

# Reforms help pull Indian banks out of the red

BOMBAY, Aug 10: Free-market reforms began in India five years ago have helped pull a number of state-owned banks out of the red, a top official of the country's central bank said here yesterday, reports AFP.

"The process of reforms has been internalised by banks and they have now started yielding results," Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor SP Talwar told bankers at the 49th annual general meeting of Indian Banks Association.

Talwar said the banking sector reforms had greatly improved the health of India's public banks, making their balance sheets transparent and largely in line with international standards.

"Of the 27 public sector banks, the number of banks which have recorded both operating and net profit have increased from 15 in 1992-93 and 1993-94 to 19 in 1994-95 and 1995-96," he said.

Talwar said India's state-owned banks needed to reduce bad loans but had made progress on that front. He said unrecoverable loans made up 23.2 per cent of total loans in 1992-93, fell to 19.8 per cent in 1994-95 and further to 16.5 per cent in 1995-96.

Talwar said banks should reduce bad loans to 10 per cent of total loans in the immediate future. "Ideally, it should not be more than five per cent of total loans," he said.

Talwar said the RBI was concerned about increasing cases of bank fraud, which "result in substantial financial losses to the banks and also undermine public confidence in the banking system."

"During calendar 1995 at least 2,240 frauds were reported representing an amount of 1.32 billion rupees (37 million dollars)," he said.

"The alarming feature of several large frauds coming to light in 1996 is the increasing involvement of senior staff at the branch level."

Talwar said in addition to the liberalisation of interest rates by the central bank, there was a steady and significant reduction in the level of funds required to be kept aside by law for the government.

"Between November 1995 and July 1996 about 168.25 billion rupees (4.80 billion dollars) has been released by way of reduction in the cash reserve requirements," he said.

Talwar said New Delhi had, as part of the reforms, poured money into state-owned banks to strengthen capital foundation.

"About 120 billion rupees (3.42 billion dollars) has been infused in the last three years," he said.

## HK to send back US garbage

HONG KONG, Aug 10: A cargo of plastic and household waste from the United States will be returned after China and Hong Kong refused to accept the garbage, the government announced Saturday, reports AP.

Hong Kong will also tighten up its laws soon to stop foreign countries transshipping unwanted waste for dumping through the colony's port, government spokeswoman Ellen Chan said.

A shipment of 200 tons of garbage originating in Atlanta, Georgia, became the focus of a battle over international dumping when Chinese customs officials in the southern port of Fujian turned it back in May.

They said it was carrying illegal plastic and household waste, mixed with rotting food, instead of the colourful film scrap as declared. China passed a law on April 1 banning the importation of plastic waste.

Since then, the waste has been languishing in a barge in the colony's busy port as officials and shippers argued over who was responsible for it.

Hong Kong's Environmental Protection Department said Saturday it had reached agreement with shippers of the waste, Chiang's Brothers, to return the garbage to the United States.

The garbage was "mixed with household waste to the extent that recycling was not considered suitable," said department spokeswoman Chan.

As China had already rejected the waste, and "we don't want to use our valuable land" to dispose of it, "returning it to the exporting country for disposal is the best solution to this problem," she said.

The waste will be rebaled and sent back in two shipments.

## Former smoker wins suit against American Tobacco

JACKSONVILLE, Florida, Aug 10: A Florida jury awarded a former smoker of lucky strike cigarettes 750,000 dollars after finding American Tobacco negligent for producing defective products, reports AFP.

The suit was brought on behalf of Grady Carter, who was diagnosed with lung cancer in 1991, against the US unit of British American Tobacco (BAT).

The surprise decision sent tobacco shares plummeting on Wall Street. American Tobacco closed down 1-1/2 at 44.24 dollars while Philip Morris shed 3.50 dollars to 102 dollars and RJR Nabisco 3-5/8 dollars to 28-5/8 dollars.

Trading of Philip Morris shares were suspended a half hour before closing in expectation of the jury decision.

But on the secondary market where electronic transactions continued after the closing bell, Philip Morris shares plunged 13-3/4 dollars.

Brown Williamson Tobacco, the US parent company of American Tobacco, said it was disappointed with the verdict and indicated it would appeal the decision.

"The trial was prejudicially tainted by allowing the jury to receive in admissible evidence and to hear testimony based on speculation," the company said.

# Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on August 10, 1996  
Index continues to rise

## Star Report

The Dhaka Stock Exchange All Share Price Index continued to rise amid thin trading on the first opening day of the week.

The price index gained 3.44 points, reaching 1130.33 from previous day's 1126.89.

The market capitalisation of the Dhaka bourse inched by Tk 23.61 crore to Tk 7754.75 crore from Tk 7731.14 crore.

Both the turnovers in volume and value declined by 46 per cent.

A total of 3.73 lakh shares and debentures worth Tk 8.34 crore changed hands as against previous day's 6.87 lakh shares and debentures valued at Tk 15.33 crore.

During the day's trading a total of 2066 hawlas were made.

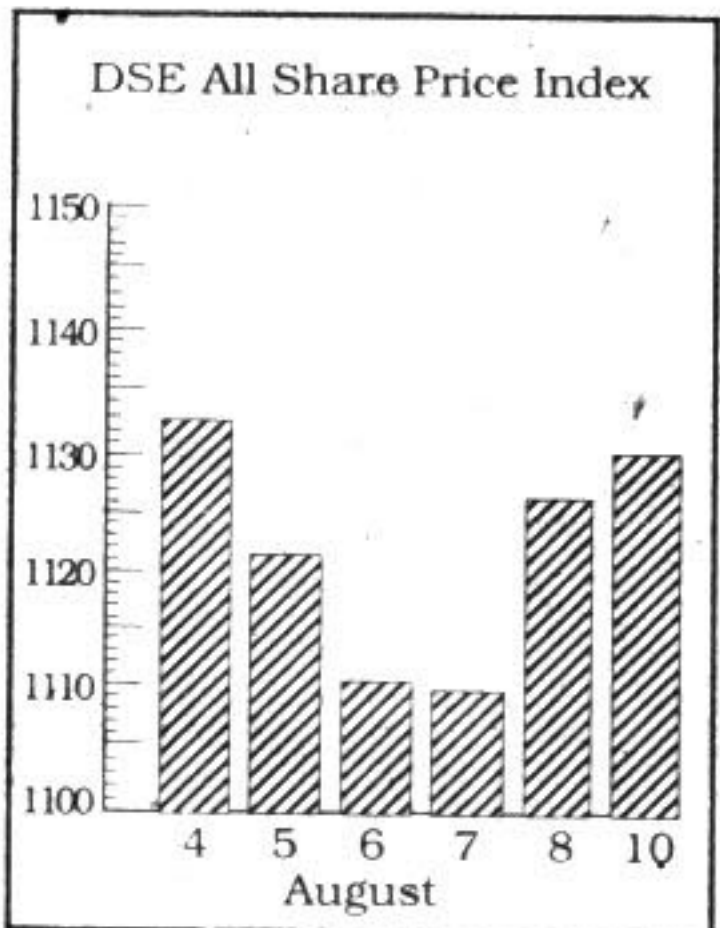
A total of 118 issues traded on the day, of which 69 gained, 43 incurred loss while prices of six issues remained unchanged.

The leading gainer of the day was 1st ICB Mutual Fund with a Tk 100.00 per share while the losers were led by Singer Bangladesh with a fall of Tk 110.35 per share.

AMCL Pran, Amam Sea Food, Monno Ceramic, Apex Foods and United Leasing Co were also significant gainers.

Prime Textile, Aziz Pipes, 2nd ICB Mutual Fund and Al Baraka Bank were also major losers of the day.

The volume leaders of the day were: ACI Ltd (55700), Aramit Ltd (33250), Beximco Pharma, Monno Fabrics (18400) and Quasem Drycells (15700).



## Latest position & performance of DSE-listed issues

| Company           | FV/ML (Taka) | Average Closing Rate (Taka) | Change (+/-) (Taka) | No of Share/Dev. Traded | Last Total AGM Div. Date % |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>BANKS (13)</b> |              |                             |                     |                         |                            |
| AB Bank           | 100/5        | 230.00                      | +15.00              | 300                     | 31.08.95                   |
| City Bank         | 100/5        | 200.33                      | -                   | -                       | 24.12.95                   |
| IFC               | 100/5        | 140.00                      | -                   | -                       | 10.10.95                   |
| Islami Bank       | 1000/1       | 4600.00                     | -                   | -                       | 24.08.95                   |
| National Bank     | 100/5        | 166.70                      | -5.08               | 7490                    | 19.09.95                   |
| Pubali Bank       | 100/5        | 85.00                       | -                   | -                       | 20.01.96                   |
| Rupali Bank       | 100/10       | 90.00                       | -                   | -                       | 20.01.96                   |
| U C B L           | 100/5        | 1705.78                     | -                   | -                       | 27.09.95                   |
| Uttara Bank       | 100/5        | 80.00                       | -                   | -                       | 03.12.95                   |
| Al Baraka Bank    | 1000/1       | 1280.00                     | -20.00              | 3                       | 10.09.95                   |
| IDLC              | 100/20       | 2943.33                     | +43.33              | 60                      | 12.05.96                   |
| Eastern Bank      | 100/20       | 97.50                       | -                   | -                       | 14.12.95                   |
| ULC               | 100/20       | 1792.14                     | +60.81              | 140                     | 15.04.96                   |

|                       |        |         |         |      |          |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| <b>INVESTMENT (8)</b> |        |         |         |      |          |
| ICB                   | 100/5  | 153.04  | -       | -    | 23.10.95 |
| 1st ICB M Fund        | 100/5  | 2100.00 | +100.00 | 20   | -        |
| 2nd ICB M Fund        | 100/5  | 940.00  | -20.00  | 5    | -        |
| 3rd ICB M Fund        | 100/5  | 550.00  | -       | -    | -        |
| 4th ICB M Fund        | 100/10 | 723.57  | -6.43   | 210  | -        |
| 5th ICB M Fund        | 100/10 | 454.48  | -10.52  | 730  | -        |
| 6th ICB M Fund        | 100/10 | 271.51  | -9.38   | 800  | -        |
| 7th ICB M Fund        | 100/50 | 267.36  | 11.69   | 2800 | -        |

|                         |        |         |         |       |          |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|---------|-------|----------|
| <b>ENGINEERING (20)</b> |        |         |         |       |          |
| Aftab Auto              | 100/5  | 300.00  | -1.27   | 140   | 21.12.95 |
| Aziz Pipes              | 100/5  | 1074.79 | -26.04  | 240   | 15.07.96 |
| Bengal Carbide          | 100/5  | 854.14  | +34.15  | 6425  | 13.12.95 |
| Bangladesh Lamps        | 100/5  | 3170    | +20.02  | 425   | 23.08.95 |
| Bengal Steel            | 100/50 | 20.00   | -       | -     | 24.12.95 |
| Eastern Cables          | 100/5  | 622.95  | +6.75   | 8795  | 27.03.96 |
| Karm Pipe               | 100/5  | 338.83  | -       | -     | 30.11.95 |
| Monno Jute              | 100/5  | 3500.00 | -       | -     | 28.12.95 |
| Monno Jute Staf         | 100/5  | 900.00  | -       | -     | 27.09.95 |
| Singer Bangladesh       | 100/5  | 1064.33 | -110.35 | 150   | 21.05.96 |
| Atlas Bangladesh        | 100/5  | 286.19  | -22     | 1050  | 27.12.95 |
| BD Autocar              | 100/5  | 169.89  | +2.02   | 470   | 30.12.95 |
| Quasem Drycells         | 100/5  | 45.65   | -1.28   | 15700 | 14.12.95 |
| Renwick Japneswar       | 100/5  | 217.36  | -14     | 185   | 30.12.95 |
| Metalex Corp            | 100/5  | 726.21  | +1.21   | 165   | 24.04.96 |
| Holader PVC             | 100/10 | 105.67  | +6.7    | 45    | 18.02.93 |
| National Tubes          | 100/10 | 2135.90 | -4.64   | 210   | 28.03.96 |
| B Thai Aluminium        | 100/10 | 332.82  | -16.10  | 970   | 27.07.95 |
| BD Electricity          | 100/10 | 320.00  | -       | -     | 30.12.95 |
| Anwar Galvanizing       | 100/50 | 160.73  | -1.98   | 4850  | -        |

|                               |         |         |        |       |          |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|-------|----------|
| <b>FOOD &amp; ALLIED (28)</b> |         |         |        |       |          |
| A B Biscuit                   | 100/5   | 110.00  | -      | -     | 30.12.95 |
| Alpha Tobacco                 | 100/50  | 128.00  | +2.65  | 700   | 12.12.95 |
| Amam Sea Food                 | 100/5   | 3547.14 | +87.14 | 35    | 17.12.95 |
| Apex Foods                    | 100/5   | 3512.72 | +71.03 | 195   | 17.12.95 |
| Aroma Tea                     | 100/5   | 55.00   | -      | -     | 27.12.95 |
| Bengal Food                   | 100/5   | 270.00  | -2.94  | 90.00 | 29.08.95 |
| Bangas                        | 100/5   | 310.00  | -      | -     | 30.12.95 |
| B L T C                       | 100/5   | 1200.00 | -      | -     | 11.09.95 |
| B T C                         | 100/50  | 149.80  | +1.80  | 1250  | 20.06.96 |
| E L Camelia                   | 100/5   | NT      | -      | -     | 21.09.96 |
| Froglies Export               | 100/50  | 12.67   | -      | -     | 30.12.91 |
| Gemini Sea Food               | 100/5   | 707.50  | -      | -     | 31.12.95 |
| N T C                         | 100/5   | 240.00  | -      | -     | 25.04.96 |
| Yousuf Flour                  | 100/5   | NT      | -      | -     | 30.12.95 |
| Dhaka Vegetables              | 100/5   | 130.37  | -      | -     | 22.10.95 |
| Zeal Bangla Sugar             | 100/5   | 11.78   | +10    | 9950  | 27.12.95 |
| Rupun Oil                     | 100/100 | 8.85    | +25    | 8600  | 27.04.95 |
| Clup Dairy                    | 100/10  | 626.67  | +64.73 | 60    | 30.03.95 |
| Ctg Vegetables                | 100/10  | 156.28  | -5.39  | 390   | 30.12.95 |
| Rabeya Flour                  | 100/5   | NT      | -      | -     | 14.09.95 |
| B D Plantation                | 100/5   | 870.00  | -      | -     | 28.12.95 |
| Hill Plantation               | 100/5   | 1280.00 | -      | -     | 28.12.95 |
| B Fisheries                   | 100/20  | 179.28  | +43.92 | 3140  | 01.06.96 |
| Bengal Biscuits               | 100/20  | 160.52  | +4.52  | 580   | 23.06.96 |
| Meghna Shrimp                 | 100/20  | 121.45  | -4.39  | 3100  | 16.08.95 |
| Rasip Food                    | 100/50  | 424.27  | +24.96 | 1500  | -        |
| AMCL Pran                     | 100/50  | 672.56  | +99.38 | 4300  | -        |
| Modern Industries             | 100/5   | 122.78  | -47.22 | 90    | 18.07.96 |

|                             |        |        |        |      |          |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|------|----------|
| <b>FUEL &amp; POWER (4)</b> |        |        |        |      |          |
| BOC Bangladesh              | 100/50 | 218.00 | 2.27   | 9850 | 04.02.96 |
| Padma Oil Co                | 100/50 | 231.67 | +13.47 | 1500 | 27.03.96 |
| Eastern Lubricant           | 100/50 | NT     | -      | -    | 29.03.96 |
| National Oxygen             | 100/10 | 165.00 | -56    | 200  | 29.06.96 |
| <b>JUTE (8)</b>             |        |        |        |      |          |
| Islam Jute                  | 100/5  | 100.00 | -      | -    | 30.12.95 |
| Jute Spinner                | 100/5  | 145.00 | -      | -    | 30.03.96 |
| Mutual Jute                 | 100/5  | NT     | -      | -    | 30.12.95 |
| Northern Jute               | 100/20 | 24.00  | 00     | 8200 | 28.12.95 |
| Shamsar Jute                | 100/5  | NT     | -      | -    | 14.12.95 |
| Sonali Aarsh                | 100/5  | 150.00 | -      | -    | 27.12.95 |
| Anad Jute                   | 100/10 | NT     | -      | -    | 28.12.95 |
| Saleh Carpet                | 100/20 | 8.00   | -      | -    | -        |

|                     |         |         |       |       |          |
|---------------------|---------|---------|-------|-------|----------|
| <b>TEXTILE (37)</b> |         |         |       |       |          |
| Alhaj Textile       | 100/50  | 24.67   | -     | -     | 29.12.94 |
| Ashraf Textile      | 100/50  | 23.04   | 25    | 12950 | 24.12.95 |
| GMG Ind Corp        | 100/50  | 30.00   | -     | -     | 30.12.95 |
| Quasem Textile      | 100/50  | 15.00   | -     | -     | 26.06.96 |
| S T M (ORD)         | 100/5   | 25.00   | -     | -     | 30.09.95 |
| Stylecraft          | 100/5   | 1400.00 | -     | -     | 17.12.95 |
| Swan Textile        | 100/5   | 40.00   | -     | -     | 23.01.96 |
| Rahim Textile       | 100/5   | 115.00  | 00    | 10    | 28.03.96 |
| Quasem Silk         | 100/100 | 8.42    | -     | -     | 26.06.96 |
| Saham Textile       | 100/10  | 100.00  | -     | -     | 23.11.95 |
| Modern Dyeing       | 100/5   | 55.00   | +63   | 300   | 31.12.95 |
| Eagle Star Textile  | 100/50  | 14.50   | 26    | 1950  | 05.12.95 |
| Desh Garments       | 100/10  | 80.00   | -     | -     | 07.12.95 |
| Dulama Cotton       | 100/10  | 103.00  | -2.00 | 100   | 30.11.95 |
| Tallu Spinning      | 100/10  | 130.00  | 00    | 50    | 31.08.95 |
| Ambee Textile       | 100/10  | NT      | -     | -     | 26.06.96 |
| Tamjuddin           | 100/10  | 191.00  | -     | -     | 28.12.95 |
| Padma Textile       | 100/20  | 360.00  | -     | -     | 21.03.96 |
| Apex Spinning       | 100/20  | 241.43  | -7.46 | 140   | 18.12.95 |

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>DSE at a glance</b>            |             |
| Total Number of Listed Securities | 203         |
| Total Number of Companies         | 185         |
| Total Number of Mutual Funds      | 7           |
| Total Number of Debentures        | 11          |
| Total No of Shares & Debentures   | 382,096,163 |
| Day's DSE All Share Price Index   | 1130.33     |
| Day's Market Capital Tk           | 7754.75cr   |
| Day's Transaction in volume       | 373447      |
| Day's Transaction in value Tk     | 8.34cr      |
| Day's Total Issues traded         | 118         |
| Day's Issues gained               | 69          |
| Day's Issues incurred losses      | 43          |
| Day's Issues unchanged            | 6           |
| Day's Total No of Hawlas          | 2066        |

| PEEP INTO ISSUES       |                   |         |          |   |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------|----------|---|-------------------|
| Company                | Book Closure      | AGM/EGM | Date     | Venue & Time                              | Dividend Proposed |
| BD Lamps Ltd           | 05/08/96-15/08/96 | AGM     | 15/08/96 |   | 40                |
| BGC Ltd                | 14/08/96-12/09/96 | AGM     | 12/09/96 | Ladies Club, 11:00 am                     | 23                |
| Pragati Ins. Co.       | 01/08/96-21/08/96 | AGM     | 21/08/96 | Hotel Sonargang, 3:30pm                   | 25                |
| East Ins. Co.          | 01/08/96-22/08/96 | AGM     | 22/08/96 | Hotel Putani, 3:30pm                      | 18.00             |
| Fed. Ins. Co.          | 27/07/96-19/08/96 |         |          |   | 15                |
| UCBL                   | 27/08/96-10/09/96 | AGM     | 10/09/96 | Hotel Sonargang                           | -                 |
| Sandhani Life Ins.     | 11/08/96-25/08/96 | AGM     | 25/08/96 |   | -                 |
| Reliance Ins. Co.      | 26/08/96          | EGM     |          | Hotel Sonargang, 3:30pm                   | -                 |
| Reliance Ins. Co.      | 11/08/96-26/08/96 | AGM     |          | Hotel Sonargang, 04:00pm                  | 20                |
| Pragati Ins. Co.       |                   | EGM     | 21/08/96 | Hotel Sonargang, 3:30pm                   | -                 |
| Bengal Food Ltd        |                   | EGM     | 26/08/96 | BOC Auditorium, 3:00pm                    | -                 |
| Bengal Food Ltd        | 12/08/96-26/08/96 | AGM     | 26/08/96 | BOC Auditorium 3:15pm                     | -                 |
| Dynamic Tex            | 07/08/96-20/08/96 | AGM     | 20/08/96 | Factory Site Bakula Myrmensing 11am       | 18                |
| ACI Ltd                | 22/08/96-05/09/96 | AGM     | 05/09/96 | MCCI 4th floor 122-124 Mohajir CA 20/30pm | 16.4              |
| Janata Ins.            | 08/08/96-04/09/96 | AGM     | 04/09/96 | Hotel Sonargang 3pm                       | 18                |
| Meghna Shrimp          | 24/08/96-30/09/96 | AGM     | 30/09/96 | Hotel Sonargang                           | 16F               |
| Purabi General Ins.    | 07/09/96-30/09/96 | AGM     | 30/09/96 | Hotel Sonargang                           | -                 |
| Eastern Insuran co     | 27/08/96-11/09/96 | AGM     | 11/09/96 | Hotel Sonargang 3:30pm                    | 10F               |
| UCBL                   | 27/08/96-10/09/96 | AGM     |          |   | 15B-100           |
| Bosomo Synthetic (Deb) | 14/08/96-31/08/96 |         |          | (Half yearly interest)                    | -                 |
| Aramit Ltd             | 22/08/96-01/09/96 | AGM     | 01/09/96 | Hotel Sonargang 4pm                       | 5(F)              |
| Aramit Ltd             |                   | EGM     | 01/09/96 | Hotel Sonargang 3:30pm                    | -                 |