

Refrigerator

Whirlpool

TRANSOM ELECTRONICS

Dhaka: 810163, 9882192, 9896285, 9569613
Chittagong: 637669, 653758, 66215
Khulna: 720304, 723695

Star

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Freezers

Whirlpool

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Holiday fever pushes Ctg port to gridlock

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Slow delivery of containers from the dockyards during the Eid vacation gave a rise to congestion at Chittagong Port.

Port sources said that some 17,000 containers remained stockpiled occupying all the yards and even the passages inside the port till yesterday.

Meanwhile, another six vessels have berthed at the port and are waiting to offload 1259 more containers, the sources added.

Normally the port yards have a space and storage capacity for 14,000 containers, they mentioned.

Delivery of containers to and from the port was very low in the last seven days including the days before and after the three-day Eid holidays, which has led to the situation, sources said.

Banking transaction at the branches of concerned banks at the port was open till 8:00pm on the evening before Eid day while it resumed on the day after Eid.

The delivery during this period was very little, sources said adding that some 200 containers were delivered outside the port on Monday and some 400 yesterday.

Usually delivery of around 1,000 containers are expected daily to keep the port free from congestion, sources said.

Dhaka, Delhi air link set to grow

MABDUR RAHIM

Air link between Bangladesh and India is expected to see a major growth as airlines of the two countries are planning to increase flight frequency and number of new destinations across the border.

Without major expansion in Bangladesh for many years, Indian Airlines mulls to introduce direct flights between the two capitals. The state-owned airline currently connects Kolkata with Dhaka.

Another state-run airline Air India is also considering introducing London-Dhaka flights via Kolkata.

Indian Airlines sources say the Indian High Commission in Dhaka recently asked the Indian Airlines and Air India to introduce more flights to Bangladesh and the High Commission's move has prompted the two national flag carriers to consider more flights to Bangladesh.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) recently permitted the leading Indian private airline Jet Airways to operate flights to Bangladesh. Caab sources said India currently enjoys 30 flight frequen-

cies but it utilises below 10 a week.

Aviation sources say another Indian private carrier Air Sahara is also considering to make its foray into Bangladesh. As India state-run carriers utilise less frequencies than what is in place, the Indian private airlines are eager to capture the untapped market.

Habibullah Khan, director (air transport and regulations) of Caab, said Bangladesh and Indian air transport regulators will sit soon with a view to revising the existing air service agreement (ASA) to boost air connections.

He said the consultation meeting may take place sometime after the Sarsu summit in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's private carrier GMG Airlines has already started flights to India. Having launched with Chittagong-Kolkata flights on September 8 in 2004, GMG also started flights on Dhaka-Kolkata route from December 31 last year.

The lone surviving private carrier has sought revision of the ASA, which stops its operation of flights to Chennai. The airline has also the plan to explore more

Indian points.

GMG Managing Director Shahab Sattar said the present ASA allows a Bangladeshi airline to operate flights only to New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai. If the ASA is not revised, Bangladeshi carriers cannot fly to Chennai and other Indian destinations.

The Indian government has recently given permission to GMG Airlines Ltd to operate flights between Dhaka and Indian cities of Mumbai and Chennai. Welcoming the decision, GMG officials say now the both governments need to revise the ASA for private sector growth in aviation.

Both Indian and Bangladesh governments pursue open sky policy. In line with the liberal policy, Indian government allows its private carriers Jet Airways and Air Sahara to fly overseas.

Apart from opening international routes to local private airlines, Bangladesh government also allows foreign private carriers to fly to Bangladeshi destinations. Nepalese private airline Cosmic Airlines recently launched flights on Kathmandu-Dhaka route.

Bangladesh to host Asia pharma expo

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh will host the second Asia pharmaceuticals exposition in Dhaka on February 16-18 with the local pharmaceutical industries eyeing the Middle Eastern markets to give a big boost to their earnings, industry insiders and official sources said yesterday.

Over 250 companies and organisations from 22 countries, including Bangladesh, will join the exposition at Bangladesh-China Conference Centre in Dhaka.

"Our earnings from pharmaceutical exports was Tk 300 crore in 2004, but this year we have a target to earn at least Tk 600 crore," said an official at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which works as a catalyst to promote medicine exports.

The export target may cross up to Tk 1,000 crore if the Saudi delegation visits Bangladesh during the exposition, the official said, adding Bangladesh kept its negotiations with Saudi Arabia to offer quality drugs at cheaper prices. Saudi Arabia imports pharmaceuticals worth Tk 1,500 crore annually, mostly from the USA.

Around 30 Bangladeshi companies export medicines to 60 countries, but the country has almost zero export to the Middle East, excepting Iraq.

During the upcoming exhibition, developed nations, including the G-7 countries, will showcase their medical equipment, while China, India and some other countries will display raw materials.

New rules for Indian pvt carriers on int'l route

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

In a bid to keep less-serious private air carriers out of international routes, the Indian government has decided to ban them from flying to a particular foreign route for two years if they fail to comply with the rights granted for that route.

The entitlements to foreign routes would also be reviewed if eligible airlines try to corner maximum international sectors by cutting down their domestic operations.

These conditions were part of the new guidelines the Indian civil aviation ministry officials conveyed at a meeting with senior representatives of state-owned Air India, Indian Airlines and private carriers Air Sahara and Jet Airways here on Sunday.

The Indian government on December 29 last year decided to allow private carriers to fly beyond Saarc destinations in order to cover Europe, the US and South-East Asia but the lucrative Persian Gulf destinations were reserved for Air India and Indian Airlines at least for three years.

The four airlines that qualify to operate on international routes have already submitted their operational plans for the next summer and winter.

However, the government has sought from Air Sahara and Jet Airways details about their operational plans such as size and number of aircraft and maintenance facilities at foreign destinations before giving the final clearance to fly abroad.

BOC declares 50 pc dividend

BOC Bangladesh Limited, the industrial oxygen supplier company, has declared a 50 percent dividend for its shareholders for the year ended on September 30, 2004.

The announcement came at the annual general meeting of the company yesterday in Dhaka with Chairman M Syedur Rahman in the chair, says a press release.



Chairman of BOC Bangladesh Ltd M Syedur Rahman speaks at the 32nd annual general meeting of the company in Dhaka yesterday. Directors and managing director of the company were also present at the AGM.

TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES January 25, 2005

Company	FV/ML (Tk.No)	DSE			CSE			Financial Performance			Company	FV/ML (Tk.No)	DSE			CSE		
		Closing	Price Change % Pre Day	Turnover Share	Closing	Price Change % Pre Day	Turnover Share	Last AGM (TPK) CDS	Closing	Price Change % Pre Day			Turnover Share	Closing	Price Change % Pre Day	Turnover Share		
BANK																		
AB Bank Ltd.	100.5	345.75	-1.28	350.25	405	340.00	0.00	340.00	5	10/11/04	3.46	---	---	---	---	---	---	
City Bank Ltd.	100.5	800.25	-2.08	817.25	60	780.00	Not Traded	---	---	28/04/03	5.56	---	---	---	---	---	---	
UB Bank Ltd.	100.5	332.00	-2.18	351.25	155	420.50	Not Traded	---	---	07/12/04	15.78	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Islami Bank BD Ltd.	100.5	684.00	-0.34	4700.25	230	4699.00	0.47	4677.00	16	17/09/04	162	---	---	---	---	---	---	
National Bank Ltd.	100.5	421.75	-1.86	429.75	2312	435.00	Not Traded	---	---	19/09/04	17.0	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Public Bank Ltd.	100.5	287.25	-0.25	1290.50	995	---	---	---	---	30/12/04	94.9	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Rajshahi Bank Ltd.	100.10	531.75	-2.52	345.50	2130	532.75	-1.93	543.25	4040	---	28.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	
UPL Ltd.	100.5	260.50	0.38	1255.75	1451	1269.00	Not Traded	---	---	15/09/09	15.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Uttara Bank Ltd.	100.5	391.75	-0.26	1919.75	595	1900.00	Not Traded	---	---	14/06/04	92	50.0	---	---	---	---	---	
The Oriental Bank Ltd.	100.5	600.00	-0.13	1669.00	5	---	---	---	---	09/11/04	257	---	---	---	---	---	---	
UDLC Ltd.	100.20	1043.75	-3.36	1080.00	200	1300.00	Not Traded	---	---	26/05/04	77.5	30.0	---	---	---	---	---	
United Leasing Co. Ltd.	100.20	678.50	-1.20	1691.75	980	---	---	---	---	26/04/03	152	55.0	---	---	---	---	---	
Utara Finance and Invs.	100.5	1080.00	-4.01	1091.00	2744	1070.00	Not Traded	---	---	05/05/04	83.5	25.0	---	---	---	---	---	
Al Arifa Islami Bank	100.5	2896.00	-2.40	2962.25	75	2900.00	-1.19	2935.00	50	19/05/04	216	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Prime Bank Ltd.	100.5	848.50	-2.05	866.25	11050	850.00	-2.02	867.50	704	16/05/04	361	29.0	---	---	---	---	---	
South Bank Ltd.	100.5	619.50	-1.27	627.50	15280	622.00	0.28	620.25	2241	20/09/04	378	20.0	---	---	---	---	---	
Bank Asia Ltd.	100.5	829.25	-1.10	838.50	3450	850.00	Not Traded	---	---	27/05/04	403	15.0	---	---	---	---	---	
NCC Bank Ltd.	100.5	487.25	-0.41	496.25	725	488.75	-0.91	493.25	770	25/07/04	121	10.0	---	---	---	---	---	
State Investment Bank	100.5	331.25	-0.85	3338.75	95	---	---	---	---	02/06/04	331	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd.	100.5	335.00	-0.45	1549.00	500	1700.00	Not Traded	---	---	21/03/04	101	20.0	---	---	---	---	---	
Midas Financier Ltd.	100.5	362.75	-1.89	367.50	2800	351.00	Not Traded	---	---	10/10/04	18.5	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.	100.5	821.50	-1.84	229.25	60	---	---	---	---	04/05/04	26.4	---	---	---	---	---	---	
First Lease Int'l Bank	100.5	459.75	-3.31	475.50	5700	455.25	-1.19	470.25	850	10/05/04	10.5	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Standard Bank Ltd.	100.5	415.50	-1.18	424.75	4108	420.00	-0.12	420.50	50	09/06/04	131	---	---	---	---	---	---	
One Bank Ltd.	100.5	425.00	-2.56	431.75	3897	424.00	-1.22	429.25	450	07/06/04	13.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Bank Asa Ltd.	100.5	680.50	-1.73	692.50	2950	680.00	-0.50	685.00	1900	29/06/04	29.0	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Mercantile Bank Ltd.	100.5	515.50	-1.10	521.25	9700	510.25	-1.97	520.50	1450	11/06/04	27.0	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Export Import Bank	100.5	674.25	-2.11	688.75	11700	672.00	-2.47	685.50	2100	---	174	---	---	---	---	---	---	
INVESTMENT																		
ISCB Mutual Fund	100.5	2650.00	-4.41	2773.25	10	2900.00	Not Traded	---	---	12/08/03	15.4	28.0	---	---	---	---	---	
ICB Mutual Fund	100.10	145.25	-2.75	355.00	30	350.00	Not Traded	---	---	12/08/03	19.3	140	---	---	---	---	---	
ICB Mutual Fund	100.10	204.00	-0.99	205.25	260	210.00	Not Traded	---	---	12/08/03	14.8	17.5	---	---	---	---	---	
ICB Mutual Fund	100.5	220.00	0.00	205.00	260	210.00	Not Traded	---	---	12/08/03	14.8	17.5	---	---	---	---	---	
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