



Kamal Uddin Ahmad, chief executive officer of Shanta Properties Ltd, and Md Shafquat Hossain, head of personal financial services of HSBC Bangladesh, exchange documents after signing a deal in Dhaka recently. The bank's customers will receive upcoming project information, saleable products and privileged services from the real estate company when purchasing flats.

Crude oil prices dive in volatile trade

Oil prices sank heavily this week as traders tracked the dollar and Greek debt concerns, and shrugged off a widely-expected decision from the 12-nation OPEC cartel to maintain crude output levels. The European single currency tumbled as low as 1.3503 dollars on Friday, as investors sought the safe-haven US currency amid uncertainty about aid for debt-plagued Greece. OPEC meanwhile left its output ceiling at 24.84 million barrels a day at a meeting in Vienna on Wednesday. Gasoline and petrol inventories sank by 1.7 million barrels, widely topping forecasts. By late Friday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, Texas light sweet crude for delivery in April plunged to 80.29 dollars from 82.42 dollars a week earlier. On London's Intercontinental Exchange, Brent North Sea crude for May delivery dived to 79.66 dollars from 80.56 dollars for the expired April contract a week earlier. Base or industrial metals mostly fell. Three-month aluminium dropped to 2,252 dollars a tonne from 2,256 dollars. Three-month tin grew to 17,700 dollars a tonne from 17,500 dollars. By Friday on the London Bullion Market, gold eased to 1,105 dollars an ounce from 1,106.25 dollars the previous week. Silver was unchanged at 17.31 dollars an ounce. On the London Platinum and Palladium Market, platinum edged down to 1,617 dollars an ounce from 1,619 dollars. By Friday on the New York Board of Trade (NYBOT), the price of unrefined sugar for delivery in May dropped to 18.42 US cents a pound from 19.53 cents the previous week. London's futures exchange, the price of a tonne of white sugar for May slid to 523.90 pounds from 541.90 pounds. By Friday on the Chicago Board of Trade, maize for delivery in May rose to 3.73 dollars a bushel from 3.64 dollars the previous week. By Friday on the Chicago Board of Trade, soybean meal -- used in animal feed -- increased to 9.56 dollars from 9.25 dollars. Wheat for May was up to 4.87 dollars a bushel from 4.85 dollars.

Euro plunges

The euro sank against the dollar on Friday as investors sought the safe-haven US currency amid doubts over whether the eurozone will rescue Greece from a debt crisis. The European single currency fell as low as 1.3503 dollars before recovering to 1.3633 dollars in late trading here compared to 1.3603 in late New York trade on Thursday. Against the Japanese currency, the dollar was nearly unchanged at 90.38 yen from 90.35 yen late on Thursday. The Swiss franc, meanwhile, rose to a 17-month high against the euro after a member of the Swiss National Bank's governing board warned that the central bank could end interventions that prevented sharp currency appreciations. The European Union struggled to forge common ground on the Greek debt crisis as Athens warned it could turn to the International Monetary Fund for help if the bloc failed to come up with a solution at a summit March 25-26. In London on Friday, the euro was at 1.3531 dollars against 1.3603 dollars on Thursday.

Inter-American Development Bank seeks capital boost

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) sought a boost in capital for increased lending to Latin America and the Caribbean as its annual meeting opened on Friday in Mexico. The gathering of top bankers, finance officials and interest groups at the beach resort of Cancun, which lasts until Tuesday, was also under US pressure to cancel Haiti's debt. The bank needs additional capital because its lending capacity will start to significantly fall off next year, IDB President Luis Alberto Moreno said last week. As the global financial crisis has increased demands for development lending, the IDB last year approved record financing of 15.5 billion dollars, up 38 percent from the previous year. Although some shareholders have agreed on raising the bank's capital, the amount still needs to be decided. The IDB's ordinary capital -- not all available for loans -- is around 100 billion dollars. Suggestions for the capital increase have spanned from a more likely 50 billion, according to analysts, to as much as 180 billion dollars. Washington supports a "robust" increase in the bank's capital, US Treasury sources said on Thursday. Some lenders are also seeking to modify the practices of the IDB and other multilateral institutions, in order to better assess their impact and reduce corruption. The IDB said in a statement Friday that it sought to increase loans for poverty reduction from 40 to 50 percent by 2015, and boost loans for climate change efforts from five to 25 percent.



Shohail RK Hussain, acting managing director of The City Bank Ltd, inaugurates the bank's Service Campaign 2010, in Dhaka recently. The campaign was a follow-up of a 'Spirit to Serve' training given to all retail employees of the bank in February.

STOCK

Weekly Market Highlights March 14 - 18, 2010. DSE All Share Index: 4437.16437 (+) 1.58%. DSE 20 Index: 2993.24158 (+) 0.80%. CSE All Share Index: 15710.2755 (+) 1.69%. CSE 30 Index: 11183.543 (+) 1.07%. CSE Selected Index: 10275.1933 (+) 1.76%.

Weekly Turnover Leaders. Table with columns: Company, Turnover (Vol., M.Tk.), Closing Av. Pr., and % Chn. Includes BEXIMO Ltd., Gramphone-N, BEXTEX Ltd., LankaBangla Fin.-A, DESCO Ltd., Summit Power-A, Navana CNG-N, Kaya Cosmetics-A, IDLC Finance-A, Union Capital-A.

Weekly Capital Gainers/Losers. Table with columns: Company, Price Chn. (%), Close Price, and Turnover M.Tk. Includes Hakkani Paper & Fine Foods, Bangladesh Waking-B, Sonabangla Ind.-A, Chittagong Veg.-Z, Eastland Ind.-A, Golden Son-A, BDCM Online-A, IDLC Finance-A, Miral Industries-B.

Weekly News Highlights from Trade Servers. Table with columns: Company, Price Chn. (%), Close Price, and Turnover M.Tk. Includes ACI 20% Convertible Zero Coupon Bonds, ACI 20% Convertible Zero Coupon Bonds, ACI 20% Convertible Zero Coupon Bonds, ACI 20% Convertible Zero Coupon Bonds.

Weekly News Highlights from Trade Servers. Table with columns: Company, Price Chn. (%), Close Price, and Turnover M.Tk. Includes ACI 20% Convertible Zero Coupon Bonds, ACI 20% Convertible Zero Coupon Bonds, ACI 20% Convertible Zero Coupon Bonds, ACI 20% Convertible Zero Coupon Bonds.

WEEKLY TRADED ISSUES MAR 14 - 18, '10

Large table listing weekly traded issues for various sectors including Banking, Fuel & Power, Engineering, Pharmaceuticals & Chemical, Cement, IT Industries, Textile, Food & Allied, Paper & Packaging, Leather, General Insurance, and Non Banking FI. Each entry includes company name, price change, close price, and turnover.

Source: Capital Gains/Losers 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 CDBL Listed, Category is mentioned beside company name after CDBL mark. All EPS & BV are diluted/adjusted (in applicable cases). Year end is mentioned beside the declared dividend figure which may not be related to the end of EPS & BV. EPS & BV were updated after getting the audited annual report of that financial year. EPS/BV of Life Insurance was calculated by special formulas which is appropriate just to compare those figures among the companies under the industry. These figures could not be compared with other industry's figures.