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S Asian bourses asked to share info to face economic shock
Regional capital market confce begins

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Finance and Planning Adviser A B Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday urged the member countries of South Asian Federation of Exchanges (SAFE) to share even sensitive financial information to cope with any regional economic shock.

The adviser was inaugurating the two-day long Second South Asian Capital Market Conference-2008 at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Organised jointly by SAFE and Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) was also attended by Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman Faruk Ahmad Siddiqi as special guest.

SAFE Chairman and Managing Director of Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd Rajnikant Patel, SAFE Secretary General and Managing Director of Islamabad Stock Exchange Aftab Ahmad Chowdhury and DSE CEO Salahuddin Ahmed Khan were also present.

Mirza Aziz said equity in regional stock market works quicker than foreign direct investment (FDI). "So, we should have a greater cooperation for a better integration in regional financial market," he suggested.

He said sharing of knowledge, skills and ICT in the stock markets would help in greater integration in the regional financial market.

He urged the participants in the capital market conference to make the SAFE a platform for the development of human resources in the region.

"We should start working on how soon we can go for automation programme in the South Asian capital market to share information," he said.

As many as 83 local brokerage houses and 70 others from other SAFE-member countries are taking part in the conference.

Enraged investors go berserk at UCBL AGM over dividend dispute



Enraged shareholders go berserk at the UCBL's annual general meeting at Sonargaon hotel in Dhaka over dividend dispute yesterday.

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Chaos broke out at the United Commercial Bank's annual general meeting (AGM) yesterday as shareholders, ransacked the meeting angered by the bank's failure to resolve a dispute over dividend payments.

Police were forced to disperse the enraged investors at the Sonargaon Hotel, with senior bank officials fleeing the podium and having to take shelter in hotel rooms.

Trading of the bank's shares was suspended on both the Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges in the wake of the disruption.

The dispute surrounds the failure of United Commercial Bank's (UCBL), one of the country's major commercial banks, to hold AGMs in 2006 and 2007 and not pay dividends three years in a row.

Yesterday the bank's board aimed to gain the approval of shareholders for a 2005 dividend but did not mention the dividends for the following two years.

The move did not satisfy all shareholders and was opposed even by some board members who attended the AGM. They had expected dividends to be set for all three years.

Defending his position, Chairman of the Board of Directors of UCBL Jahangir Alam Khan said the board had obtained the approval of the AGM for the three main agenda items.

Talking to The Daily Star Khan said: "We received the approval of accounts of the bank for 2005, ratification and confirmation of directors and approval of audits and remuneration in the AGM".

He said the approval of the agenda was received from the general shareholders of the bank after the welcome speech of the chairman. The meeting was then adjourned due to a High Court notice regarding the holding of the pending AGMs of the bank.

But witnesses said the AGM was dismissed following the chaos by the investors and opponent directors of the bank's board.

According to the investors, the bank's board shifted the record dates unilaterally to deprive the shareholders.

The angry investors ransacked furniture and scuffled with the senior officials of the bank during the incident at Dhaka's Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, the venue of the AGM.

Some witnesses said the trouble erupted when a section of investors were not given AGM gifts due to shortage of such items on the spot. Later, the angry investors stormed into the main hall and started shouting, they said.

The bank directors and other senior officials tried to calm the enraged investors, but failed. At one stage the high-ups of the bank fled the podium of the AGM and took shelter in other rooms, according to witnesses.

On the day's trading session, shares of UCBL, a 'Z' category issue on the DSE, closed at Tk 3499.50 per share against its opening price at Tk 3400.00 per share registering 4.90 percent rise before the trading came to a halt.

DSE posts record single day gain

STAR/AGENCIES, Dhaka

Share prices on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) gained across the board yesterday, pushing up the main index that posted a record single day gain in the recent times.

The DSE General Index (DGEN), the benchmark index, increased 96 points or 3 percent to close at 2,907 points yesterday from Wednesday's 2,812 points while the All Share Price Index (DSI) rose 76 points or 3 percent to close at 2,449 points from the previous day's 2,374 points.

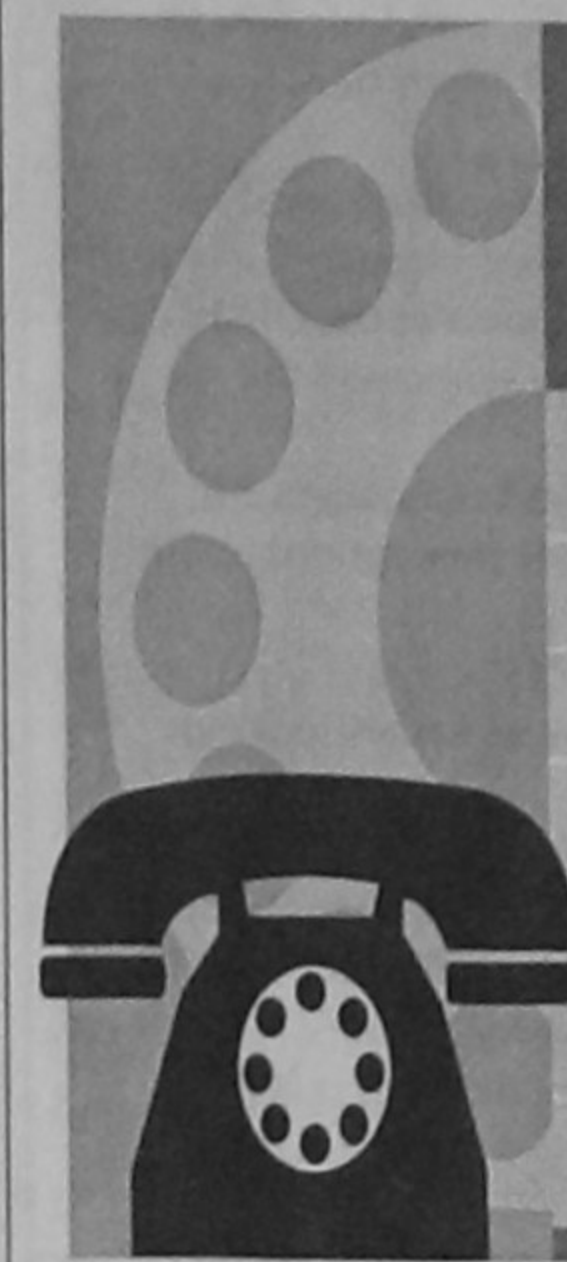
On November 26, 2007, DSE General Index jumped 127 points or 4.31 percent, the largest single day rise since 2005.

The market showed a sharp rise after consecutive four-day fall.

"The market got a positive signal from reintroduction of the netting system of payment to push the prices up across the board," a stockbroker said. The system allows investors buying shares immediately after completion of their sales deal.

Private land phone users up 122pc in 2007

Total subscription reaches 11.86 lakh



SIX LEADING LAND PHONE OPERATORS AND NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS

Operators	December 2006	December 2007	Change
BTTB	8,77,522	8,72,409	-0.58%
Ranks Telecom Ltd	45,271	1,12,560	148%
Telebarta Ltd	39,728	55,809	41%
Peoples Telecom Ltd	9,604	32,961	243%
Onetel Communication Ltd	10,913	30,126	176%
Dhaka Telephone Ltd	3,360	27,793	727%

Citi initiative for people of Bangladesh origin in UK

Citi Foundation is launching a grant designed to increase opportunities for British-Bangladeshi women and young people living in Tower Hamlets, says a press release.

The move came following a new report produced by BRAC UK and financed by the Citi Foundation that found that the British-Bangladeshi living in the area lack educational and employment opportunities.

The report titled "Assessment of the Financial Education Needs and Opportunities of British-Bangladeshi Women and Young People in Tower Hamlets" was presented at an event at Citigroup Centre, London recently.

The study found that 51 percent of the British-Bangladeshi, mostly women, have no formal education and 71.3 are unemployed.

MD HASAN

The number of private land phone users more than doubled in 2007, while state owned BTTB saw its number of subscribers drop, being unable to compete with the better service and cheaper connection of its private rivals.

According to telecom regulator statistics, the country's total PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) subscribers reached 11.86 lakh at the end of December 2007.

Of this number, the 12 private PSTN operators accounted for 3.15 lakh customers by the end of December 2007 - up 122 percent from the same date a year earlier. In contrast, BTTB actually lost subscribers down from 8.77 lakh to 8.72 lakh during the same period.

While mobile subscriptions continue to soar, some customers have been reluctant to give up the idea of a fixed home or business phone. The private PTNS networks offer many of

the services of the mobile operators such as text messaging, caller identification and internet services. At the same time they claim to have better voice quality.

So far BTTB has been unable to capitalise on this market as it is burdened by a reputation for bureaucracy, delays and hidden charges.

Among the private PSTN operators RanksTel is the largest with 1.13 lakh customers by the end of 2007, up 148 percent in the year. RanksTel started commercial operation in April 2005 and invested around Tk 300 crore to expand its services.

"From the beginning, we have followed a strategy of bringing the telephony services to the customers' door," said Masrur Nawaz Waiz, head of operation and coordination for RanksTel.

"It is very easy to have a telephone within an hour if anyone wants it now, this is a real contrast with the past when it was so tough to get a phone. This

change helps us to attract customers," Waiz said.

"In the case of BTTB, its bad reputation for not providing services in time to the customers is the main reason for them losing customers," said a high official of Telecom Ministry, adding that BTTB will lose more customers in the coming years even after restructuring.

The private PSTN operators providing connection with wireless set ranging from Tk 2500 to Tk 3500. On the other hand, BTTB's connection costs Tk 6000 in Dhaka and Tk 4000 outside.

All the private PSTN operators had growth in the year 2007, except Chittagong based Westec Ltd that became embroiled in the VoIP call termination scandal.

Dhaka Telephone Company Ltd, National Telecom Ltd, RanksTel, Square Informatrix Ltd and Tele Barta Ltd are operating at national level, while others are restricted to certain parts of the country.

Army Headquarters
E in C's Branch
Works Directorate
Dhaka Cantonment

Invitation for Tenders

Notice No. 600/15/18/2007-2008/E-6 Dated: 22 January 2008

Military Engineer Services

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence.						
2. Agency	Military Engineer Services.						
3. Procuring entity name	E in C.						
4. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.						
5. Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM).						
6. Budget and source of funds	GOB.						
7. Development partners (if applicable)	None.						
8. Project/programme name (if applicable)	Establishment of Girls' Cadet College at Feni (2nd Phase).						
9. Selling of tender will commence from	31 January 2008 (from 1200 hours to 1400 hours).						
10. Selling of tender will close on	24 February 2008 (from 1200 hours to 1400 hours).						
11. Last date and time of submission of tender	26 February 2008 at 1200 hours.						
12. Date and time of opening of tender	26 February 2008 at 1230 hours.						
13. Name & address of the office(s)	-Selling tender document Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Project Dhaka and AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantt. -Receiving tender document Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Project Dhaka and AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantt. -Opening tender document -Do-						
14. Eligibility of tenderer	a. MES enlisted contractors Class-D. b. Contractors enlisted in other govt departments in similar capacity may also participate in tenders of all the works mentioned above subject to receipt of security clearance from DGFI.						
15. Brief description of works	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (Taka)	Tender security amount in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of AHQ, E in C's Br, Wks Dle, Dhaka Cantt (Taka)	Up-to-date statement/certificate against liquid asset/bank credit facility to be attached with tender documents (Taka)	Completion time in weeks/months
	a.	Construction of drain for Feni Girls' Cadet College at Feni	Feni Girls' Cadet College	750/-	45,000/-	--	2 (two) months
16. Name of official inviting tender	Director of Works.						
17. Designation of official inviting tender	Director of Works.						
18. Address of official inviting tender	Army Headquarters, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment. Web address: www.army.mil.bd						
19. Contact details of official inviting tender	Army Headquarters, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment. Tel No. 8752870, Fax No: 8752906, e-mail address: wksdie@yahoo.com						
20.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.						

Director of Works
Works Directorate
Engineer in Chief's Branch
Dhaka Cantonment

ISPR/Army/06/1067
GD-491

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ICDDR,B invites applications from suitable candidates for the positions mentioned hereunder with the Programme on Infectious Disease & Vaccine Sciences (PIDVS) under the Health Systems and Infectious Diseases Division. The appointment will be made on a fixed-term basis for 1 year.

Senior Programmer
Duty Station - Dhaka
Salary - Annual Salary Tk.589,340/- 24,240/- 880030/- inclusive of house rent and conveyance allowances with other admissible benefits.

Benefits/facilities - 14.8% retirement fund contribution by the Centre, Children allowance @Tk.1,420/= per child per month, medical facilities for dependent spouse and children, free group life insurance, and subsidized transport, canteen, daycare facilities.

Job Profile
The Investigator will provide technical, administrative and scientific support to meningitis surveillance activities jointly undertaken by ICDDR,B and the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research of the Government of Bangladesh. He will also be responsible for:

- Visit participating hospitals, review performance and provide training;
- Assist in outbreak investigations;
- Perform summary analysis of collected data;
- Draft reports and manuscripts based on these data;
- Draft protocols for additional related studies.

Requirements

- MBBS or Masters of Science (or higher degree) in Epidemiology or Statistics;
- At least 3 years experience working on research projects. Experience should include work in communities and supervision;
- Ability to perform summary analysis of quantitative data
- Ability to identify research issues;
- Skills in developing survey instrument and methodology;
- Training and supervisory skills;
- Excellent verbal and written skills in English and Bangla are essential.

Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should submit online applications using ICDDR,B website; however, candidates may also submit applications with bio-data detailing experience and other particulars along with a recent passport size photograph to **Manager, Human Resources, Box No. A-18, C/o. The Daily Star, 19, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215 by September 13, 2007.** The internal candidates must mention their ID #s in the applications.

Special information
ICDDR,B is an equal opportunity employer and particularly welcomes applications from women candidates. Any persuasion will disqualify the candidature. Only short listed candidates shall be invited for the interview. Please indicate the position applied for at the top of the envelope.

Research Investigator
Duty Station - Dhaka, though the investigator will spend over 40% of his/her time outside of Dhaka.

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CAR FOR SALE

Sealed quotations are invited for sale of car HONDA ACCORD registration No. DHAKA:METRO:GA-12-3385, 2000cc, Model-1997 sparingly used in excellent running condition. The vehicle can be inspected on 3rd & 4th February, 2008 between 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. at House No.61/B, Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka.

Quotation must be accompanied by DD/Pay Order for 5% of the quoted value in favour of Nazim Tazik Chowdhury by 3:00 P.M. on 4th February, 2008 at House No.61/B, Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka. The quotation shall be opened at 4:00 P.M. on same day in presence of bidders, if present.

The owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason.

Nazim Tazik Chowdhury
Telephone No.8927577
Mobile : 01711585790

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bureau Veritas is an international group with a core business of conformity assessment, applied in the areas of quality, health, safety, environment and social responsibility. Bureau Veritas serves more than 280,000 customers throughout the world. In 2006, present in 140 countries with more than 700 offices and laboratories, Bureau Veritas revenues reached more than 1.846 billion euros. Bureau Veritas employs more than 31,000 staff including many experts. Founded in 1828, Bureau Veritas is recognized and accredited by the largest national and international bodies. We are looking for the right person for the following position:

Test Engineer/ Technician
-Textiles graduates, M Sc in Chemistry or Science subjects
-Proactive and Diligent
-Good command of English
-Good rate of pay

Please apply in strict confidence with a detailed CV and two copies of recent passport size photographs by 12 February 2008 to The General Manager, BVCPS (BD) Ltd, Bashati Horizon, Flat # B-6, 6th floor, Plot # 21, Road #17, Banani, Dhaka-1213.

Please mark the position applied for, on the top of the envelope.
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