

DSE turnover sinks to 16-month low

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Dhaka stocks slumped yesterday with turnover hitting a 16-month low at 135.90 crore. According to insiders, the market is facing a liquidity crisis for various reasons, including pullback of investment by local and foreign investors and confusion over the current market trend among investors.

Investors are also cashing in money by selling shares ahead of Tuesday's trading debut of the two directly listed companies, ACI Formulations and Shinepukur Ceramics, the insiders said.

"There is a mix of various reasons behind the fall in share prices," said Yawer Sayeed, managing director of AIMS of Bangladesh.

Apart from investment withdrawal and confusion over the market, dependence on loans of investors is also another major reason behind the

slump, Sayeed said.

When the lenders stopped providing or started stopping loans, the prices came heavily down, he said.

The benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSE General Index, dropped 40.09 points, or 1.49 percent, to 2636.73 points yesterday. The DSE All Share Price Index also slid 31.64 points, or 1.42 percent, to 2186.07 points.

Most securities traded down on the premier bourse. Of the 234 traded issues, 65 advanced, 165 declined and four remained unchanged.

A total of 1,26,93,337 shares traded on the DSE. The total market capitalisation came down to Tk 95,572.84 crore.

Beximco Pharma topped the turnover leaders with 7,59,900 traded shares worth Tk 11.88 crore. The day's other turnover leaders were Beximco, Uttara Bank, Titag Gas, ACI, Gramen Mutual Fund One: Scheme 2,

Islamic Bank, AIMS 1st Mutual Fund, IFIC Bank and Square Pharma.

The Chittagong stocks also marked a fall yesterday. The CSE Selective Categories Index declined 46.56 points, or 0.87 percent, to 5285.85 points. The CSE All Share Price Index fell 64.94 points, or 0.79 percent, to 8142.48 points.

A total of 35,93,038 shares worth Tk 27.53 crore changed hands on the Chittagong Stock Exchange. Of the 128 traded issues on the port city bourse, Thirty-five issues advanced and 93 declined.

Beximco topped the turnover leaders with 3,72,400 traded shares worth Tk 7.77 crore. The day's other turnover leaders were Beximco Pharma, Gramen Mutual Fund One: Scheme 2, Titag Gas, AIMS 1st Mutual Fund, Desco, AB Bank, LankaBangla Finance, Bextex and Square Pharma.

Gulf stocks plunge as G20 fails to halt panic

AFP, Kuwait City

Stock markets in the Gulf states plunged on the week's opener Sunday as panic from the fall-out of the global economic crisis continued to dampen investor sentiment.

The slump came despite the approval by leaders of the G20 nations of an action plan on Saturday to restore global growth and prevent future financial upheaval while promising new spending plans and a set of reforms.

Markets of Dubai, Muscat and Doha were the biggest losers, while the Saudi market, the largest Arab bourse, fluctuated sharply at the opening after diving 7.4 percent on Saturday to its lowest level since March 2004.

In the United Arab Emirates, the two bourses of Dubai and Abu Dhabi continued to reel under the woes of the flagging real estate sector amid reports of a sharp drop in the prices of units.

Turnover was sharply down from this year's average, an indication that many investors are staying away amid a huge sell-off that included blue-chip stocks.

Traders said the sell-off came mainly from investors who were forced to liquidate stocks in order to raise cash to meet debt commitments.

The Dubai Financial Market closed down 5.9 percent 1,981.44 points, the first time in more than four years it has dropped below the 2000-point barrier.

Market leader, property giant Emaar shed 9.75 percent, just off the maximum allowed 10 percent to close at 2.87 dirhams (0.78 dollars).

Emaar, which is trading at a four-year low, has so far plunged more than 80 percent this year. DFM dropped for the seventh straight session and has dived more than 29 percent since the start of last week. It is down 66.6 percent on the year.



Ashraf Alim, managing director of Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL), hands over a certificate of honour to Ferdous Alam Mojumder, chairman and managing director of Frontline Communications Ltd, an advertising agency, yesterday. Frontline has been awarded for making the logo of BTCL.



Aktar Hussain, chairman and managing director of Rangs Group of Companies, inaugurates a new outlet of Rangs Electronic Ltd, known as 'Sony-Rangs', at Karwan Bazar in Dhaka on Saturday. J Ekram Hussain, deputy managing director of Rangs Electronics, was also present.

Major currency exchange rates				Exchange rate of some currencies			
	BC Sell	TT Buy		Per USD	BDT per		
US dollar	69.25	68.25					
Euro	88.92	84.49	Indian rupee	48.79	1.41		
Pound	103.45	98.82	Pak rupee	81.05	0.85		
Australian dollar	45.16	43.30	Lankan rupee	110.20	0.63		
Japanese yen	0.73	0.70	Thai baht	34.95	1.97		
Swiss franc	58.41	56.52	Malaysian ringgit	3.60	19.12		
Swedish kroner	8.69	8.13					
Canadian dollar	56.86	55.04					
Hong Kong dollar	8.95	8.80					
Singapore dollar	46.15	44.77					
UAE dirham	19.01	18.43	1M	68.49	69.50		
Saudi riyal	18.60	18.05	2M	68.59	69.71		
Danish kroner	12.23	11.08	3M	68.92	70.25		
Kuwaiti dinar	252.24	249.28	6M	69.65	71.38		

Currency			
Following is Sunday's (November 16, 2008) forex statement by Standard Chartered Bank			
INSURANCE			
Major currency exchange rates			
	BC Sell	TT Buy	
US dollar	69.25	68.25	
Euro	88.92	84.49	
Pound	103.45	98.82	
Australian dollar	45.16	43.30	
Japanese yen	0.73	0.70	
Swiss franc	58.41	56.52	
Swedish kroner	8.69	8.13	
Canadian dollar	56.86	55.04	
Hong Kong dollar	8.95	8.80	
Singapore dollar	46.15	44.77	
UAE dirham	19.01	18.43	1M
Saudi riyal	18.60	18.05	2M
Danish kroner	12.23	11.08	3M
Kuwaiti dinar	252.24	249.28	6M



Mir Nasir Hossain, chairman of Eastern Bank Limited (EBL), inaugurates the relocated OR Nizam Road branch in Chittagong recently. EBL Director Meah Mohammad Abdur Rahim, Managing Director Ali Reza Iftekhar, Deputy Managing Director Mamoon Mahmood Shah were also present.

STOCK

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Company		Price		Turnover		Price		Turnover	
		Closing		Chg (%)		Closing		Chg (%)	
		Pre Day		Share		Pre Day		Share	