

**সমৃদ্ধির খোপান** **দ্বিগুণ আয়ের শ্রেষ্ঠ উপায়**

স্বাধীনতা দিবস উপলক্ষে

সর্বাধুনিক প্রযুক্তি ও সমৃদ্ধ ব্যাংকিং সেবায়

আমানত দ্বিগুণ করুন স্বল্পসময়ে



ইসলামী শরী'আহ মূদারাবা নীতির ভিত্তিতে পরিচালিত

যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬১২০০১১২২

# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA TUESDAY MARCH 10, 2015, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

## Govt opts for uniform VAT rate

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

The government yesterday decided to impose a universal value-added tax rate of 15 percent in all areas, instead of multiple rates, though the business community has long been opposing the idea of a uniform rate.

"I had thought multiple (VAT) rates would be better, but after listening to all kinds of arguments, I have changed my mind," Finance Minister AMA Muhith told reporters after a meeting with a visiting mission of the International Monetary Fund at his secretariat.

The minister said he had a long discussion with the IMF team on whether the VAT rate would be multiple or universal.

The VAT law with a 15 percent universal rate was earlier scheduled to come into effect from July this year, but in the face of opposition from businesses, the government last year backtracked on the plan.

As a result, the sixth instalment of an IMF loan package, which was supposed to be released in November, was deferred.

As a consensus was reached with the IMF yesterday, the finance minister said, "The loan that was stuck will be cleared now."

The next two instalments -- around \$280 million in total -- of the loans under the lender's Extended Credit Facility programme will be released by June, he said.

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## Non-farm sectors drive job growth

**REJAUL KARIM BYRON and SOHEL PARVEZ**

Some 40 lakh new faces entered the job market between 2010 and 2013 and an equal number of people got jobs thanks to increasing economic activities in non-farm sectors, according to the Labour Force Survey 2013.

At the end of 2013, the total labour force stood at 6.07 crore, up from 5.67 crore recorded three years ago, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics found in the survey.

Of them, 5.81 crore were gainfully employed in contrast to 5.41 crore in 2010.

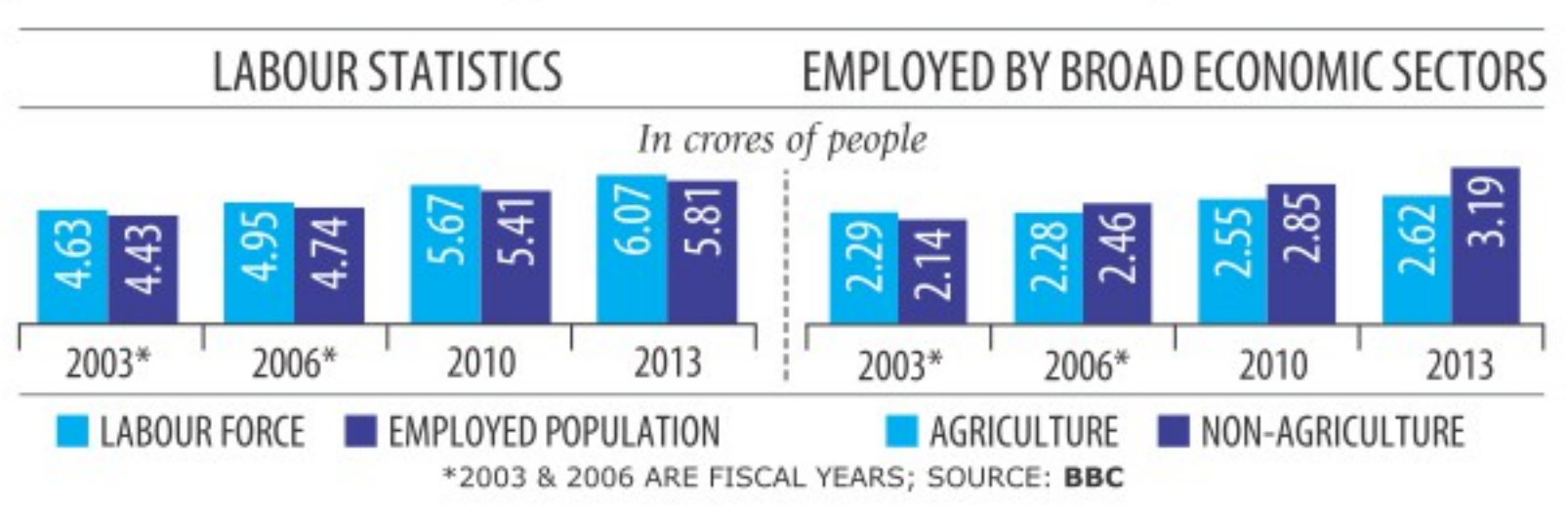
It means 13.33 lakh people entered the market every year during the period under study and an equal number of people got gainfully employed then.

Subsequently, the number of absolutely jobless persons remained unchanged at 26 lakh in 2013, according to the survey.

The unemployment rate fell to 4.3 percent in 2013 from 4.5 percent in 2010.

"It shows the economy is moving in the right direction as far as employment creation is concerned," said Zaid Bakht, research director of BIDS.

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## ADP fund to be slashed

**ALLOCATION FOR FY15**

MINISTRY/DIVISION	ORIGINAL	REVISED	CHANGE IN %
IN CRORES OF TAKA			
Primary, mass education	5,778	4,793	-17.05
Education	3,647	3,518	-3.52
Health and family welfare	4,349	4,262	-2
Housing and public works	1,073	972	-9.47
Local government	13,467	12,218	-9.28
Energy, mineral resources	2,223	1,071	-51.81
Power	9,273	7,884	-14.98
Road transport, highways	4,608	4,096	-11.11
Bridges	8,735	8,565	-1.95
Railways	4,485	3,450	-23.08

**REJAUL KARIM BYRON**

The planning ministry is likely to revise down 48 ministries' and divisions' allocation from the Annual Development Programme and divert the resources to the other seven ministries, after taking stock of fund availability.

The proposal for the revised ADP for fiscal 2014-15 will be placed today at a meeting of the National Economic Council.

Like other years, this year too the ADP allotment is being revised in light of the availability of foreign funding and the macro-economic situation, said the proposal from the planning ministry.

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## Banks' idle money not too large: BB

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

The banking sector is left with only Tk 3,364 crore of idle money, not Tk 90,000 crore as reported in the media, Bangladesh Bank said yesterday.

The banking regulator said the amount is not too big compared to the number of banks.

Currently, there are 56 banks in the country and often media reports mentioned that the banking industry has Tk 90,000 crore to Tk 100,000 crore of idle money.

"It's not true," BB said in a statement. "After meeting the statutory requirement, banks invest its funds in the government securities, which are safe and profitable."

The BB also said the call money market remains quite stable with around 7 percent interest rate.

The central bank data shows banks' capital adequacy ratio has also increased to 11.35 percent, significantly higher than the regulatory requirement under Basel II of 10.51 percent.

Despite odds, loan disbursement by the banks also increased by 13.99 percent in 2014 compared to the same period a year ago, the BB said.

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**HOT-ESTATES**

Five featured properties of this week

1203 sq-ft. (Type-A), 3 Bedroom Apartment for Sale in Landmark Regency, Gupibag

<http://bit.ly/1wyY03m>



3133 sq-ft. (Type-C), 4 Bedroom Apartment for Sale in Suvastu Rahman Heights, Gulshan-2

<http://bit.ly/1B5GAGu>



860 sq-ft. (Type-A), 2 Bedroom Apartment for Sale in Areac Hetoishi, Mohammadpur

<http://bit.ly/1vmz0de>



1738 sq-ft, 3 Bedroom Apartment for Sale in Runner Vervain, Banani

<http://bit.ly/16mhDkX>



348 sq-ft. (Shop-11) Commercial Space for Sale in Zaman NIC Heights, Chittagong

<http://bit.ly/1aMplxp>



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