to take up 1,993 projects under the Annual Development Programme in the upcoming fiscal year, a contradictory move after its prescription for a small number of projects.

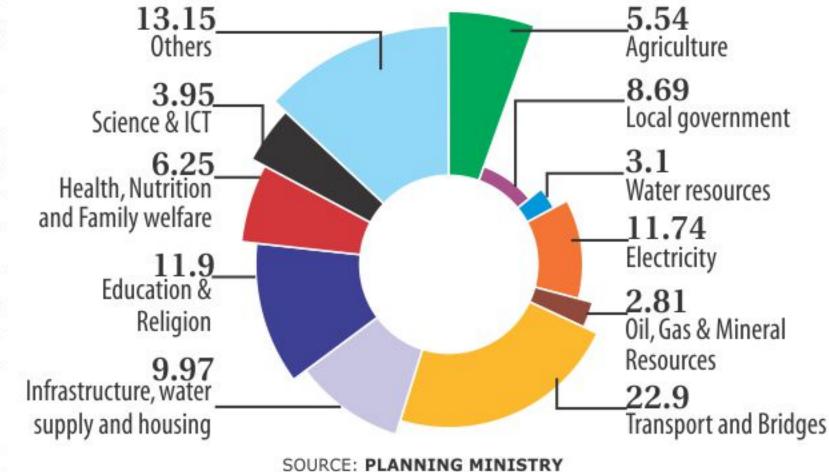
In the draft proposal, the planning ministry said the number of projects will be kept limited for timely implementation and to ensure completion of ongoing projects. Of the projects, 1,034 have already

received allocations and 959 are awaiting approval. Some Tk 4,226 crore of block allocations have been kept for the unapproved projects. Of the 959 unapproved projects, 683 are without allocation and will

be implemented with local resources and the rest will be receiving foreign assistance. Some 15 projects for setting up

power plants by the Power Development Board have been bookmarked for foreign assistance. These include four coal-fired power plants with combined generation capacity of 4,800 megawatts at PROPOSED ADP FOR FY15 IN TOP SECTORS

in % of total allocation of Tk 79,031 crore



Moheshkahli. China and Malaysia may fund two of them and Asian Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank the other two.

Also in contention for foreign assistance is a 1,200-megawatt coalfired plant in Matarbari; its estimated cost would be Tk 40,320 crore and

Japan International Cooperation Agency will likely provide Tk 29,000

Moreover, some 17 public-private partnership projects including the Dhaka-Chittagong Expressway and a flyover from Shantinagar to Mawa Road are due to receive foreign assistance.

### NBR seeks VAT from telcos on shared revenue

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The tax administrator has sought Tk 244 crore from six mobile operators as outstanding VAT at source on revenue sharing. But the operators said the demand

......

goes against the principles of the VAT law.

The National Board of Revenue asked the telecom regulator last week to collect the money from Grameenphone, Banglalink, Robi,

Airtel, Citycell and Teletalk.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission yesterday issued letters to the mobile operators to pay the amount in three days. The BTRC said if the operators fail to do so, it will go for legal action against them.

The NBR said the operators did not pay the VAT at source on the 5.5 percent revenue, which they share with the government, during the period between April 2012 and

August 2013. The amount includes 2 percent interest as outstanding.

However, in August last year the NBR issued a directive that the mobile operators will not need to pay VAT at source on the 5.5 percent revenue as it will cause double taxation.

Md Sarwar Alam, director (media) of the BTRC, said the regulator is also preparing to draw NBR attention to the matter of double taxation.

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### Amnesty for black money in real estate gets poor response

SOHEL PARVEZ

The National Board of Revenue has received a lukewarm response from an amnesty for black money in purchasing apartments in the outgoing fiscal year, taxmen said.

The NBR earned only Tk 26 crore during July-April this year from people who paid a certain amount of tax to legalise their undisclosed money while buying apartments or making homes.

In the recent past, the scope to whiten black money through the real estate sector was given in fiscal 2010 and 2008 when the tax administrator had earned Tk 29 crore and Tk 75 crore respectively.

Taxmen linked the poor response to a high rate of tax for whitening black money and risks of being caught by government agencies such as Anti Corruption Commission while purchasing homes without mentioning the source of wealth.

"The tax rate is too high to attract people. That's why, a large number of people, who hold undisclosed money, are unwilling to take the scope," said an income tax commissioner, asking not to be named.

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#### BASIC Bank MD appears before central bank panel

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

**BASIC Bank Managing** Director Kazi Faqurul Islam yesterday appeared before the committee formed by the central bank to recommend punishment for his alleged involvement in the bank's financial irregularities.

The personal hearing though comes five days later than the deadline of May 14 set by the committee headed by Nazneen Sultana, a deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank. Sultana told The Daily Star

that the committee has sought additional papers from Islam. On April 18, the BB formed the committee to review the 25-

page letter from Islam against the allegations and recommend punitive measures for him. Irregularities in the bank came to the fore early last year. BB inspections found the bank

approved loans of Tk 4,500 crore, mostly without proper documentation and scrutiny. Most of the irregularities took place in four branches of BASIC Bank -- Motijheel, Shantinagar, Dilkusha and Gulshan -- that granted loans

of Tk 4,424.93 crore between

2012 on poor documents and

adrigital direction.

December 2009 and November

inflated mortgages. READ MRE ON B3

MTB Subsidiary in UK

## Listed banks count higher profits

#### FIRST QUARTERLY EARNINGS

In crores of taka

	1 2013	12014
Uttara	16.77	24.58
UCB	-99.98	96.24
Trust	12.09	20.37
Standard	31	13.63
Southeast	38.1	69.88
Social Islami	12.22	36.57
Shahjalal	9.84	-15.98
Rupali	15.68	20.61
Pubali	30.83	55.68
Prime	-151.73	128.86
Premier	1.64	20.65
One	2.55	5.14
NCC	10.21	13.97
National	-14.29	35.66
Mutual Trust	0.12	18.54

#### SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

Most listed banks saw an upward trend in net profits during January-March, as economic indicators improved on the back of a relatively stable political situation following the national polls.

Of the 30 banks in the stockmarket, the net profits of 25 banks rose in the first quarter, compared to the same period last year.

Two banks suffered a net loss, while two others posted a fall in their

Mercantile 1.73 21.72 4.86 7.88 Jamuna Islami 27.82 38.4 IFIC 43.75 5.06 ICBI -18.4 -0.389.61 First Security 7.06 -82.72 -74.03 EXIM Eastern 14.93 71.96 Dutch-Bangla 30.02 33.67 19.82 28.2 Dhaka 11.14 20.45 City 53.03 44.65 Brac Bank Asia 10.97 33.48 Al-Arafah -25.1248.83

2013 | 2014

net profits between January and March, according to the banks' first quarterly disclosures made public recently.

20.58

41.44

Last year was a tough year for banks as business was ravaged by political unrest in the run-up to the January 5 polls. Since then, the political situation was moving towards stability.

Political calm also helped private sector credit growth, imports, remittance and exports improve in the first quarter.

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স্বার জ্বন্যে স্বসময়

#### Swiss turn down world's highest minimum wage

Swiss voters on Sunday rejected a proposal to introduce the world's highest minimum wage, which would have guaranteed every worker in one of the world's priciest nations at least \$25 an hour.

A proposal to introduce a minimum wage so high it could pass for midmanagement pay elsewhere, was rejected by 76,3 percent of Swiss voters. -- AFP

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# Business Matching Meeting with Thai Agri Machinery Manufacturer

28 May, 2014 @ 2:30pm-5:30pm | Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, Marble Room, Dhaka

Cholburi Muang Thong Co.,Ltd. Website: www.cmt-chonburi.com **Farm Implements** Polydisc

Disc Plough Disc Harrow Dhana Sirm Co., Ltd. Rolling Bearing

LEARNING QUALITY PARTNER

**EDI Global Machinery** (Thailand) Co.,Ltd. Website: www.edi.co.th Agriculture Machinery (Diesel and Gasoline Engine)

Min Sen Machinery Co., Ltd.

**Haiting Karn Chang** Website: www.h-t-k-c-industry.com Water Pipe Pump Mini Speed Tractor Agricultural Equipment

Jor.Charoenchai (Naijao) Co., Ltd. Power Tiller Rotary

K.K. Kasetkollakarn Banpong Co.,Ltd Website: www.kkbanpong.com Disc Plow

Disc Harrow

Website: www.minsen.co.th Walking Tractor Mini rice mill

Muileng Industry Ltd. PART Website: www.muileng.com Walking Tractor

Rattana Agriculture Industry Co., Ltd. Website: www.ratanagroup.com Walk Behind Tractor

Samakkee Karnkaset Co., Ltd. Walking Tractor

Siam Advance Machinery Co., Ltd Website: www.siamadvanced.com Power Tiller Rotary Tiller for Paddy Field

Website: www.siamimplement.co.th Rotary Tiller for Paddy Field (Mounting on 4 wheels tractor) Rotary Paddler for Paddy Field (Mounting on 4 wheels tractor) Manure Spreader (Mounting on 4 wheels tractor)

Radiators

Siam Implement Co., Ltd.

Talaythong Factory Co., Ltd. Website: www.talaythong.co.th Agricultural Machinery Walking tractor

Tate Vehicle Co.Ltd. Website: www.tate-vehicle.co.th Combine Harvestor

Thai Agency Engineering Co., Ltd. Website: www.thai-a.com Agricultural Machinery Hydrolic systems

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B2B Meeting Please Contact: Thai Trade Center, Dhaka 01934 360856, 01819 262124, 9850056-7, Fax: 9850059, E-mail: thaitrade@link3.net