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### Employment Bank branch opens in Shariatpur

UNB, Shariatpur

In an effort to help generate self-employment opportunities for the unemployed educated youth, a branch of Employment Bank has been opened here.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak formally inaugurated the branch as chief guest Tuesday, said an official here.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the bank was established in 1998 with an initial capital of Tk 10 crore.

The bank has so far opened 61 branches across the country and disbursed over Tk 37 crore among 15,000 educated and trained unemployed youths, he said.

### Emirates leads way with on-board health

Emirates, the Dubai-based international airline, has become the world's first air carrier to respond to current, world-wide fears about deep vein thrombosis (DVT) by providing every passenger on its long-haul flights with an exercise device proven to boost blood circulation in the legs, says a press release.

At its global launch Wednesday in London, Emirates was welcomed as the first customer for Airogym, a scientifically-tested device which has been developed specifically to tackle DVT.

Leading vascular surgeon John Scurr has conducted clinical trials of the Airogym which show that the device increases blood flow through deep veins by up to 50 per cent, thus reducing the risk of blood clots being formed.

Award-winning Emirates, which operates to 57 destinations in 40 countries, will give Airogym free of charge to all passengers travelling on its long-haul routes.

Emirates' Head of Medical Services, Dr Alasdair Beaton, said

# ICB in stock brokering any registration

**M SHAMSUR RAHMAN**

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB), the single largest institutional investors in the country, has been doing stock brokering business without any registration for the last two years.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has recently asked Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) to explain how the Corporation was allowed in trade without any valid papers.

Currently two stock brokerage houses - ICB and Mohammadullah & Sabbir Co - are trading on the bourse without any SEC registration.

Based on its findings of the securities law violation probe, the SEC cancelled the registration of

Mohammadullah & Sabbir, but Sabbir went to court which asked the Commission to maintain a status quo until disposal of the case.

The SEC then informed Dhaka bourse about the court order and directed it to withdraw the cancellation order and allow the member to trade.

On April 27, 1998, the SEC made it mandatory that the members would have to renew their registration on a yearly basis, but sources said that ICB never renewed its licenses.

ICB claims that it is guided by its own ordinance of 1976 and there is no requirement for renewal of the registration on a yearly basis. "We however have asked the SEC to exempt us from

# Poultry, egg prices shoot up as smuggling hits local production

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Prices of chicken and eggs have increased by 31 per cent and 33 per cent respectively over the past two weeks due to inadequate supply.

"We used to sell broiler chicken at Tk 65 to Tk 70 per kg two weeks back, but now the price is Tk 85 per kg," said a retailer at Mirpur. Eggs were selling at Tk 32 to Tk 33 per dozen two weeks back, but the price now stands at Tk 42 to Tk 45 per dozen depending on the sizes, retailers said.

The recent price spiral followed a sudden influx of smuggled chicken and eggs that ultimately pulled down prices. As a result,

small poultry farmers faced huge capital losses.

As the small farmers could not continue their production, it hit the normal supply chain. Besides, big producers and whole-sellers who control the market are also cashing in on the heated market.

On the other hand, recent marathon hantals put the supply chain in disarray.

"It takes 21 days to hatch eggs. The producers have to supply day-old chicks to the farmers within a very short time. But in case of 60-hour or 72-hour hantals, the hatcheries cannot supply the same to farmers in the remote areas. As a result, producers are left with no option but to destroy the day-old

chicks, which causes huge losses to companies and subsequently shoots prices," said ABM Shafulah, General Manager of Kazi Farms Limited.

Besides, poultry feed, which is imported, is comparatively costlier in the country. Neighbouring India, which enjoys price advantage because of local feed production, thus becomes a major source of smuggled chicken and eggs.

"Poultry feed costs Tk 7 to Tk 7.50 per kg in India. But it is around Tk 12 per kg in our country because 80 per cent of it is imported," said Shafulah.

The poultry sub-sector is growing at 20 per cent annually and the demand for feed is going up with the increase in commercial poultry production.

"It is high time that the government should formulate a policy for the poultry sector and poultry feed should be produced locally," said an expert.

There are some 73 hatcheries in the country with 1.69 million parent stocks, producing 3.33 million commercial day-old chicks weekly.

Last year, the number of poultry farms stood at around 80,000, employing around three million people directly or indirectly. Twenty per cent of the farms have been rearing 1,000 to 50,000 birds and the rests are small-scale ventures with 100 to 1,000 birds.

# Economic situation worries UN body UNCTAD urges major powers to boost global growth

**REUTERS, Geneva**

The United Nations' trade forum warned yesterday that the world economic situation could worsen significantly without bold and coordinated action from major powers to boost growth.

In particular, the UN conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said the European Union needed to take up some of the strain from the United States which had been the motor for international growth in recent years.

"UNCTAD sees mounting downside risks for the world economy. Bolder policies from, and cooperation among, the major

economies will be needed to stop the global situation deteriorating further," it said in its annual report for 2001.

"Without determined policy responses everywhere, the downside risks (to the world economy) are considerable," it added.

The body noted that the European Union was reluctant to follow the United States and cut interest rates to prevent growth stalling because it believed that the 15-state bloc would still achieve economic expansion of some 2.5 per cent this year.

But UNCTAD said that such growth was below Europe's potential - which it saw at some four per cent. It added that without

# Japan lifts ban on EU pork, mutton

**AP, Tokyo**

The government Wednesday lifted a ban on imports of pork and mutton from a limited number of EU nations after determining that there was a reduced risk of foot-and-mouth disease entering Japan.

The lifting of the ban came one month after Japan suspended imports of pork, mutton and their processed products from the European Union on March 23 to keep foot-and-mouth disease out of the country, said Agriculture Ministry spokesman Takehisa Yamamoto.

Yamamoto said imports will be allowed from Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Austria, effective Wednesday.

The decision was made after assessing a report compiled by

Japanese specialists who had surveyed the affected EU nations in the past month, Yamamoto said.

"We assessed that the risk of foot-and-mouth disease spreading into Japan would be very small, even if the ban was lifted," Yamamoto said.

The ministry also took into consideration various opinions from a group of Japanese veterinarians in deciding on the partial lifting of the ban.

Japan also will allow imports from Britain and the Netherlands on condition that three weeks pass after butchered pork and mutton and other processed meat are quarantined there, he said.

Japan will continue to ban imports from Germany, Italy, Belgium, and Spain, however, because of a lack of sufficient data to change the ban, Yamamoto said.

# CURRENCY

The following are yesterday's Sonali Bank dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies with Bangladesh Taka.

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	TT & OD	BC	TT Clean	OD Slight
USD 1=B Tk	54.2100	54.2600	53.8500	53.6000
GBP 1=B Tk	77.8880	77.9598	76.9580	76.6865
Euro 1=B Tk	48.6352	48.6801	47.8047	47.6361
DM 1=B Tk	24.8613	24.8942	24.4393	24.3531
FRF 1=B Tk	7.4127	7.4195	7.2869	7.2612
CAD 1=B Tk	35.1831	35.2156	34.5794	34.4574
CHF 1=B Tk	31.7600	31.7893	31.2169	31.1066
YEN 1=B Tk	0.4484	0.4488	0.4364	0.4349

TT (DOC) Spot Buying is Tk 53.7550

Usance rate as under:

30 Days DA	60 Days DA	90 Days DA	120 Days DA	180 Days DA
53.2965	52.8478	52.3990	51.9503	51.0528

Indicative Rates: (B Tk for one unit of foreign currency)

Currency	Selling (TT & OD)	Buying (OD Transfer)
Saudi Rial 1=	Tk 14.4552	Tk 14.2800
UAE Dirham 1=	Tk 14.7611	Tk 14.5801
Kuwaiti Dinar 1=	Tk 176.7525	Tk 174.3490
D Guilder 1=	Tk 21.9554	Tk 21.6824
S Krona 1=	Tk 5.3126	Tk 5.2453
Malaysian Ring 1=	Tk 14.2677	Tk 14.0929
Singapore Dollar 1=	Tk 29.9090	Tk 29.5340

**Day's Market - April 25, 2001**

Indices: CSE All Share Price Index: 1,341.72  
Change in Price Index: 1.144-  
Total Turnover (Taka): 47,596,691.50  
Total Turnover (Volume): 2,138,847  
Number of Contract: 3,025  
Total Traded Issues: 64  
No. of Issue Gains: 58  
No. of Issue Loss: 3  
No. of Unchanged Issue: 3  
Market Cap. (Taka): 56,944,641,874  
Market Cap. (USD): 1,054,530,405  
Total No. of Listed Securities: 167  
Total No. of Listed Companies: 153  
Total No. of Listed Mutual Fund: 4  
Total No. of Listed Debiture: 4  
Total No. of Share & Debiture: 414,612,267  
Total Issued Capital: 27,095,487,000  
Price Earning Ratio: 8.64  
Earning Per Share (EPS): 28.86

**6 days CSE Index Turnover**

**6 days DSE Index Turnover**

**TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES**

Company	FV ML (Tk No.)	Price	Turnover	Price Scale	Use Last	Last EPS	DPS
		Closing	Chg/Pre/Post	Share	Avg. High/Low	AGM (Tk)	(%)
<b>BANK</b>							
IFC Bank Ltd.	100.5	213.00	5.97	201.00	5	213.00	213.00
Islamic Bank Bangladesh Ltd.	100.0	124.00	0.02	59.00	63	242.77	240.00/241.00
National Bank Ltd.	100.20	230.00	-6.12	245.00	12	246.02	251.25/230.00
Al-Azhar Islamic Bank	100.05	477.00	1.97	144.50	30	1473.81	1427.00/150.00
Prime Bank Ltd.	100.00	310.00	0.00	310.00	30	310.00	310.00
Southeast Bank Ltd.	100.50	247.75	2.38	242.00	40	244.43	248.00/243.25
Dhaka Bank Ltd.	100.50	355.00	0.79	351.00	80	351.13	358.00/355.00
Ujjan Bank Ltd.	100.50	165.00	1.85	162.00	143.50	164.00	163.50/162.50
<b>INVESTMENT</b>							
IMC FV	125.00	0.98	1.03	0.97	1775.00	0.98	0.98
<b>ENGINEERING</b>							
BD Autocon Ltd.	100.5	49.75	9.27	18.00	37	19.95	20.00/19.75
Quasem Drydocks Ltd.	100.50	18.00	2.12	18.40	203.00	18.70	18.80/18.40
Eastern Engineering Ltd.	100.50	21.00	1.75	22.50	18.00	23.11	23.20/22.90
<b>FOOD &amp; ALLIED</b>							
Chittagong Vegetable	100.10	68.50	1.80	67.25	18.00	68.17	68.50/67.00
Bengal Biscuits Ltd.	100.20	46.75	5.06	44.50	11.00	46.69	47.00/45.75
Heavenly Shrimp	100.20	118.75	0.64	118.00	240	118.77	119.50/118.50
Ragat Ice (bd) Ltd.	100.50	12.40	3.31	12.00	423.00	12.59	12.40/12.10
Mona Food Ltd. Ltd.	100.50	49.00	0.00	49.00	15.00	49.00	49.00
Ujjan Food & Ice	100.50	9.70	2.11	9.50	115.00	9.66	9.70/9.60
<b>FUEL &amp; POWER</b>							
BOC (BD) Ltd.	100.50	105.00	2.94	102.00	200	105.00	105.00
Bangladesh Welding	100.50	7.40	7.25	6.00	75.00	7.29	7.40/6.90
<b>TEXTILE</b>							
Ashtor Textile Ltd.	100.50	9.50	3.26	9.20	80.00	9.50	9.50
Saham Textile Ltd.	100.5	73.00	4.20	70.00	30	73.50	73.00/72.00
Elite Star Textile Ltd.	100.50	5.20	6.00	5.00	100	5.20	5.30/5.10
Padma Textile Mills Ltd.	100.20	23.00	0.00	23.00	20	23.00	23.00
Dynasty Textile	100.20	70.50	3.68	68.00	390	70.15	70.75/69.00
Mita Textiles Ltd.	100.50	50.00	8.11	42.50	100	50.00	50.00
Doba Mills Ltd.	100.20	45.00	3.78	46.25	60	45.00	48.00
Apex Weaving & Fins.	100.50	75.75	1.00	75.00	65	75.42	75.75/75.00
Beclima Textiles Ltd.	100.50	125.75	0.60	125.00	100	125.75	125.75
Beclima Denims Ltd.	100.50	177.50	1.47	175.00	100	177.50	177.50
Prime Textile Ltd.	100.50	83.00	1.44	81.50	180	82.92	83.00/82.50
Chic Text Ltd.	100.50	7.80	2.63	7.60	120.00	7.83	7.90/7.70
Alca Industries Ltd.	100.50	83.25	1.83	81.75	43.50	83.05	83.50/82.25
Arifina Yarn & Dyng	100.50	109.00	3.81	105.00	100	108.00	109.00/107.00
H.R. Textile Ltd.	100.50	86.00	0.88	85.25	100	86.00	86.00
<b>PHARMA &amp; CHEM.</b>							
Pharma	100.50	45.70	4.52	46.00	100	45.50	45.30/44.50
Beclima Pharma	100.50	60.50	1.52	59.00	40	60.00	60.00
ACI Limited	100.50	55.80	1.27	55.10	170.00	55.48	55.50/55.00
Reckitt Benckiser (BD) Ltd.	100.50	82.00	3.60	79.00	350	81.74	82.00/81.50
Arifina Pharma Ltd.	100.50	136.00	3.76	133.00	20	133.00	136.00
Square Pharma	100.20	412.00	6.06	400.00	120	411.46	412.75/409.50
Pharma Chemicals Ltd.	100.50	48.00	4.35	46.00	65	47.48	48.00/47.00
<b>PAPER &amp; PACKAGING</b>							
Padma Paper Mills Ltd.	100.50	89.00	15.58	73.00	200	89.00	89.00
<b>SERVICE</b>							
Silpaapatti Holdings	100.5	65.00	5.69	61.50	102.00	63.92	65.00/61.00
Eastern Housing Ltd.	100.20	114.75	6.88	113.75	80.00	114.19	114.75/114.00
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>							
Apex Tannery Ltd.	100.5	162.50	2.36	158.75	35.00	162.00	163.00/159.25
BEKIMCO Ltd.	100.50	49.30	2.71	48.00	200	49.30	49.30
Chittagong Cement	100.5	114.75	1.26	113.00	655	113.51	120.00/113.00
Legacy Cement Ltd.	100.20	479.00	3.78	464.25	30	473.38	479.00/466.00
Meghna Cement Ltd.	100.50	174.25	1.11	167.00	200	173.50	174.25
BD Luggage Ltd.	100.50	42.25	-3.98	44.00	100	42.25	42.25/41.50
Standard Ceramic Ltd.	100.50	120.00	20.00	150.00	300	120.00	120.00
Paragon Leather	100.50	34.25	1.48	33.75	140	33.75	34.00
Nitro Cement Ind. Ltd.	100.50	248.50	6.01	247.00	700	251.16	254.25/248.50
Rose Heaven Ball Pen	100.50	15.50	2.65	15.10	475.00	15.41	15.60/15.20
Flowing Cement Ltd.	100.50	163.75	2.34	160.00	100	162.85	163.75/162.00
Arifina Cement Ind. Ltd.	100.50	275.25	4.26	264.00	100	275.25	275.25
Samata Textile	100.50	82.00	0.00	82.00	126.00	84.98	85.00/82.00
Sonabangla Industries Ltd.	100.50	23.00	0.88	22.80	240.00	23.99	23.00/22.80
Legacy Footwear Ltd.	100.50	6.40	6.25	6.40	45.00	6.23	6.80/6.60
Wigat Industries Ltd.	100.50	13.80	2.99	13.40	34.00	13.75	13.80
Master Data Management	100.50	15.00	1.35	14.80	112.50	14.92	15.00/14.70
<b>INSURANCE</b>							
Prime Insurance Co. Ltd.	100.50	130.00	1.96	127.50	185.00	129.31	130.00/128.50

**Turnover Leaders**

Company	Vol. (M. Tk.)	Value (M. Tk.)	% of Total
<b>Chittagong Stock Exchange</b>			
Rose Heaven Ball Pen	479,500	7,389	11.52
Beclima Pharma	92,550	5,581	11.73
Quasem Drydocks Ltd.	293,800	5,494	11.54
Raspi Ltd (bd) Ltd.	442,000	5,432	11.41
Miracle Industries Ltd.	343,000	4,716	9.91
National Bank Ltd.	12,794	3,194	6.71
NCC Bank Ltd.	13,150	2,158	4.37
Raspi Data Management	112,500	1,679	3.55
Dhaka Bank Ltd.	5,050	1,288	2.71
Southeast Bank Ltd.	4,900	1,203	