

'They are not capable of doing their job'

DSE chief puts SEC on the dock

Star Business Report

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) chief yesterday blasted the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for its "failure to develop the market" and urged the government that a task force be formed immediately to revamp the ailing capital market.

DSE Chairman Md Rakibur Rahman called the SEC "incapable of discharging its responsibilities."

He made the statements at a press conference held in the city yesterday afternoon. He also said that he was "ready to resign if it helps improve the situation."

The DSE chairman expressed his dissatisfaction over the present capital market situation and SEC's failure to understand the importance of



Rakibur Rahman addressing a press conference at the DSE board room yesterday. — Star photo

quick implementation of various decisions. Trying to substantiate his charges against the SEC, Rakibur Rahman said the regulators had in principle agreed to withdraw circuit breaker in the first week of January. "But it is yet to take any concrete decision to implement it." In this connection, he however told the press that the recently-formed circuit breaker and settlement

System committee had proposed on Wednesday to transfer the price control authority to the bourses.

He also said that no inexperienced person should be appointed as members of the SEC, especially at the present crucial situation of the market. "Only the experienced persons can steer the SEC to its goal."

Rakib said since his taking over in December last, he had had 36 meetings at various levels including that of ministers and other top market players, but his Herculean efforts failed to bring about positive changes.

Turning to the proposed task force, he said it should be a 12-member body headed by the finance minister himself, while the SEC chairman, the secretary of ministry of commerce, the governor of central bank, the law secretary, the chairman of National Board of Revenue, the additional secretary of Ministry of Finance (Banking Division), Chief of FBCCI or DCCI, DSE chairman, CSE president and two members of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Finance should be on the task force as members.

The DSE chairman told

specific suggestions to the offices of the prime minister, the finance minister, the banking secretary, the parliamentary standing committee and the SEC.

newsmen that he had discussed the importance of setting up of a task force with the finance minister who, he said, had directed the SEC chief to hold a meeting of its advisory council on March 24 to discuss the issue.

He also urged the regulators to withdraw condition of forming a subsidiary company for banks to operate as merchant banks.

Rakibur Rahman pointed out that on the basis of a probe committee's report certain cases were pending with the courts against some brokers who were otherwise leading players in the market.

"The restrictions on these operators should be lifted until the court verdict which will come in the usual course."

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Exchange Rates

Following is the Thursday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank, Dhaka. Central Bank USD/BDT Rate: Buying-BDT46.15/Selling-BDT 46.45

TT/OD	BC	Currency	Buying		
			TT Clean	OD Sight	OD Transfer
46.5100	46.5500	USD	46.1100	45.9350	45.8366
78.0159	78.0830	GBP	76.5841	76.2934	76.1300
25.5802	25.6022	DEM	25.0707	24.9755	24.8814
0.3603	0.3606	JPY	0.3517	0.3503	0.3496
31.3875	31.4145	CHF	30.6889	30.5724	30.4461
22.6845	22.7040	NLG	22.2614	22.1769	22.0974
29.4274	29.4527	SGD	28.2277	28.1206	28.0089
7.6124	7.6189	FRF	7.4866	7.4681	7.4485
33.0209	33.0493	CAD	32.2673	32.1449	32.0088
5.8626	5.8677	SEK	5.7638	5.7419	5.7274
31.3198	31.3468	AUD	30.1052	29.9910	29.7892
13.0646	13.0758	MYR	12.1984	12.1521	12.1357
6.0115	6.0167	HKD	5.9437	5.9211	5.9107
12.4692	12.4799	SAR	12.1984	12.1521	12.1357

USANCE EXPORTS BILLS

TT/DOC	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
46.0150	45.7310	45.3520	44.9162	44.4425	43.3813

Exchange Rates of Some Asian Currencies Against US Dollars

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Malaysian Ringgit	Indonesian Rupiah	Korean Won	Libor	
						1 Month	3 Months
45.90	46.50	USD 5.68350	5.68750	5.68750	5.78125	5.68350	5.68750

Market Commentary
Trading in the local foreign exchange and money market was moderately active today ahead of weekends. In the local market demand for US dollar was high due to long local and international weekend starting from tomorrow to Sunday. The demand for foreign currency was mainly driven by import payments. In the interbank market US dollar traded between Taka 46.42 and 46.45. The local market started steadily but later it became slightly tighter and the call money rate closed the week at the range of 7.5 and 8 per cent.

In the international markets US dollar continued to maintain its firm tone against the Deutsche Mark after release of weaker than expected German economic reports which dashed hopes of Bundesbank's interest rate hike. Market players believe that the focus of the currency market will still be Yen against the dollar. Further depreciation of yen is not expected due to concerns that Bank of Japan may intervene to deal drastic depreciation of Yen. At 1745 hours local time US dollar traded at .8300/11 DEM, 129.77/89 Yen and GBP at 1.6668/1.6678 USD.

Three-day IJC session from tomorrow

A three-day 26th session of the International Jute Council (IJC) will begin in the capital tomorrow.

The State Minister for Jute, Faezul Huq, will inaugurate the session as chief guest at the International Conference Centre at 9:30 am, says an IJO press release.

Representatives from five exporting member countries of International Jute Organisation (IJO) and 21 importing members including EC will take part in the session.

The exporting members countries are: Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal and Thailand while the importing countries are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, UK, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, Norway, Switzerland and the European Community.

The Council will consider, among other things, the issue of the possible renegotiation of a successor agreement of the current International Agreement on Jute and Jute Products, 1989.

July-February period Exports from EPZs increase by 45pc

The enterprises of the country's Export Processing Zones exported goods worth 398.86 million US dollars equivalent to Tk 18,566.75 million during the first eight months (July-February) of the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The export earnings from the EPZs was 274.694 million US dollars during the same period of the previous fiscal showing an increase of about 45.20 per cent.

Of the total export earning, the share of the Chittagong Export-Processing Zone is 286.934 million US dollars while that of the Dhaka Export Processing Zone 111.922 million US dollars.

The exportable goods include textiles, electronics and electrical goods, garments, bicycle, footwear, furniture, terry towel, tent, sleeping bag and back pack, head wear, stuffed toy, knitted fabrics, marine/industrial parts, automobile parts, plastic granules, fishing

reel, golf shaft, camera lens, audio video tapes, artificial flower, pre-fabricated structure, travel bag, sports bag, ladies intimate garments, crystal blank, quartz crystal, padding and non-woven synthetic products, suits and blazer, said a Export Processing Zones Authority press release.

There are 81 industries Chittagong EPZ while in Dhaka EPZ 29 industries are in operation.

Tea prices fall further in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Mar 19: The prices of all grades of tea were further down with heavy withdrawal at the last weekly auction of the season held here yesterday, reports BSS.

According to brokers' sources today a few clean invoices available sold well with local buyers providing useful support.

Govt goes slow to get insurance funds for stock market

The authorities are yet to finalise the proposed amendments to the Insurance Act to enable the insurance companies to release funds for the ailing capital market, reports UNB.

The proposed amendments to the Insurance Act are still lying with the Ministry of Commerce, according to a councillor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

The DSE has been urging the Finance Minister to take the initiative for amending the Act quickly to help the capital market get funds from the insurance companies.

The DSE Council also suggested the Finance Ministry to "totally abolish the provision of tax on dividend income" to attract the investors to come forward in a bigger way.

"This will mean avoiding double taxation for the investors," said the DSE councillor.

"The DSE, he said, has proposed to reduce the corporate tax from the existing 35 per cent to 25-15 per cent under certain slabs.

"The tax, however, should be linked to dividend declared. The spirit should be: the higher the dividend, the lower the tax," he said.

According to the DSE proposal, the companies failing to declare dividend for two consecutive years will not be eligible for the tax incentive.

"To avail the tax slab, a minimum of 10 per cent dividend has to be declared," the member said.

Under the proposed slab, maximum tax will be 25 per cent and the difference of corporate tax between listed and non-listed companies should be a minimum of 20 per cent to bring a good number of non-listed companies to be listed in the DSE.

The non-listed companies will feel encouraged to come in the capital market because of the huge difference of the corporate tax between the listed and the non-listed ones," said the DSE member.

Moreover, the government revenue will increase in the form of higher revenue collection and a good number of glit-tered shares will be encouraged to come in the capital market.

In another suggestion, the DSE has proposed to allow the companies to buy back their shares from the market if the shares suffer setback in the market.

"In case of blue chips, this provision will enable the companies to get their share price stabilised and side by side the sellers will also get an opportunity to unload their shares," the member observed.

The DSE has requested the Finance Ministry to include a provision in the pension fund regulation, guiding the pension funds invested the capital market.

A proposal by the SEC and the Finance Ministry in this regard is said to be lying with the Law Ministry for months.

The DSE has proposed that the investors dealing in the secondary market should be exempted from disclosing the source of fund for investments above Tk 10 lakh.

The People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Department of Fisheries

Memo No Planning-2/404-96/27 Dated: 10-3-98

Notice

Subject: Short listing of NGOs interested in providing training to the rural communities in fish culture under the on-going Command Area Development Project, Part C: Small-scale fisheries development. ADB Loan No 1399-BAN(SF).

Letters of interest are invited from NGOs registered with the Directorate of Social Welfare/NGO Bureau and capable of organising the rural fish farmers into viable fish farmer groups and providing them with "hands on" training in locally suitable fish culture technologies and distributing culture inputs on credit. The activities will be limited to the Meghna-Dhonagoda Irrigation Project (MDIP) under Matlab thana, Chandpur district and Pabna Irrigation and Rural Development Project (PIRDP) covering Bera, Santhia and Sujanager thanas under Pabna district.

The culture waters include ponds and primary, secondary and tertiary canals within or associated with the project. The average production targeted for the aquaculture area is 3.2 t/ha/yr.

The aquaculture activities will aim at mitigating the adverse impacts on fish production within the project areas due to flood control structures constructed in the past. The major beneficiaries of aquaculture activities will be women, landless families, and other economically disadvantaged groups including traditional fishing families that have been most seriously affected by the flood control structures.

A team of 20-25 trainers including women trainers will be required for about 24 months to provide the planned services. One third of the posts is desired to be filled-up by suitably qualified and experienced female candidates. The minimum qualification requirements for the trainers are B.Sc (Hons) in Fisheries/M.Sc in Zoology/M.Sc in Marine Sciences. At least five years' practical experience in fish culture/farmers' group formation/gender issues/water area and socio-economic survey is essential. The trainers should be in such combinations that they can effectively provide training in pond culture, pen culture and cage culture technologies to the farmers. Two of the posts earmarked for female candidates will have to be Master degree holders in Marketing/Sociology/Statistics/Economics with proven high proficiencies in computer processing. The female candidates like the male candidates will be required to work in the rural areas.

The interested NGOs must have previous working experience in rural aquaculture, water area surveys and socio-economy related projects preferably within any flood-control, drainage and irrigation project. Preferences will be given to the NGOs already working within the project area.

The interested NGOs are requested to submit to the undersigned their letters of interest containing the following information on or before 31st March 1998, during the office hours:

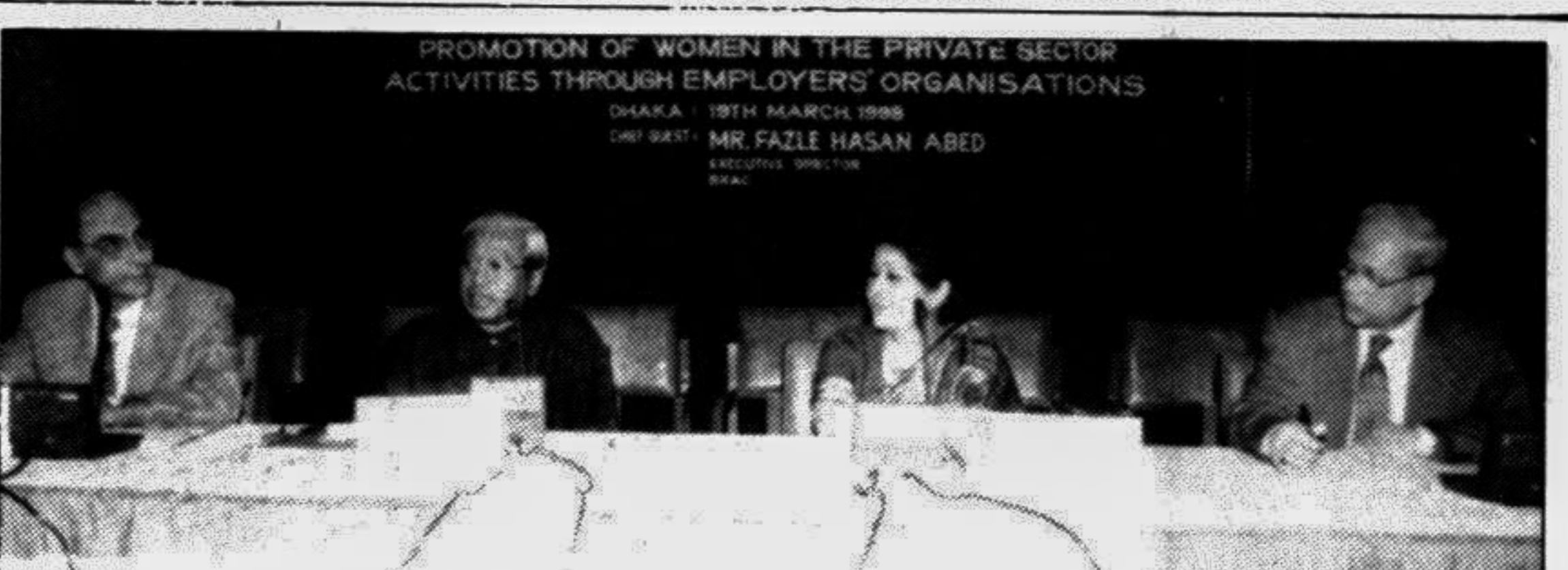
- Name and address of the NGO with registration/license number. The NGOs should have at least 5 years experience in Bangladesh.
- Year & place of establishment.
- List of similar works in hand and carried out during last 5 years with location and area coverage.
- Number of present and permanent professional staff.
- Key management personnel with qualifications.
- List of personnel likely to be deployed in the proposed work with their CV.
- List of logistic/resources available with the organisation.

The Department of Fisheries will prepare a short list of 3-5 NGOs who will be invited to submit their technical and financial proposal for consideration. The work may be assigned to 1 or 2 NGOs.

The terms of reference and the schedule of the work may be procured from the office of the undersigned during the office hours before March 25, 1998 on payment of a non-refundable amount of Tk 500.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the applications without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DFP-5844-16/3 Deputy Chief & Contract Officer (CAD) Department of Fisheries Matshya Bhaban, Dhaka.



Fazle Hasan Abed, Executive Director of BRAC, inaugurated a workshop on the 'Study and Assessment of Needs on Equal Opportunity Policies' organised by Bangladesh Employers' Association under the BEA-ILO Project at the BEA conference hall yesterday. Rokia A Rahman, president, BEA, and M A Hassanein, Director, ILO, Dhaka are also seen.

National Tubes declares 12.5 pc dividend

Star Business Report

National Tubes Limited has declared a 12.5 per cent cash dividend for its share-holders.

The dividend was announced at the 17th Annual General Meeting of the company held at its factory premises at Tongi yesterday, says a press release.

The meeting was presided over by the Chairman of the company, KAM Kamaluddin who is also Chairman of Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation.

The AGM approved the audited accounts of the company for the year ended on June 30, 1997, auditors' report and report of the directors.

The meeting also elected directors, and appointed auditor.

Emirates wins European travel award

For the sixth year in a row, Emirates has won the award for the "Best Airline to the Middle East" from TTT Europa, a newspaper with a circulation of 18,000 travel agents, says a press release.

The award was presented to Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of Emirates, by Stuart Baker, Publisher, at a ceremony during ITB, Berlin.

This brings the total number of Emirates' awards to 151.

Pre-budget discussion BCI suggests transparency in tax collection

Bangladesh Chamber of Industries has suggested transparency in collection of taxes and customs duties and simplification of the collection system to avoid tax evasion, reports UNB.

"Through the loopholes of present revenue collection system the maximum of the revenue goes into the pocket of corrupt officials," BCI president Sharif M Afjal Hossain told a pre-budget meeting with National Board of Revenue (NBR) on Wednesday.

The BCI president said the government would be deprived of revenue if the business community is under-handled through various bureaucratic and administrative complexities.

The delegation included Obaidur Rahman, Niaz Rahim, Golam Dastagir, Md Rajab Sharif, Anwar Kamal, Razia Hossain, M A Malik and Quazi A K Refaul Huq, said a BCI press release.

Standford becomes IBM distributor

Internationally reputed computer company IBM has appointed Standford Computers Ltd as distributor of its products in Bangladesh, reports UNB.



Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum (L), Emirates' chairman, receives the "Best Airline to the Middle East" award from TTT Europa's Stuart Baker at ITB Berlin.

The defaulting borrowers

Responding to a query from Jaina Abidin Hajari, MP, of the Awami League, Finance Minister S A M S Kibria placed in parliament on March 4 a list of defaulting borrowers as provided by the Credit Information Bureau, Bangladesh Bank. The list contains names of 2117 businesses having an overdue amount of at least one crore taka or above. Considering the reader interest, The Daily Star is publishing the list in phases.

520. M/S Praxis Ltd P.O Chandgaon, Kalurhat, Chittagong
521. M/S Padma Ship Breaking Ltd, 1080, Dhanulapara Dhaka, Trunk Road, Chittagong
522. M/S Jitu Knit Garments (Pvt) Ltd, Isdai, Fattullah, Narayanganj
523. M/S Eastern Tribune (Pvt) Ltd, 8/4A, Tophkhana Road, Dhaka
524. M/S Bangladesh Welding/Electrodes (Pvt) Lt, D/4, Solasahar I/A, Chittagong
525. M/S Rahat Realty Limited, House-10, Road 96, Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka
526. The Suppliers & Co, 50, New Airport Road, Dhaka
527. M/S Eastern Overseas Shipping Lines, 91, No Shamibag, Dhaka
528. M/S Sunjama Trading Co, 48/1, Zigatola, Dhaka
529. Security Management Company Ltd, 60/7D, Furana Palton, Dhaka
530. M/S Eastern Pharmaceutical Ltd, 16, Wary Street, Dhaka
531. Bangladesh Cycle Industries Ltd, 187-188, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka
532. M/S N. Rahmania Bangsapat & Veg, Ghee P. Ltd, Chittagong Chamber Building Agrabad C/A, Chittagong
533. M/S Sundarban Salt Industries, 31, B.K. Roy Road, Khulna
534. World Wide Jute Traders Elite House-54, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka
535. M/S Mollah & Co, 228, Hazl Ismail Link Road, Khulna
536. M/S Bengal Jute Limited, BSCIC Industrial Estate, Shiromoni, Khulna
537. M/S Harmuza Poultry Farm Ltd, Majdee, Noakhali
538. M/S Bionia International Ltd, Halim Vita H-No B-141, Lane-20, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka
539. BSCIC Jhumjhumur, Jessore.
540. Koohinoor Jute Mills Ltd, Norshingdi Near Bhatrab, Bazar, Norsingdi
541. Pharmalim Limited, Road No 2, House No 16, Banani, Dhaka
542. Janna Pictures Limited, Fulbari Gate, Khulna
543. Asia Begum, Village Sabulia PO, Sabulia, Murzapur, Tangail
544. Rafikat Garments Ltd, House No 76, Road, No 11, Block-D, Banani, Dhaka
545. M/S Bhai Bhai Enterprise, 261, Jagannath Shah Road, Dhaka
546. M/S Anjum Trading Corporation, 79, Hazaribagh Tannery Area, Hazaribagh, Dhaka
547. M/S Sherpur Bricks Manufacturers, Vill Ulipur, P.O. Sherpur, Bogra
548. M/S Hockson Tanneries Ltd, Baradi PO Jagati, Kushtia
549. M/S Froglies Export Ltd, Turm Khalishpur, Khulna
550. M/S Habib Partex, 372/D, Jurain, Dhaka
551. Moqular Rahman Jute Mills Ltd, N.R. J.M. Ltd, Barabkunda, Chittagong
552. M/S Shyampr Sugar Mills Ltd, Shyampr, Rangpur
553. M/S Mermaid Ltd, 112, M.S. Ali Road, Lal Khan Bazar Road, Chittagong
554. M/S Amin Agencies (1947) Ltd Guptakhal, Potenga, Chittagong
555. M/S Bionia International Ltd, Garib Nawaz Clinic Building (1st Floor), K.D.A. Avenue, Khulna
556. M/S Alya Knitting Col Ltd, 23, Green Road, Dhaka
557. Broadway Petrolium Carriers Ltd., 12, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.
558. Salma Traders, 20, Choto Bhabuganj, Narayanganj.
559. M/S Gawsia Jute Mills Ltd., 54/1, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.
560. Comilla Spinning Mills Ltd., Moja Gokkur, PS-Burichona, B'baria Road, Comilla.
561. Yaqub Limited, Sharif Mansion, 56-57, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
562. M/S Mohiuddin Metal Industries, Dakkin Bazar, Chowmuhani, Noakhali.
563. M/S Hafiz Tanneries Ltd., 657, Atarupuri, Chittagong.
564. M/S Samal Ansh Trading (Pvt) Ltd., Vill-Sahapur, PO-Karetoy, Faridong, Chandpur.
565. The Lungla (Syhet) Tea Co., Comilla House, 22, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka.
566. K K International, 214, New DOHS, 13, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
567. Naaz Metal Industries, 112, Industrial Area, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
568. M/S Mag Paper Industries Ltd., 14/1, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka.
569. Kirk Bangladesh Ltd., 14-15, Kawan Bazar C/A, Dhaka.
570. M/S Malik-Re-Rolling Mills Ltd., Nasirabad I/A, Chittagong.
571. M/S Mirzabeco Streets, 100, Chatterwari Road, Chittagong.
572. M/S Stefania Garments Pvt Ltd., 336/1 Kazipara, Begum Rockeya Sarani, Mirpur, Dhaka.
573. M/S Roots Plantation Ltd., 62-63, Motijheel C/A, Amin Court (7th Floor), Dhaka.
574. Shishir Garments Ltd., 7-8, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.
575. M/S International Tannery I/1, Sonatonghar, Rayer Bazar, Dhaka.
576. M/S Janapriya Rice Mills Ltd., Dineshgonj, Zamindarhat, Noakhali.
577. M/S Eastern Jute Mills Ltd., Aira Industrial Area, Khulna.
578. M/S Lucky Engineering Works, Sunanganj Bazar, Sylhet.
579. M/S Highspeed Shipbuilding Heavy Engg. Co., 103, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
580. M/S Orient Jute Trading Co. Ltd., 59, Dhanmondi R/A, Road No. 7 (A) (old M), Dhaka.
581. M/s M R Tannery, 48, Bhagalpur Lane, Nawabgonj, Dhaka.
582. M/s Joint Enterprise, Noapara Bazar, Jessore.
583. M/s A Latif Enterprise, 27, Uttara C/A, Sec. 3, Road, 7, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka.
584. M/s Karnafully Jute Mills Ltd., Corporation, Rangunia, Chittagong.
585. M/s Rational Garments Industries (Pvt) Ltd., 255/2, Shantibagh, Dhaka.
586. M/s Ayub Brothers Tannery Ltd., 143/1 Haza Bagh, Dhaka.
587. M/s Sundarban Fisheries (Pvt) Ltd, Bani Vela, 62, Khanjahan Ali Road, Dhaka.
588. M/s Samata Twisting Industries (Pvt) Ltd, Vill-Noapara, PO-Tarabo, PS-Rupgonj, Narayanganj.
589. Romic Agencies, 193/F, Fakirapal Road (3rd floor) Motijheel, Dhaka.
590. M/s Aby (Pvt) Ltd., 129, Jubilee Road, Chittagong.
591. Dhaka Property Dev. (Pvt) Ltd., 14-15, Kawan Bazar, Dhaka.
592. M/s Sunrise Trading Co., 28, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
593. M/s Chandana Cinema Pvt. Ltd., Joydevpur, Gazipur.
594. M/s Khulna Sea Foods Ltd., 11, Repoti Mohan Road, Dampara, Chittagong.
595. Adon's Garments Ltd., 69/A, Green Road, Dhaka.
596. M/s Moulana Bashir Cold Storage Ltd., Dhap (West of Policefar), Rangpur.
597. M/s Khan Pura Tex Mill (Pvt) Ltd., Prem Bagjan, Gawair, PO-Azampur, Dhaka.
598. M/s Sun Rise Corporation Limited, 17, DC Roy Road, Dhaka.
599. M/s H Bhutyan and Sons, CWN (A) 3, Gulshan, Dhaka.
600. M/S Semab Garments International, 5/5, Lalmatia, Dhaka
601. M/S Chowdhury & Co, 926/2, Shahidbag, Dhaka.

To be continued