

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

মুদারাবা দ্বিগুণ বৃদ্ধি ডিপোজিট কিম্বা সর্বাধুনিক প্রযুক্তি ও সমৃদ্ধ ব্যাংকিং সেবায় আনাত দ্বিগুণ করুন স্বল্পসময়ে

ইসলামী শরী'আহ মুদারাবা নিতির ভিত্তিতে পরিচালিত

যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬১২০০১১২২



# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY APRIL 5, 2015, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

## Social safety roadmap

NEW SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM THAT WILL ADDRESS RISKS IN LIFE

### RISKS

- PREGNANCY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD**
  - Unsafe birth and no access to antenatal and postnatal care
  - No immunisation
  - Stunting
  - Reduced cognitive development
- OLD AGE**
  - Increasing frailty
  - Inability to work
  - No care from family
  - Discrimination in labour force
  - No access to credit
- WORKING AGE**
  - Unemployment and underemployment
  - Inadequate incomes
  - Debt
  - Dowry
  - No childcare for women in employment
  - Gender discrimination
  - Domestic violence
- SCHOOL AGE**
  - Child labour
  - Unable to access or stay in school
  - Poor home environment impact on schooling
  - Malnutrition
  - Child abuse
  - Loss of parent
- YOUTH**
  - Inadequate skills
  - Unemployment
  - Inability to access training
  - Alienation
- DISABILITY AND CHRONIC ILLNESS**

### SOCIAL SAFETY NET ALLOCATION

In crores of taka

FY 19-20**	59,400
FY 18-19**	56,300
FY 17-18**	52,800
FY 16-17**	44,400
FY 15-16**	37,100
FY 14-15*	30,790

\*Allocation \*\*Proposed

### PROPOSED SAFETY NET ALLOCATION FOR FY15-16 (Tk 37,100cr)

Covariate risks management programmes	9,700
Small programmes	4,200
Citizen's pension	3,100
Government service pension	7,600
Disability benefit	1,200
Child allowance	4,300
Stipend for schoolchildren	3,800
Allowance for vulnerable women	1,800
Special programmes	1,400

**REJAUL KARIM BYRON**

The government is set to unveil a new scheme that will bring 3.57 crore of the poorest and most vulnerable citizens under social safety plans.

Called the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS), it is supposed to take off next fiscal year, with a focus on effectively tackling poverty and inequality.

The planning commission's General Economic Division (GED) has already prepared a strategy paper, which will be placed at the weekly cabinet meeting tomorrow.

Under the strategy, Tk 37,100 crore will be required in fiscal 2015-16 to implement the programme, which is 20.5 percent more than what the government set aside for such purposes this year.

The aim of the NSSS is to ensure proper spending of government funds and reach out to those most in need of such handouts, GED Member Shamsul Alam told The Daily Star.

For instance, 30 percent of the old-age allowance goes to those under the age of 60, he said, citing a study. In many programmes, 27 percent of the benefits are enjoyed by rich people.

The NSSS will stop these leakages by bringing in all 145 social safety net schemes under a comprehensive programme, Alam added.

The comprehensive programme will be implemented in five big clusters, which will cover the entire life cycle.

The clusters are: children's programme (for those below the age of 4), programme for school-age children, programme for working-age population, comprehensive pension system for the elderly and programme for people with disability.

The government plans to bring around 50 percent of the 3.57 crore beneficiaries

under NSSS in the first year alone.

Of the 3.57 crore beneficiaries, 55 lakh would be covered by the pension scheme, 10 lakh by the disability programme, 75 lakh under the children's programme, 1.79 crore under the school-age children programme and more than 32 lakh under the working-age programme.

The children's programme involves handing out Tk 800 as monthly allowance for strengthening immunisation, healthcare and nutrition to maximum of two children from a family.

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## Islami Bank weighed down by bad loans to Ananda Shipyard

**SAJJADUR RAHMAN**

Provisions for Ananda Shipyard's bad loans have been eating up Islami Bank Bangladesh's profits as it had to set aside Tk 178 crore a year since 2013 for the shipbuilder's bad debts.

"We are not too worried now as we have been able to make a two-year provision against the loans. We have one more year to go in the three-year provision requirement for this bad debt," MA Mannan, managing director of IBBL, told The Daily Star.

"We will be free after this year." Ananda has not been able to sell the ships funded by the bank.

"Ships are not perishable. So Ananda may take more time to sell the ships," said the chief executive of the bank whose profits have been eroding since 2012.

Earlier in 2007, Ananda Group received orders from German and Singaporean buyers for eight ships worth \$89.4 million or about Tk 700 crore, to be delivered between September 2009 and December 2010.

The local shipbuilder failed to stick to the lead time, which made the buyers withdraw the orders in 2010.

The move put its financier -- IBBL -- in a sticky position, as it had to honour its performance bonds and refund guarantees worth \$58.71 million to the buyers.

Ananda's total liabilities with IBBL now stand at Tk 534 crore, and the central bank instructed the bank to make provisions against the sum, which IBBL has duly acted on, Mannan said.


The bank's earnings per share (EPS) came down to almost half between 2012 and 2014 because of bad loans, especially of Ananda Shipyard.

The bank's EPS was Tk 4.42 in 2012, which came down to Tk 3.45 in 2013 and Tk 2.46 in 2014 -- this erosion in income has been depriving the shareholders of good dividends.

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## Tea prices dip on tepid demand amid unrest

**REUTERS, Dhaka**

Tea prices in Bangladesh fell sharply for a fourth week running at Tuesday's weekly auction, amid tepid demand from local buyers despite dwindling supplies amid political unrest.

Tea supplies were higher at the last auction in the current season as violence eased, but demand remained lacklustre because of the damage to business sentiment caused by the political uncertainty, an executive with National Brokers Ltd said.

More than 120 people have been killed and hundreds injured as a result of anti-government protests over last year's disputed election.

Bangladeshi tea fetched an average 113.79 taka (\$1.6) per kg, compared with 134.62 taka at the previous sale, he said.

About 565,522 kg was offered at the sole auction centre in Chittagong, of which nearly 25 percent remained unsold. In the previous auction, about 8 percent of 419,543 kg was unsold.

Bangladesh's annual inflation rate rose in February as renewed political unrest disrupted the country's supply chain, sending food and non-food prices higher despite a dip in global commodity prices.

## Particle board production soars on rising furniture demand

**SAJJADUR RAHMAN**

The domestic market for particle boards is thriving on the back of increasing demand for timber-substitute furniture, which is sustainable and cheaper, industry leaders said.

The furniture sector has a growth rate of 19 percent a year, which demonstrates the enormous promise, according to a study jointly conducted in 2013 by the Export Promotion Bureau, Katalyst, a multi-donor funded development entity, and Centre for Industrial Studies, an international research centre.

Local furniture sales were Tk 6,665 crore in fiscal 2011-12, which rose to nearly Tk 10,000 crore in fiscal 2013-14. The study also found that about 70,000 SMEs make furniture, employing 18 lakh people.

The rising demand for office and home furniture has encouraged entrepreneurs to set up mills to produce particle boards.

Akij Group is setting up its second particle board mill, which will be the largest in South Asia, to meet the growing demand for boards by architects, interior designers and furniture makers.

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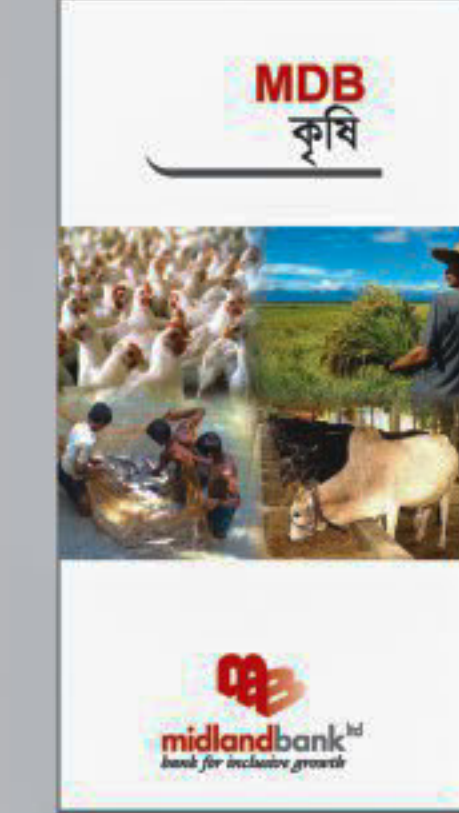
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