

PHILIPS
sense and simplicity

50" Projection TV
(50PP 8545)

TRANSFORM
ELECTRONICS

Dhaka: 8110163, 9882192, 9886285, Bogra: 66215
Chittagong: 637669, 653758, Khulna: 720304, 723695

Star BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY JULY 4, 2005 E-mail: business@thedailystar.net

TRANSTEC Air Conditioner

CS12: (1.0) 12000 BTU/hr
CS18: (1.5) 18000 BTU/hr
CS24: (2.0) 24000 BTU/hr

TRANSFORM
ELECTRONICS

Dhaka: 8110163, 9882192, 9886285, Bogra: 66215
Chittagong: 637669, 653758, Khulna: 720304, 723695

Rains disrupt business

Quorum crisis halts DSE trading

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Heavy overnight rains that submerged many parts of the capital, including Motijheel business hub, disrupted business and economic activities yesterday with banks reporting a decline in transactions by up to 50 percent.

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) even failed to start trading on the day due to quorum crisis, as most members could not go to the bourse in Motijheel, which was under knee-deep water.

More than 60 branches of different banks located in Motijheel and Dilkusha areas suffered most in terms of transactions, as most of the clients failed to make their way to Motijheel.

Banks in other areas of the capital also witnessed a major fall in trans-

actions.

"Our transactions fell by 50 percent today as clients failed to come to Motijheel due to heavy rains and knee-deep water," said Kawsar Mahmud, an executive of the principal branch of South East Bank Ltd.

Jafur Ahsan Imroj, chief cashier of the Eastern Bank Ltd's principal branch in Motijheel, said: "Today we received about 100 vouchers and paid almost the same, while the receipts and payments were 205 and 219 on Saturday."

Dewan Faruk, manager of Uttara Bank's local office, said: "We had to put sand bags at the entrance of our branch to prevent water from entering the branch." "There was virtually no transaction in our branch today," he added.

DSE's media officer Shafiqur

Rahman said only 40 to 45 members of the bourse were able to attend the market by 10:30am and the trading had to be suspended due to quorum crisis.

Rahman said presence of 60 members is required to start trading on the DSE.

The trading of foreign currencies in the informal market at Dilkusha was also badly affected, with the dollar brokers cursing rains.

The restaurants and fast food shops located in the areas also suffered huge loss.

"Our main customers are officials who work with different banks and other offices in Motijheel. It is supposed to be jam-packed right now," said a waiter of Gharo restaurant, giving frustrated look at the vacant chairs in front of him at about 1pm.

SAUDI FIRM'S PURCHASE PROPOSAL

Body formed to assess value of Sonargaon Hotel

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The government has formed a three-member committee to assess the value of the state-owned Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, official sources said yesterday.

The government action followed a proposal by the Kingdom Holding Company of Saudi Arabia for purchasing the hotel.

Saudi Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Bin Saud, who is the chairman and owner of the company, made the proposal during his visit to Dhaka in mid-March. A formal proposal was sent to the Board of Investment (BoI) after his return.

The committee, headed by Civil Aviation & Tourism Secretary Iqbal Uddin Ahmed, is expected to have its first meeting within a week.

Executive Member of the BoI Md Nazrul Islam and a joint secretary of the finance ministry are other members of the committee.

Convener of the committee Iqbal

Uddin Ahmed said the committee has sought relevant papers from the authorities concerned to discuss and evaluate different aspects of the proposed deal.

Sources said the committee will assess the value of current asset, such as land and other properties, as well as the goodwill to evaluate an overall price of the hotel.

It will also look into the interest of the current management, the Pan Pacific Group, before taking any decision on the issue, sources said.

Mahmudur Rahman, executive chairman of the BoI, said he received a formal proposal for purchasing the hotel from the Kingdom Holding.

BoI sources said the company is interested to invest millions of dollars in Bangladesh's tourism and hospitality sectors.

The Kingdom Holding is one of the largest Saudi companies having construction and aviation businesses worldwide.

Citibank NA raises forex buying rate

In line with the government's strive to provide incentive for the exporters and foreign currency wage earners, Citibank NA Bangladesh has decided to increase its foreign currency buying rate with effect from July 2, 2005.

The US dollar buying rate has been increased by 55 paisa per US dollar to the exporters' and non resident Bangladeshi remitters' benefit, says a press release.

The present buying rate from the exporters against a unit of US dollar is Tk 64.57 and from the Bangladeshi workers abroad is Tk 64.60.

Emirates SkyCargo voted IFW's carrier of the year

For the second successive year, UK-based International Freighting Weekly (IFW) magazine has elected Emirates SkyCargo for its Air Cargo Carrier of the Year Award.

A panel of judges comprising senior figures from several global cargo companies chose Emirates SkyCargo from a shortlist of top international air cargo carriers.

"Emirates SkyCargo has demonstrated that it has continued to enhance its already high levels of customer service," Martin Roebuck, editor of IFW, said while announcing the award in London recently.

Ram Menen, Emirates' senior vice president (Cargo), among others, spoke at the function, says a press release.

Emirates SkyCargo presently serves a network of more than 75 destinations in 54 countries.

Bush near big trade win as Senate clears Cafta

AFP, Washington

President George W Bush is on the verge of a major victory in his free-trade agenda following Senate passage of a controversial trade pact with Central America and the Dominican Republic.

Senators approved the pact, the biggest free-trade deal in a decade, by a narrow 54-45 vote Thursday, with a tough battle seen in the House of Representatives, probably later this month.

The Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (Cafta) was approved by a 25-16 vote in the House Ways and Means Committee, although some analysts see a more difficult battle on the House floor.

Still, the Bush administration appears close to winning a victory after pressing for more than a year, and portraying it as an economic gain for the United States and as a foothold for free-market capitalism in the

past countries -- the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

Backers also argue the trade measure is a way to fend off the threat of Chinese textile exports by spurring further integration of US yarn and textile producers with low-cost garment makers in the Central American and Caribbean nations.

Cafta is seen as a stepping stone for a wider Free Trade Area of the Americas and a test of US credibility in bringing about a freer global trading system under the Doha Round of talks under the World Trade Organization.

Additionally, some have been arguing the measure is needed for economic stability and security in the region.

"We're talking about stability within these countries and our own national security," said Senator Pat Roberts, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

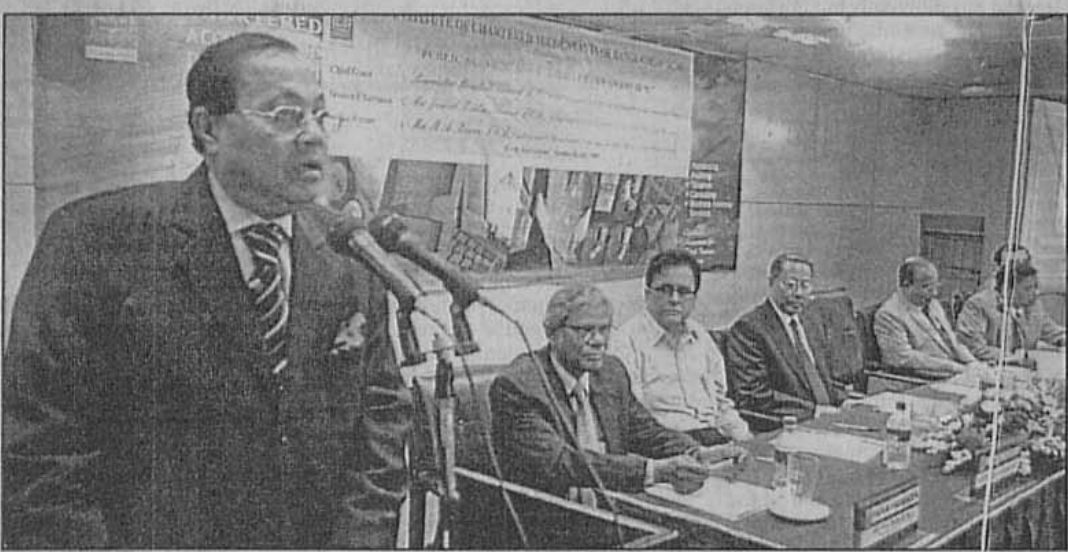


PHOTO: STAR

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed speaks at a seminar titled 'Public Accountant's Liability-An Overview' organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) in Dhaka yesterday.

China Shipping moves hub to Malaysian port

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Container shipping giant China Shipping Group has moved its regional headquarters to Malaysia from Singapore on expectations of increased activity from Port Klang, a senior official said Sunday.

"Trade between Malaysia and China is growing. They are positioning themselves to make direct calls between Malaysia and China," Westport Malaysia executive chairman G Gnanalingam told AFP. Westport, located in Port

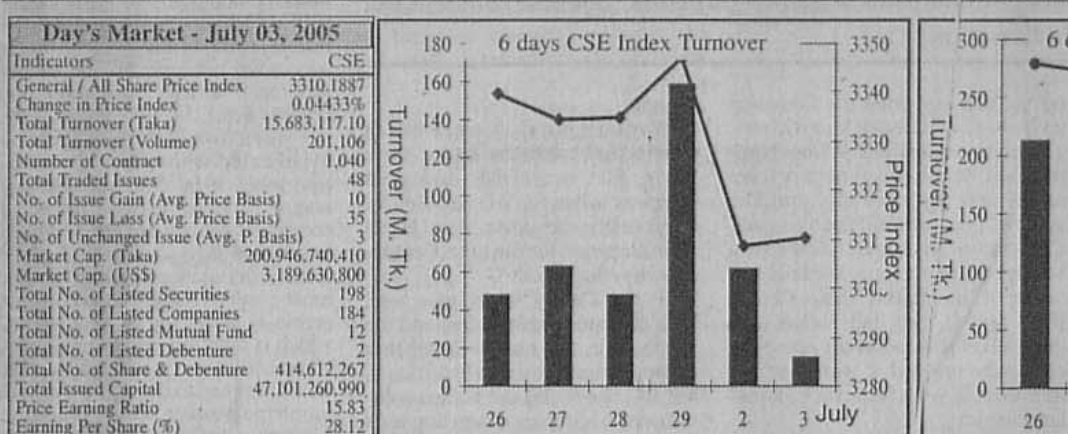
Klang, on the Strait of Malacca west of the capital Kuala Lumpur, is one of Malaysia's largest container ports.

Gnanalingam said China Shipping had decided to move its operations to Malaysia because the company wanted to be able to draw upon skilled manpower at competitive prices.

Analysts said the move demonstrated Westport's efficiency and would allow Malaysia to further challenge Singapore's status as the region's shipping hub.

CURRENCY

Following is Sunday's (July 3, 2005) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank						
Sell			Buy			
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer	
65.0200	65.0500	USD	63.9500	63.9287	63.8861	
78.8929	78.9292	EUR	75.4290	75.4039	75.3536	
116.1415	116.1950	GBP	112.0404	112.0031	111.9284	
49.8624	49.8854	AUD	46.9201	46.9045	46.8732	
0.5909	0.5912	JPY	0.5664	0.5662	0.5659	
50.7205	50.7438	CHF	48.8205	48.8042	48.7717	
8.2285	8.2322	SEK	7.6413	7.6387	7.6337	
52.9905	53.0149	CAD	50.9602	50.9432	50.9093	
8.3888	8.3927	HKD	8.2148	8.2121	8.2066	
38.8707	38.8886	SGD	37.5448	37.5323	37.5072	
17.8744	17.8828	AED	17.2707	17.2650	17.2534	
17.8744	17.8828	SAR	16.9175	16.9119	16.9006	
10.8704	10.8754	DKK	9.8558	9.8555	9.8489	
219.5053	219.6087	KWD	218.0352	217.9649	217.8242	
Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar						
Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Hong Kong	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
43.515	59.745	99.78	41.100	6.6568	0.7550	3.80



TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES

Chittagong Stock Exchange									
Company	FV/MV (Tk.No.)	Price (Tk.)	Change (%)	Turnover (Share)	Price Scale	Low	High	Last	EPS
BANK									
Islami Bank BD Ltd.**	10001	496.00	-0.02	4965.00	78	496.00	498.00	497.00	16/09/05
National Bank Ltd.**	10002	509.00	-0.59	512.00	50	509.00	509.00	509.00	19/09/04
Pubali Bank Ltd.**	10003	1233.75	0.00	1233.75	20	1233.75	1233.75	1233.75	17/04/05
Rupali Bank Ltd.**	10010	600.25	0.00	600.25	470	600.00	601.00	599.00	28.6
Uttara Bank Ltd.**	10005	2280.00	-2.03	2327.25	20	2280.00	2280.00	2276.00	23/06/05
Al Arafa Islami Bank	10005	2376.50	1.82	2334.00	50	2357.95	2380.00	2365.25	25/03/05
Prime Bank Ltd.**	10030	572.00	0.39	569.75	259	571.19	573.00	572.75	16/05/04
Southeast Bank Ltd.**	10030	641.00	-0.85	646.50	2973	641.80	645.00	646.50	29/09/04
N C C Bank Ltd.**	10030	505.00	-0.59	508.00	613	505.04	505.25	505.00	11/04/05
Mutual Trust Bank**	10030	315.25	1.20	311.50	1683	314.52	316.00	310.00	23/05/05
Standard Bank Ltd.**	10030	370.00	0.00	370.00	790	369.84	370.00	368.00	31/12/05
Manul Bank Ltd.**	10030	284.50	0.18	284.00	847	283.14	285.00	285.00	16/05/05
One Bank Ltd.**	10030	284.50	-0.44	285.75	176	283.15	285.00	275.00	07/06/04
Mercantile Bank**	10030	345.00	-0.07	345.25	87	328.74	345.00	347.25	14/05/05
Export Import Bank**	10030	615.00	-0.32	617.00	450	615.22	616.00	615.00	619.00
INVESTMENT									
8th ICB Mutual Fund	10030	180.00	-0.69	195.00	8	180.00	180.00	180.00	20/05/05
AIMC First	12500	1.55	-0.64	1.56	15000	1.55	1.56	1.55	07/07/04
ENGINEERING									
Afrah Automobiles Ltd.	100/5	618.50	0.08	618.00	15	618.42	618.50	618.25	21/12/04
Quam Drycells Ltd.**	100500	14.10	-0.70	14.20	500	14.10	14.10	14.10	23/12/04
FOOD & ALLIED									
Chittagong Vegetable	100/10	34.00	0.00	34.00	50	34.00	34.00	34.00	22/06/05
Beximco Vegetables	100/10	22.00	-1.12	22.25	60	22.00	22.25	22.00	22/06/05
Beach Hatchery Ltd.	100500	3.00	0.00	3.00	3000	3.00	3.00	3.00	22/06/05
FUEL & POWER									
BOC (BD) Ltd.**	10050	136.00	1.95	133.40	500	136.00	136.00	136.00	13/10/05
TEXTILE									
Ashraf Textile Ltd.	10050	5.30	-3.64	5.50	200	5.30	5.30	5.30	30/12/04
Padma Textile Mills Ltd.	100200	26.80	0.75	26.60	21800	26.70	26.90	26.80	08/06/05
Apex Spinning Mills Ltd.	100200	290.00	-0.68	292.00	20	290.00	290.00	290.00	23/09/04
Altex Industries Ltd.	100500	70.00	-4.11	73.00	50	70.00	70.00	70.00	23/12/04
Square Textile**	10050	81.60	0.74	81.00	1964	81.12	81.60	81.00	08/06/05
PHARMA & CHEM.									
Beximco Pharma**	10050	87.20	-0.34	87.50	65837	87.12	88.20	86.80	02/06/05
ACT Limited**	10050	79.70	0.13	79.60	440	79.31	79.80	79.10	28/06/05
Orion Industries Ltd.	100200	162.50	0.31	163.00	1300	162.50	162.50	162.50	28/12/04
Pharma Pharma**	100200	364.25	0.62	362.25	200	364.10	364.70	363.50	21/09/04
Keya Detergent Ltd.	100500	19.50	0.00	19.50	15500	19.70	19.80	19.50	24/12/04
SERVICE									
Shinphur Holdings**	10005	37.25	0.68	37.00	1800	37.17	37.25	37.00	04/06/05
Eastern Holdings**	10005	101.25	0.74	102.00	160	101.25	102.00	101.00	13/12/04
MISCELLANEOUS									
Daffodil Computers Ltd.**	100500	11.00	0.00	11.00	18500	10.98	11.10	10.90	30/12/04
Umanita Glass	10005	1550.00	-3.49	1606.00	1	1550.00	1550.00	1550.00	18/12/04
BEXIMCO Ltd.**	100100	62.00	-1.59	63.00	13930	62.38	63.10	61.00	03/06/05
Heidelberg Cement BD**	10005	657.25	-0.42	660.00	55	657.30	660.00	655.00	22/06/05
Fu-wang Ceramic	100500	91.00	0.00	91.00	100	91.00	91.00	91.00	21/12/04
Legacy Footwear Ltd.	100500	6.10	-1.61	6.20	7500	6.13	6.20	6.10	20/09/0