

# BB asks banks to reorganise boards with professionals

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Bank has asked the commercial banks to reorganise their boards in line with new requirements to bring in professionally sound persons in the banks' policy making bodies to protect depositors' interests.

The number of directors in a bank board will not exceed 13, but the banks having more than 13 directors in their boards can continue with them until their current tenure ends, the central bank said in a circular yesterday.

The circular bars more than one from a same family from becoming directors of same board.

The quality for being a director will be measured as per standards set by Basel Committee on Banking Supervision of Switzerland-based Bank for International Settlements.

The circular for forming boards of banks and defining the eligibility of directors has been issued as per authority given under section 45(1) of Bank Company Act 1991, the central bank circular said.

In line with the Bank Company (amendment) Act 2003, the central bank has also barred someone from serving as a director for more than six years in two consecutive terms. The directors, who

have already passed six years, will not remain as directors after the next general meeting, the circular said.

Governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed told a business audience last week that the banks would see a series of reforms aimed at improving management and corporate governance. The new guidelines regarding the bank boards are among the series hinted by the governor, central bank officials said.

Board of Directors must be manned with qualified and professionally skilled people to protect the interests of both the shareholders and the depositors, the central bank circular said.

# Electronics, IT fair draws huge crowd

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The First National Electronics and IT Exhibition in Dhaka attracted a huge crowd yesterday, the concluding day of the three-day event.

According to the exhibition authorities, as many as ten thousand visitors, including a large number of students from city schools visited the exhibition held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

A total of 70 organisations, of which six from abroad, took part in the exhibition. The local participating companies included electronics and software firms as well educational institutes.

Several companies presented new products at the exhibition. Flora Limited brought new colour printers and scanners while Asmat Group displayed mosquito and insect exhaust fans.

A number of companies also offered special discounts to buyers on prices.

Officials of participating companies at different stalls expressed their satisfaction over the response from enthusiastic visitors.

Navana electronics, Micro, Sepon,

Rahimafrooz, Power Sonic displayed their locally produced electronics goods such as uninterrupted power system (UPS), voltage stabilisers and other electronics goods.

In the exhibition, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) displayed its nuclear instruments, medical instruments, industrial instruments and home appliances. BAEC home appliances included PC-based renogramme, PC-based thyroid uptake, traffic light, area radiation monitor and MIS software.

Public and private universities, including Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University and North South University, also took part in the exhibition.

At the stall of Computer Science Department of Dhaka University, students demonstrated some new software such as library management system and inventory management.

A seminar titled "Problems and Prospects of Electronic Industries of Bangladesh" was held at the exhibition venue yesterday.



PHOTO: RANCON MOTORS

A Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Rangs Group, inaugurates a weeklong Mercedes-Benz service campaign on Thursday in Dhaka.

## Rancon starts Mercedes-Benz service week

Rancon Motors Limited, a sister concern of Rangs Group, started its first weeklong Mercedes-Benz service campaign from Thursday, says a press release.

This free service campaign includes all the service works, which are carried out to keep customers' vehicles in optimum running condition.

Chairman of Rangs Group A Rouf Chowdhury inaugurated the Mercedes-Benz service campaign at the Rancon service centre in Dhaka.

Rancon Motors, distributor of DaimlerChrysler AG of Gremany for both passenger cars and commercial vehicles, organised the campaign in association with DaimlerChrysler.

Bernhard Appeltauer, technical expert of DaimlerChrysler, has come to Bangladesh to provide guidance and take special care of Mercedes-Benz vehicles during the service campaign.

Executive Vice-Chairperson Zakia Rouf Chowdhury and Managing Director of Rancon Motors Romo Rouf Chowdhury were present.

Rancon Motors intends to hold two service campaigns every year.

# Staff rescue American Airlines

REUTERS, Dallas/Chicago

American Airlines averted an imminent bankruptcy filing for the third time in a month as its flight attendants agreed Friday to a concessions deal aimed at keeping the world's largest carrier out of Chapter 11.

The decision from the Association of Professional Flight Attendants to accept a revised proposal from American parent AMR Corp helped

cap a turbulent few days at the carrier that included the resignation of Chief Executive Don Carty, appointment of a successor, and an earnings report that showed AMR lost over \$1 billion in the first quarter.

Shares of AMR jumped to their highest level of the week on news of the agreement with flight attendants, but tapered off later in the day in a down market. AMR stock closed at \$4.40, up nearly 9 per cent, on the

New York Stock Exchange, where it was the most actively traded issue.

Carty resigned under pressure on Thursday after employees rebelled over his failure to inform them of executive bonuses and pensions before they voted on concessions. Sources had said the airline may file for bankruptcy within days if it could not get the union that represents flight attendants to agree to the revised concession deal.

## Dhaka Bank opens branch in Sirajganj

Dhaka Bank Limited opened a new branch at Belkuchi in Sirajganj on Thursday, says a press release.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood inaugurated the branch.

Chairman of Bangladesh Press Council Md Mozammel Hoque was present as special guest.

Chairman of the bank ATM Hayatuzzaman Khan, founder Chairman Abdul Hai Sarker, Managing Director Shahed Noman and other directors were also present.



PHOTO: DHAKA BANK

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood inaugurates a branch of Dhaka Bank Limited at Belkuchi in Sirajganj on Thursday. Bangladesh Press Council Chairman Md Mozammel Hoque, Dhaka Bank Chairman ATM Hayatuzzaman Khan and founder chairman of the bank Abdul Hai Sarker were present.

# US, Vietnam sign textile agreement

AFP, Hanoi

The United States and Vietnam have signed an agreement to cap the volume of Vietnamese textile exports to the United States, the US embassy in Hanoi said Saturday.

The deal was signed in Washington late Friday between officials from the US Trade Representative, an executive arm of the White House, and Vietnam's trade ministry, a US embassy spokesman said.

Under the quota agreement, the total value of Vietnamese exports to the United States will be capped at around 1.7 billion dollars per year, according to sources close to the negotiations.

Further details were to be released later Saturday in Washington, but a summary of the deal said the agreed quotas for the list of textile items will grow by between two and seven per cent per year.

## CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Selling		Currency	Buying		
TT/OD	BC		TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
58.9500	59.0000	USD	58.0000	57.8296	57.7604
66.0535	66.1095	EUR	63.1330	62.9476	62.8722
94.7798	94.8602	GBP	91.5124	91.2436	91.1344
37.1444	37.1759	AUD	35.0378	34.9349	34.8931
0.4947	0.4951	JPY	0.4779	0.4765	0.4759
43.6408	43.6778	CHF	42.2494	42.1253	42.0749
7.1985	7.2046	SEK	6.9468	6.9264	6.9181
40.9347	40.9694	CAD	39.8324	39.7154	39.6679
7.5854	7.5718	HKD	7.4291	7.4073	7.3984
33.1739	33.2020	SGD	32.3841	32.2890	32.2504
16.1808	16.1946	AED	15.6638	15.6178	15.5991
15.8451	15.8585	SAR	15.3439	15.2988	15.2805

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak. Rupee	Lankan Rupee	Thai Baht	Norwegian Kroner	NZ Dollar	Malaysian Ringit
47.32	57.7	96.995	43.005	7.0786	0.5543	3.80

Local Interbank FX Trading:

The local interbank foreign exchange market was subdued Saturday as the international market was closed. Dollar remained steady and ended unchanged against the Bangladeshi taka.

Local Money Market:

Demand for call money was moderate. The call money rates remained almost unchanged. At the close, call rates ranged between 7.50 and 8.00 per cent compared with 7.75-8.00 per cent previously.

International Market:

International market was closed on Saturday. The dollar stabilised on Friday, recovering some

ground against major currencies despite the decline in US stocks as traders' focus shifted increasingly to the impact of the new virus-borne ailment SARS. The single currency traded at a global session high of 132.94 yen, its strongest since May 1999. Late Friday afternoon in New York, the dollar was trading at 120.16 yen, up 0.16 per cent. Against the Swiss franc, the dollar was flat at 1.3612 francs. Against the single European currency, the dollar remained virtually steady at around \$1.1035.

At the closing of New York on Friday, euro was at 1.1035/41, GBP at 1.5918/25 and yen at 120.16/22 against the dollar.

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## STOCK