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**Business**

## **ADB offers \$1.2b assistance**

Star Business Desk

Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$1.2 billion in assistance to Bangladesh per annum over the next three years, said Sultan Hafeez Rahman, director general of ADB's South Asia Department.

Rahman, who came to Dhaka to attend Bangladesh Development Forum, said in a statement that ADB is committed to help Bangladesh sustain progress on the Millennium Development Goals and become a middle-income country by 2021 as pledged by the government.

As a major development partner, ADB will continue to support the government's priorities, including construction of the Padma Bridge, improving power production and mitigating the climate change impacts, the DG said in the statement issued yesterday.

"We are firmly committed to assist the government in scaling up the pace of infrastructure development, improving the quality of education, supporting urban sectors, promoting regional cooperation and continuing governance reforms."

ADB provided around \$600 million in assistance to Bangladesh per annum during 2006-2008.

The bank is currently supporting a wide range of development programmes with 59 projects of the government worth around \$4.5 billion as of January, according to the statement.