

Dhaka stocks down

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Dhaka stocks fell slightly yesterday amid price adjustments of Jamuna Bank, ACI Limited, Heidelberg Cement and Summit Power after transactions of corporate benefits.

On completion of book closures, trading of the four companies resumed yesterday.

The benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSE General Index, declined by 6.82 points, or 0.27 percent to 2,500.07. The DSE All Share Price Index also slid by 6.48 points, or 0.31 percent to 2,084.34.

The market would have ended in the positive if there were no adjustments yesterday. Non-banking financial institutions, fuel and power and insurance sectors performed well.

However, most banks, mutual funds and cement sector shares lost, while pharmaceuticals, tannery and housing sectors closed mixed.

The losers beat the advancers 131 to 109. Five securities remained unchanged.

A total of 2,57,88,425 shares worth Tk 509.29 crore changed hands on the premier bourse.

Summit Power topped the turnover leaders, with 5,25,650 shares worth Tk 62.33 crore being traded, followed by Beximco, S Alim Cold Rolled Steels, Beximco Pharma, Eastern Housing, Titas Gas, Bextex, LankaBangla Finance, Aftab Automobiles and Shinepukur Ceramics.

Chittagong stocks however closed slightly higher yesterday. The CSE Selective Categories Index rose by 12.81 points, or 0.24 percent to 5,322.3. The CSE All Share Index also increased by 16.5 points, or 0.2 percent to 8,207.02.

A total of 42,53,894 shares worth Tk 59.92 crore changed hands on the port city bourse. Of the traded scrips, 71 advanced, 82 declined and six remained unchanged.

Beximco Pharma topped the turnover leaders with 5,19,550 trades shares worth Tk 8.11 crore. The day's other turnover leaders were Summit Power, Beximco, S Alim Cold Rolled Steels, AB Bank, Beximco Synthetics, LankaBangla Finance, Titas Gas, Meghna Petroleum and Shinepukur Ceramics.

China to push investment in Taiwan

AFP, Beijing

China said Sunday it would push mainland businesses to invest in Taiwan to help it weather the global economic crisis, state media reported.

China will also invite Taiwanese businesses to expand on the mainland and join in infrastructure and other key projects, the official Xinhua news agency quoted Wang Yi, head of China's State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, as saying.

"The global financial crisis is affecting both sides of the straits, and we are concerned about the Taiwan economy and the Taiwan compatriots' difficulties," Wang said. "We are ready to give all we can to help them out."

Wang was speaking on the second day of the Straits Forum on China-Taiwan relations in the southeast city of Xiamen.

The mainland will buy more Taiwanese products, encourage more mainland tourists to visit Taiwan, and wants to sign an economic cooperation agreement that would span the Taiwan Strait, Wang said, according to the report.



Faruk Khan, commerce minister, receives a crest from Raihan Shamsi, president of the Institute of Internal Auditors of Bangladesh, at the launching of the institute's website in Dhaka on Saturday.

Currency

Following is Sunday's (May 17, 2009) forex rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Major currency exchange rates

Exchange rate of some currencies

US\$/Sell TT\$Buy **Per USD BDT per Currency**

US dollar 69.50 68.50 **Indian rupee** 49.31 1.40

Euro 95.61 90.67 **Pak rupee** 80.92 0.85

Pound 107.22 101.77 **Lankan rupee** 117.80 0.59

Australian dollar 53.24 50.28 **Thai baht** 34.58 1.99

Japanese yen 0.75 0.71 **Malaysian ringgit** 3.55 19.43

Swiss franc 63.48 59.50 **USD forward rate against BDT**

Canadian dollar 59.42 57.49 **Buy** **Sell**

Hong Kong dollar 8.98 8.83 **UAE dirham** 19.09 18.51

Singapore dollar 47.77 46.32 **Saudi riyal** 18.68 18.12

Chinese Yuan 10.50 10.20 **Danish kroner** 13.20 11.88

UAE dirham 19.09 18.51 **Kuwaiti dinar** 236.70 232.99

Chinese Yuan 10.50 10.20 **6 M** **6 M** **69.81** **71.45**

Chinese Yuan 10.50 10.20 **USD forward rate against BDT**

Chinese Yuan 10.50 10.20 **Buy** **Sell**

Chinese Yuan 10.50 10.20 **Buy** **Sell**