

Star BUSINESS

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DSE turnover hits all time high at Tk 234.44cr

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The Dhaka bourse yesterday set another milestone as its turnover hit an all time high at Tk 234.44 crore with a huge number of National Bank shares worth Tk 32.8 crore changing hands in the block market.

The previous highest turnover on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) was Tk 206.79 crore on June 4.

A total of 400,000 shares of National Bank were traded at Tk 820 each through only two deals on the block market of the premier bourse.

Foreign investors bought the shares.

Market operators have attributed the all time high turnover to big investments by institutional and foreign investors.

The institutional investors account for 68 percent and foreign

investors 20 percent of the total turnover on the DSE yesterday, said Ahmad Rashid Lali, senior vice-president of DSE.

Lali said: "The daily average turnover last month was Tk 126 crore and the average turnover this month reaches Tk 155 crore. It means the market is growing gradually."

He said now the market needs more supply of securities to avoid any overpricing situation.

Along with turnover, market capitalisation also stood at all time high at Tk 47,724 crore, surpassing the previous high of Tk 47,046 crore on Monday.

The price indices also rose on the DSE led by shares of power, bank and cement sectors.

The benchmark DSE General Index increased by 20.34 points, or 0.95

percent, to close at 2149.26 points while the DSE All Share Price Index rose by 26.15 points, or 1.99 percent, to finish at 1770.36 points.

Of the issues traded, 106 advanced and 78 declined with 25 unchanged. A total of 12,617,774 shares changed hands.

At the end of the day, Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) topped the turnover leaders followed by Dhaka Electric Supply Company, Brac Bank, Heidelberg Cement, Southeast Bank, Pubali Bank, National Bank, Shahjalal Bank, Exim Bank and Prime Bank.

PGCB, the state-run power company, topped the turnover leaders with 298,350 shares worth Tk 17.53 crore.

On the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), all the price

indices rose. The CSE Selective Categories Index increased by 39.05 points, or 1.13 percent, ending the day at 3488.79 points while the CSE All Share Price Index rose by 84.59 points, or 1.64 percent, closing the day at 5226.9 points.

A total of 3,345,650 shares worth Tk 45.48 crore changed hands on the CSE. Of the issues traded, 57 advanced, 33 declined and 11 remained unchanged.

At the end of the day, Rupali Bank topped the turnover leaders with 25,450 shares worth Tk 4.48 crore. The other turnover leaders were Shahjalal Bank, Premier Bank, PGCB, Heidelberg Cement, Brac Bank, Prime Bank, Exim Bank and Southeast Bank.

WB wants RMG sector to be more competitive

UNB, Dhaka

Apprehending job loss after removal of the multi-fibre agreement, the World Bank has suggested further investment in RMG sector of Bangladesh to make it more competitive.

The apprehension of the lending agency was manifested in its report titled 'Reducing poverty in Dhaka: A priority for all'.

"The impact of the removal of the Multi-Fibre Agreement quotas on the readymade garment (RMG) sector at the end of 2004, while being difficult to quantify, will likely result in job losses and so, the country will have to invest in making this sector more competitive," the report said.

It suggested development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy for urban poverty reduction, reform and building the capacity of key urban agencies and institutions, implementing the National Housing Policy to ensure shelter for the poor, improve service delivery and access to infrastructure for the urban poor and address crime and violence in slum areas to uplift the condition of the poor people in Dhaka.

IFC offers Exim Bank \$5m to up trade finance

Export Import (Exim) Bank of Bangladesh Ltd is joining the Global Trade Finance Programme (GTFP) of International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group.

IFC is providing Exim Bank with a facility of up to \$5 million within the GTFP. An agreement to this effect was signed yesterday between the bank and the IFC, says a press release.

Paolo Martelli, IFC regional director for South Asia, Per Kjellerhaug, IFC country manager for Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal, and Kazi Masihur Rahman, managing director of Exim Bank, among others, were present at the signing ceremony.

The programme will provide the bank with risk coverage in a difficult market and a global network that will help grow its trade finance business.

The IFC's GTFP supports trade with emerging markets worldwide and promotes the flow of goods and services between developing countries, the release adds.

AKTEL's offer for inactive prepaid subscribers

Mobile phone operator AKTEL has recently launched "Re-activate your prepaid SIM & get your money doubled" offer for the inactive prepaid SIM customers, says a press release.

Under this offer, any inactive customer can now re-activate his/her prepaid AKTEL SIM and he/she can avail a mega "Double Money" offer.

All he/she has to do is to recharge the connection through Tk 300 or Tk 600 scratch card. Instantly, he/she'll get Tk 600 talk time at Tk 300 recharge and Tk 1200 at Tk 600 recharge.

Customers will also get bonus which is applicable on monthly usage for 3 consecutive months. This offer is applicable only for those who have not used AKTEL prepaid SIM at least for last 5 months.

Double recharge bonus is only applicable for Tk 300 & Tk 600 scratch cards. This offer will end on 13 July, 2007 and the validity of all the bonus talk time will be till 15 November 2007.

People's Leasing okays 30pc stock dividend

People's Leasing and Financial Services Ltd has declared a 30 percent stock dividend for the year 2006.

The dividend was announced at the 11th annual general meeting (AGM) of the company held on Saturday in Dhaka, says a press release.

Chairman of the company Motiur Rahman presided over the AGM, which was also attended by directors and managing director among others.

CA asks BGMEA to comply with wage guidelines

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday noted with satisfaction a laudable contribution of RMG to the national economy and urged the BGMEA leaders to follow the guidelines of compliance in paying salaries to the garment employees.

He assured maintaining government cooperation in materialising the apparel owners and exporters' next three years' export target envisaged at 15 to 18 billion US dollars, as apprised by the leaders.

The CA expressed the views when a 10-member delegation of the newly elected body of BGMEA led by its president Anwarul Alam made a courtesy call on him at his office.

The BGMEA leaders apprised him that readymade garment (RMG) sector has raised its export earning to \$ 9 billion in a crescendo over the last 30 years.

"Some 76 percent of the country's foreign exchange earnings come from RMG sector where 24

lakh people are employed, 80 percent of them women," the delegation said.

They put forward some recommendations for attaining their targeted export earnings in the next three years.

Those include government's cooperation in enhancing Bangladesh's image abroad with cooperation from Bangladesh missions, appointment of trade counsellors to each mission, further development of infrastructure, declaring one-day weekend on Sundays, 10 percent or less loan interest and quick government steps to rehabilitate the sick garment industries.

They sought government cooperation for providing soft loan for installation of Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and allocating land in the city's Uttara area for Bangladesh Institute of Fashion Training (BIFT) as every year the institute imparts training to a good number of people.

Also, they sought cooperation in human resource development. The CA suggested that government and private sectors should work together to the mutual benefit of the two saying that the significant contribution of RMG to the economy is a glowing example of government-private sector partnership.

The government would extend cooperation in human resource development and look into the matter of land for BIFT, Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim, who was present at the meeting, quoted the CA as saying.

About sick industries, the CA said the meaning of sick industry should be analysed for identifying such industries.

Regarding loan interest, he suggested discussing the matter with the respective banks.

The CA emphasised obeying the edicts of compliance and installation of ETP.

Cabinet Secretary Ali Imam Mazumder and Commerce Secretary Firoz Ahmed were also present.

The CA suggested that government

Indo-Thai FTA talks next month

AAP, New Delhi

Thailand's military-installed premier Tuesday said his country would start fresh talks with India next month to conclude a free trade accord aimed at boosting bilateral trade.

Surayud Chulanont, named premier after Thailand's military ousted Thaksin Shinawatra in September, arrived in New Delhi late Monday on a three-day visit.

"Our two countries are on track to conclude a free trade agreement in the near future with a view to establishing the FTA covering trade in goods by 2010," Surayud told a business meeting in New Delhi.

The India-Thai talks on free trade

September.

"The two sides have also agreed to start parallel negotiations on services and investment parts of the FTA," Nath said.

India is Thailand's largest trade partner in South Asia, with trade worth 3.4 billion dollars last year, when Thailand enjoyed a surplus of 200 million dollars on shipments worth 1.8 billion dollars to India.

Although far lower than bilateral trade with China, which totalled 25.1 billion dollars last year, Thailand believes India could counterbalance China's growing economic might.



15pc subsidy sought for jute sector

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government should increase the subsidy for jute sector to 15 percent from 7.5 percent to save the sector, which holds a huge potential in the environment-conscious global market, speakers have told a seminar.

The speakers also demanded resumption of full-fledged production in 22 state-run jute mills. They were speaking at the seminar titled 'What to Do to Develop the Jute Sector', jointly organised by Action Aid Bangladesh, a non-governmental organisation, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies

(BILS), and Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) in Dhaka on Monday.

"The degradation of jute sector and the emergence of apparel sector took place simultaneously. If the RMG fails, there is no other potential sector to earn money," said Chairman of BUP Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman.

If the jute sector is nurtured, the sector can emerge as a major foreign currency earner, he added.

As the use of environment-friendly jute products is increasing across the world, the government should take special measures to increase the productivity and

expand export markets of jute goods, Kholiquzzaman said.

He also called for formation of a national committee to make recommendations to revive the jute sector.

Former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal called for measures to revive the jute sector.

The seminar was also told that workers of government-run jute mills owe Tk 130 crore to the government.

Wazedul Islam Khan, secretary of BILS, chaired the seminar.

ADB eyeing to boost clean energy programme

AFP, Manila

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Tuesday it was planning to boost its clean energy program to one billion dollars annually amid warnings Asia's contribution to green gas emissions could get worse.

ADB president Haruhiko Kuroda said the region faced a "daunting challenge in securing energy" and expanding economies needed to spend more on clean energy technologies.

"About 70 percent of Asia's energy needs are dependent on fossil fuels -- a primary source of

greenhouse gases. Asia now accounts for one quarter of the world's gas emissions," Kuroda said, adding that this would also lead to a increase in global mean temperatures.

"Without a change in course, it will get worse," he said, noting that the International Energy Agency estimates the region would have to invest up to five trillion dollars through 2030 on new energy infrastructure.

He said developing countries should be encouraged to "explore possibilities for renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar and bio-fuels." They should also explore trade schemes or taxes on emissions to fund cleaner energy investment.

Of the total emissions, 40 per-



ACI Chairman M Anis Ud Dowla presides over the company's 34th AGM in Dhaka yesterday. Sheema Abed Rahman, director and company secretary, Dr Arif Dowla, managing director, and Syed Manjur Elahi, director, were present among others.

BB asks banks for lending SMEs

In a focus group discussion with the financial sector on Monday, the central bank urged the banks and financial institutions to lend small and medium enterprises (SMEs), says a press release.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) and IFC-SEDF jointly coordinated the discussion, a customer responsive initiative and one of several steps that the central bank has taken to increase access to finance for SMEs.

The BB sought feedback from the participants based on their experiences with the SME Refinancing Scheme.

The banks and financial institutions welcomed the initiative and

asked for more frequent disbursements from the SME Fund run by the central bank.

Making his opening remarks at the programme, BB Executive Director Abul Quasem said, "Bangladesh Bank does not directly lend any entrepreneur. It can therefore only reach SMEs through banks and non-banking financial institutions. Keeping the goal in mind, it has introduced four schemes for refinancing SME sector encouraging banks to lend to SMEs."

Karma Karma, IFC senior financial markets specialist, opined that banks will be engaged in SME banking only if they see it as a profitable venture.



The 11th annual general meeting (AGM) of People's Leasing and Financial Services (PLFS) Ltd was held on Saturday in Dhaka. Chairman of the company Motiur Rahman presided over the AGM, which was also attended by directors and managing director among others.

DSE's new CFO

Satipati Moitra has taken over as the chief financial officer (CFO) of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) Ltd with effect from June 21, says a press release.

Prior to joining DSE, he was the finance director of BASF Bangladesh Ltd, a subsidiary of German-based multinational chemical company BASFAG.

Satipati, who also worked for Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation and Bangladesh Bank, was the president of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh and ex-officio director of DSE for the year 2006.



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