

Stocks finish higher

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Dhaka stocks started the week with gains yesterday, driven by non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs).

The benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSE General Index, rose 17.11 points, or 0.64 percent, to 2,688.17 points.

The DSE All Share Price Index also increased 16.23 points, or 0.73 percent, to 2,224.51 points.

Analysts however said the market had witnessed ups and downs all day, showing high risks in investment in securities.

"The topsy-turvy trading is not a good sign for the market," said an analyst.

The market opened with a spike in the index. In the opening five minutes, it gained 13 points. But the gain was pared down in the first 30 minutes of trade.

Most securities traded up on the premier bourse. Of the 250 traded issues, 147 advanced, 98 declined and five remained unchanged.

A total of 2,09,29,829 shares worth Tk 271.23 crore changed hands on the premier bourse.



Sanjay Prakash, chief executive officer of HSBC, inaugurates the bank's "Select Centre" at its Gulshan branch in Dhaka recently. HSBC Select customers can now enjoy a wide array of exclusive privileges at such a centre.

Beximco Pharma topped the turnover leaders on the DSE with 14,76,850 traded shares worth Tk 25.10 crore.

Chittagong stocks also posted a slight gain. The CSE Selective Categories Index rose 13.22 points, or 0.24 percent, to 5,370.45 points.

The CSE All Share Price Index also increased 29.03 points, or 0.35 percent, to 8,253.3 points.

A total of 37,13,247 shares worth Tk 32.62 crore changed hands on the Chittagong Stock Exchange. Of the 149 traded scrips on the port city bourse, 73 advanced, 70 declined and six remained unchanged.

Beximco Pharma topped the turnover leaders on the CSE with 1,94,650 traded shares worth Tk 3.30 crore.

The other turnover leaders were Beximco, Shineeupur Ceramics, AIMS 1st Mutual Fund, Titas Gas, Maksons Spinning, BSRM Steels, Summit Power, Grammen Mutual Fund One: Scheme Two and AIC Formulations.



Shahjan Majumder, acting chief executive officer of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, and AKM Sayedul Islam, director (finance) of Eastern Overseas Shipping Lines, sign an agreement in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, the hospital will provide medical solutions to the employees of the shipping line.

Fed eyes new tools to ease crisis

APP, Washington

Having cut interest rates to near zero, the Federal Reserve meets Tuesday and Wednesday to consider further actions to get credit flowing again and battle the worst economic crisis in decades.

The two-day meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee is being held just six weeks after the central bank slashed its base lending rate to a range of zero to 0.25 percent and predicted "exceptionally low" rates to persist "for some time."

Despite the so-called zero interest rate policy, Fed chairman Ben Bernanke and others have repeatedly said the central bank is not out of ammunition to fight the crisis.

Bernanke said earlier this month the Fed still has "powerful tools" at its disposal to counter a crisis that began with a US real estate meltdown and spread to the global financial sector, resulting in a credit squeeze and slump that has affected consumer spending, manufacturing and the broad economy.

The Fed "has already done a lot" in addition to moving on interest rates, said Nariman Beharavsh, chief economist at IHS Global Insight.



K Mahmood Sattar, managing director of City Bank, inaugurates the bank's "Retail Banking Conference 2009" in Dhaka recently.



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Currency

Following is Sunday's January 25, 2009) forex statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Table with columns: Major currency exchange rates, Exchange rate of some currencies, Per US Dollar, BDT per Currency. Includes rates for US Dollar, Euro, Pound, Australian dollar, Japanese yen, Swiss franc, Swedish krona, Canadian dollar, Hong Kong dollar, Singapore dollar, UAE Dirham, Saudi riyal, Danish kroner, Kuwaiti dirham.

Shipping

Chittagong Port

Table with columns: Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 25/1/2009. Includes columns for Vessel No., Name of Vessels, Cargo call, L. Port, Local agent, Date of arrival, Leaving Import Disch.

Table with columns: Vessels at outer anchorage, Vessels ready. Includes columns for Vessel Name, Agent, Local agent, Date of arrival, Leaving Import Disch.

Table with columns: Vessels not ready. Includes columns for Vessel Name, Agent, Local agent, Date of arrival, Leaving Import Disch.

Table with columns: Vessels awaiting employment / instruction. Includes columns for Vessel Name, Agent, Local agent, Date of arrival, Leaving Import Disch.

Table with columns: Vessels not entering. Includes columns for Vessel Name, Agent, Local agent, Date of arrival, Leaving Import Disch.

Table with columns: Vessels due at outer anchorage. Includes columns for Name of vessels, Date of arrival, L. port, Local agent, Type of cargo, Loading ports.

STOCK

Market Highlights January 25, 2009

Table with columns: DSE All Share Index, DSE General Index, DSE -20 Index, CSE All Share Index, CSE -30 Index, CSE Selected Index.

Turnover Leaders

Table with columns: Company, Turnover (Vol), Turnover (M.Tk), Big Lot, Share. Lists top performing companies like Beximco Pharma, ACI Limited, etc.

Capital Gainers/Losers

Table with columns: Company, Price Chn. (%), Close, Turnover. Lists companies with significant price changes.

Book Closer/Dividend/IPO

Table with columns: Company, Meeting Date, Venue, Time. Lists upcoming corporate events.

News from Trade Servers

Spot Trade Start from 26-01-09: MAKSONSPIN Normal Trade Start from 26-01-09: APEXWEAV

Non Traded Issues

Table with columns: Company, FY/ME (Tk/No), Claiming Price, Last Traded Date. Lists non-traded securities.

TRADED ISSUES January 25, 2009

Large table listing traded issues with columns: Bank, First Lease, Prime Finance, Union Capital, etc. Includes company names, prices, and volumes.

Source: Capital Gains/Losses tables are prepared on the basis of the close price change of the traded issues. EPS= Earnings per Share, BV=Book Value per Share, % indicates Dividend, Listed, Category is mentioned below company name after CDDM, and all EPS, BV, and dividend percentages (in applicable case). Year end is mentioned below the declared dividend figure which may not related to the year end of EPS, BV, EPS & BV would be updated after getting the audited annual report of that financial year. EPS/BV of Life Insurance was calculated by special formula which is appropriate just to compare those figures among the companies under life insurance industry. These figures do not compare with other industry's figures.