

**সমৃদ্ধির (খোপান) দ্বিগুণ আয়ের শ্রেষ্ঠ উপায়**

মুদারাবা দ্বিগুণ বৃদ্ধি ডিপোজিট স্কিম

সর্বাধিক প্রযুক্তি ও সমৃদ্ধ ব্যাংকিং সেবায় আমানত দ্বিগুণ করুন স্বল্পসময়ে



ইসলামী শরী'আহ মুদারাবা নীতির ভিত্তিতে পরিচালিত

বে ফোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬১২০০১১২২

# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MARCH 25, 2015, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

## ADB cuts growth forecast for messy politics

*Economy to grow 6.1pc instead of 6.4pc as earlier predicted*

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

The Asian Development Bank yesterday revised down its growth forecast for Bangladesh for the fiscal year, saying the economy will grow by 6.1 percent instead of 6.4 percent as predicted earlier, due to the dragging political stalemate.

"Political blockades and violence in early 2015 will constrain growth," the Manila-based lender said.

Before the political unrest began in January, the economy had been expanding

briskly for six months, indicating good growth prospects for 2014-2015, it said.

Strong remittance inflows boosted consumption, and private investment was rising as indicated by higher capital equipment imports. Although exports remained subdued, they were gradually improving as orders flew in.

"However, political unrest and action to shut down transportation began undermining growth prospects by affecting private investment and export activity."

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## Yunus contests NBR's gift tax claim

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus yesterday said he has contested the gift tax claim raised by the National Board of Revenue, as the donations were supposed to enjoy tax exemption as per existing rules.

The microcredit pioneer receives very high fees for speaking at international conferences; and in many places, audiences purchase tickets to hear him speak, Yunus Centre said in a statement.

Several books written by him have been translated into 25 languages around the world, many of them featured on the New York Times Best Seller list.

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## LC confirmation charges higher in Bangladesh

*Political unrest may place further pressure on importers*

**SAJJADUR RAHMAN**

An importer in Bangladesh has to pay up to 4 percent of the import value as confirmation fees on letters of credit a year, which is far higher than in other South Asian countries.

Businesses fear that the new spat of political instability that began on January 5 may further increase the fees and put extra pressures on them. They are already reeling from additional costs in transportation and supply chain management.

"The charge for confirming the LCs remains between 3 and 4 percent annually, depending on the clients. But the prolonged unrest may push it up," said the head of the treasury department of a private commercial bank.

Confirmation fees are a security mechanism that eliminates risks for exporters. When exporters are not satisfied with the LC-issuing bank mainly for its insolvency risks or the importing country for its political risks, or both, they may seek an additional guarantee

for the LCs. Confirmation is a definite and legal undertaking from the importer's bank to the exporter's bank. The LC confirmation charge is 1 percent in India, 2 percent in Pakistan.

"Adding a confirmation charge has slightly increased in recent times, with growing political uncertainty and foreign banks charging extra for accepting an LC," said MS Siddiqui, president of Bangladesh Indenting Agents' Association.

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**BASHUNDHARA CEMENT**



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A visitor walks past a furniture outlet at the three-day Bangladesh Furniture and Interior Decor Expo being held at Jamuna Future Park in Dhaka. The expo ends tomorrow.

## NBR to educate students on tax

**SOHEL PARVEZ**

The National Board of Revenue has taken an initiative to develop contents for primary and high school students to educate them on the necessity of paying tax.

The NBR has recently asked 11 officers to submit articles on the importance of income tax and VAT for the state and citizens' responsibilities.

It has also formed a three-member editorial panel to review the essays and prepare two articles/texts for primary and high-school students.

The NBR will ask the education ministry to incorporate the contents in the textbooks of primary and high schools, a senior official of the tax authority said.

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## Govt to take \$50m in easy loans from Belarus for equipment purchase

**REJAUL KARIM BYRON**

The government plans to take a \$50 million "commodity credit" from Belarus with low interest rates for procuring maintenance equipment for city corporations.

The local government division has already had talks with the Belarus government and sent the loan proposal to the cabinet committee on economic affairs.

The rate of interest on the loan will be 1 percent and no extra service charge or fee will be applicable, according to the proposal.

The government will have to pay 15 percent of the price of the commodities to Belarus in advance and the remaining 85 percent can be paid in 11 years, including a

three-year grace period.

Alongside, the Belarus government will provide two years' warranty on the imported equipment; all maintenance cost during the period will be borne by the Belarusian exporter.

The exporter will also send engineers and mechanics to Bangladesh at its own expense to train the workers how to use the machineries.

After the expiry of the warranty period, the exporter will supply the necessary spare parts at factory price. It will also set up a service centre for providing services in this regard.

The country normally takes such credit from China, for which the rate of interest is 2 percent and various service charges are levied.

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