

Regulator slams bourses for failure to rein in prices

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The stockmarket regulator yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over Dhaka and Chittagong bourses' failure to intervene in an unusual and abnormal price hike in some securities.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) vented its disappointment at a meeting with the Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges, a spokesman said.

The regulator also asked the bourses to intervene in share trading in future with their own decision, if any company's stock prices soar abnormally or irrationally, said Farhad Ahmed, the spokesman and an executive director of the SEC. "The exchanges can take initiative such as suspending share trading without any prior instruction or direction from the SEC. But, earlier they did like after the commission instructed them to do so," he said after the meeting.

The SEC on Tuesday instructed the bourses to stop trading of 13 listed com-

panies until further order, as prices of the stocks soared abnormally on Monday.

But, neither the Dhaka Stock Exchange nor the Chittagong Stock Exchange took measures against those.

However, the premier bourse suspended trading of two companies from yesterday for unusual price hike. The companies are Rahim Textiles and Dula Mia Cotton.

The market watchdog also asked the bourses to strengthen their administrative activities, the SEC spokesman said.

At yesterday's meeting, the SEC directed the two bourses to monitor the branch offices of the stockbrokers to check whether the branches are run properly.

"The commission recently received allegations that some stockbrokers rented their branches to others instead of operating those on their own," Ahmed said.

At least a couple of such incidents were identified a few years ago, and the DSE sold out the membership licences

to pay out the clients after the brokers failed to run the houses, he said.

"If the commission finds any such activities, the licences of the brokers will be scrapped," Ahmed added.

Meanwhile, Dhaka stocks continued to gain, with the benchmark DSE General Index (DGEN) increasing by 118 points, or 1.38 percent, to 8,672.

With the rise, the DGEN also hit a new record, surpassing the previous high of 8,598 points on November 21.

Advancers beat losers 121 to 107, and four securities remained unchanged on the prime bourse, which traded more than 13.48 crore shares and mutual fund units worth Tk 2,690 crore.

Chittagong stocks also marked a rise, with the CSE Selective Categories Index gaining 193 points, or 1.23 percent, to reach 15,829.

Of the traded issues, 96 advanced, 88 declined and six remained unchanged on the port city bourse, which traded more than 1.80 crore shares and mutual fund units on a value of Tk 279 crore.



AK Azad, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, attends a meeting on the country's prevailing economic and political situation at the chamber's conference room in Dhaka yesterday. (Story on page 1)

BB freezes account of marketing company

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The central bank has suspended for one month a bank account of UniGateway2u, a multi-level marketing company, with Social Islami Bank Ltd (SIBL) on charges of suspicious transactions.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) on Tuesday issued a letter freezing the account, saying the account was suspended under anti-money laundering rules.

The BB letter did not raise any specific charge against UniGateway2u but said it was based on SIBL's report to the central bank that the account had suspicious transactions.

BB officials said, though the account was opened on October 12, the amount of total deposit in it has reached Tk 12 crore now.

They said money amounting from Tk 20 lakh to Tk 50 lakh has been deposited from different areas of the country in the account, which was considered suspicious, and the SIBL reported it to the central bank.

The officials said, in line with the anti-money laundering act they can freeze any suspicious account for a maximum period of one month. By the time the central bank will investigate with which other banks they have accounts and whether they have been earning through illegal ways. Then the BB takes the next step.

In the bank account of the company,

Masudur Rahman was shown as its chairman and Mosfiqur Rahman as managing director.

According to the website of the company, UniGateway2u facilitates online payment processing and has nationwide agents and merchants. It also has clients in Bangalore of India.

The website mentioned the names of some other companies of the Group: Unipay2u, UniGold2u, VISAREV, Uniexchange2u, UniPay2U International.

When contacted, Mosfiqur Rahman said they still do not know why the account was suspended. He said, after knowing the details, they will take the next course of action.

He said their business follows multi-level marketing and they bring in different commodities from abroad to market those in the country.

Rahman admitted the presence of the companies under the group but said their management was separate.

Earlier the central bank in May suspended for one month a bank account of UniPay2u Bangladesh, a 'gold trading company' that promises high returns on investment. The BB then froze accounts of the company with three private banks. Later the company filed a writ petition with the High Court, and on a HC stay order they have been continuing their business since then.

Sonali Bank gets new DMD



STAR BUSINESS DESK

Md Atikur Rahman joined Sonali Bank as deputy managing director on Tuesday, said a statement.

Prior to the joining, he had been the bank's general manager since 2005. An MA from Jahangirnagar University, Rahman joined Sonali Bank as senior officer on probation in 1977.

Germany eyes deeper trade

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Business environment in Bangladesh is strong but good governance and legal framework are needed to attract foreign investment, a German state secretary observed yesterday.

Foreign businesspersons are careful with money but not shy to invest, Martin Biesel, state secretary of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, told a gathering at The Westin, Dhaka.

"In a world where foreign direct investment is under competition, a reliable legal framework is necessary," he said in his speech on Perspectives of Bilateral Relations.

Bangladesh German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BGCCI) hosted the event, attended by an eight-member German business delegation and local businesspersons. German Ambassador Holger Michael and BGCCI President Md Saiful Islam also spoke.

The remarks of Biesel came at a time

when German business interest as a trade and investment partner with Bangladesh is growing.

Germany is the second biggest export destination of Bangladesh thanks to duty-free access of major exportable items.

Bilateral trade between the two countries rose by 15 percent to 2.3 billion euros in 2009, with trade balance favouring Bangladesh. In 2010, it is expected to reach 2.4 billion euros, according to BGCCI President Md Saiful Islam.

Biesel, who is visiting Dhaka following a visit of Foreign Minister Dipu Moni in Germany early September, said, "People come here because there is prospect of good business."

He said that trade and investment is a remedy against poverty and provides jobs. Biesel also added that the government should help the private sector grow and contribute to development.

The German state secretary referred

to the predictions of economists about the growth potential of Bangladesh in the days ahead.

With a population of more than 160 million, Bangladesh's economy has been growing at nearly 5 percent a year in the last two decades, buoyed by rise in exports, remittance inflows and domestic demand.

"We are interested to invest in energy sector and infrastructure," said Biesel, accompanied by executives from energy, infrastructure development, telecommunication, shipbuilding and jute sectors.

"Overall business climate is in excellent situation and there are opportunities."

Citing comparative advantage of Bangladesh in South Asia, BGCCI President called upon German business community for investment.

"Bangladesh is becoming competitive by the day in manufacturing," he said. "We do not need aid. We want trade."

Batexpo 2010 starts today

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Bangladesh's largest fair for the apparel sector starts today.

The three-day textile exposition, Batexpo-2010, will be organised at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

At a press briefing yesterday at BGMEA office, its President Abdus Salam Murshedy said the fair aims at promotion and expansion of global market for Bangladesh's readymade garments.

The sector's leader is upbeat on a wider participation of foreign buyers this time in the exposition of textiles, clothing and accessories.

Murshedy said, "We expect more buyers this year because the world economy is going to rebound from the two-year long recession."

A huge number of buyers from USA, Canada, UK and Middle Eastern and Southeast Asian countries are expected to throng the biggest fair of its kind in Asia and the Pacific region.

Around 89 organisations from India, Pakistan, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Thailand, Brazil and Bangladesh will showcase their products through 137 stalls.

The fair last year bagged spot orders worth \$41.64 million. Pointing to a 38 percent growth in RMG exports in the last four months despite economic downturn, BGMEA chief said Bangladesh had been able to expand its market to Japan, Australia, Mexico and Chili during the time.

However, he also pointed to the fact that the industry counted a Tk 2,000 crore loss because of the prevailing energy crunch.

"We faced another Tk 900 crore loss, as we had to export apparels by air because there are problems at Chittagong port," Murshedy said.

This year a separate corner will be established with the internet, phone and fax in the fair for international buyers.

A reception corner has already been opened at Shahjalal International Airport to help buyers find their accommodation and transportation.

Premier Bank is sponsoring the Batexpo-2010.

Krushers on KFC menu

STAR BUSINESS DESK

International restaurant chain KFC has decided to attach its previously launched drink Krushers to its regular menu, said a statement.

The drink in five flavours was launched last month on a limited scale to measure the market potential, the statement added.

"The response we had with Krushers last October was amazing and beyond expectation," said Akku Chowdhury, executive director, Transcom Foods Ltd that operates KFC in Bangladesh.

"This is why Krushers is now back for the KFC fans at selected stores only around the

country. Krushers has been, perhaps, the most exciting addition to the KFC menu till date. As you already know, when it comes to the Krushers, it's not just about the great taste and a cool drink, it's about the experience."

"But we guarantee that it'll be an experience like never before," Chowdhury added.

The dessert is a combination of chocolate, cookie bits, coffee, dairy and ice that is available in five flavours -- Choco Lash, Charred Coffee, Strawberry Smoothie, Virgin Mojito and Black Mojito.

KFC has six outlets in Dhaka and one in Chittagong. Transcom Foods, a subsidiary of Transcom, is also the franchisee of Pizza Hut.

মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, চট্টগ্রাম
 সিডিএ এডিনিউ, মুরাদপুর, পাঁচলাইশ, চট্টগ্রাম
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পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, চট্টগ্রাম এর নিম্নলিখিত কাজসমূহ করার লক্ষ্যে The Public Procurement Regulation 2008 মোতাবেক দক্ষ, অভিজ্ঞ, যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীমাহীনকৃত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক পুনঃ দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়।
২	এজেন্সীর নাম ও অবস্থান	মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, চট্টগ্রাম।
৩	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী ও ঠিকানা	প্রফেসর মুহাম্মদ নূরুল হুদা সচিব, মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, চট্টগ্রাম।
৪	আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্রের নাম	ফ্রপ-ক' ২০১১ সালের এসএসসি ও এইএসসি পরীক্ষার ফরম ছাপানো। ফ্রপ-খ' ২০১১ সালের এসএসসি ও এইএসসি পরীক্ষার প্রশ্নপত্রের খাম তৈরি।
৫	সম্ভাব্য পদ্ধতি	খোলা দরপত্র (Open Tender Method)।
৬	দরপত্র সূত্র নম্বর	চশি/প্রশ-১১/ট-কমিটি/১০/৯৫ (অংশ-২), তারিখঃ ২১/১১/২০১০।
৭	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ, দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার তারিখ এবং সময়	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ২৩/১১/২০১০ হতে ৩০/১১/২০১০ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ এবং শেষ সময় ১/১২/২০১০ দুপুর ১২ (বারটা) দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ এবং শেষ সময় ১/১২/২০১০ দুপুর ১২.৩০ (বারটা ত্রিশ)
৮	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, চট্টগ্রাম। সিডিএ এডিনিউ, মুরাদপুর, পাঁচলাইশ, চট্টগ্রাম।
৯	দরপত্র সিডিউল গ্রহণ ও খোলার স্থান	মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, চট্টগ্রাম। সিডিএ এডিনিউ, মুরাদপুর, পাঁচলাইশ, চট্টগ্রাম।
১০	দরপত্রদাতাদের যোগ্যতা	হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক স্বাক্ষরিত সনদ, আয়কর পরিশোধের হালনাগাদ প্রমাণ, ভাট নিবন্ধীকরণ সনদ, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ (কোন সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কাজ করেছে এ রকম কার্যসম্পন্ন কর্তৃক) সত্যায়িত করে দাখিল করতে হবে। প্রয়োজনবোধে কর্তৃপক্ষ মূল সার্টিফিকেট চাইতে পারবেন।
১১	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	সচিব, মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, চট্টগ্রাম এর অনুকূলে সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমি, চট্টগ্রাম শাখা বোর্ডের নীচতলার 'ক' ফ্রপ-১,০০০/-, 'খ' ফ্রপ-১,৫০০/- ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (অকেরতযোগ্য) করে উক্ত ড্রাফটের রশিদ দাখিলপূর্বক শিক্ষা বোর্ড হতে দরপত্র সম্ভব করা হবে।
১২	বায়নার অর্থ	'ক'-ফ্রপ ৪৫,০০০/- ও 'খ'-ফ্রপ ৭৫,০০০/- টাকা জামানত হিসেবে (কেরতযোগ্য) পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংক হতে সচিব, মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, চট্টগ্রাম এর অনুকূলে দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে।
১৩	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর অফিসের যোগাযোগের বর্ণনা	টেলিফোন নং- ২৫৫৩১৫৫ ফ্যাক্স নং- ২৫৫৩১৪৯ E-mail: info@bise-ctg.gov.bd. www.bise-ctg.gov.bd
১৪	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ক। প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব মূল লেটারহেড প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র ক্রয় করতে হবে এক্ষেত্রে প্যাডের ফটোকপি প্রদানযোগ্য হবে না। খ। দরপত্রের সিডিউলে কোন প্রকার ঘষামাজা কিংবা ওভাররাইটিং গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। গ। বায়নার অর্থ ছাড়া দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। ঘ। বিল হতে সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক আয়কর ও ভাট কর্তন করা হবে এবং সরকার কর্তৃক আরোপিত সকল ধরনের কর কর্তন প্রযোজ্য হবে। ঙ। খামের উপর অফিস/ফর্মের নাম ও পূর্ণ ঠিকানা এবং সিলপালা ব্যবহার করতে হবে। চ। মূল দরপত্রদাতা/তার প্রাধিকারপ্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তি শুধুমাত্র এ কাজে কর্তৃপক্ষের সংশ্লিষ্ট যোগাযোগের বৈধতা রাখেন। ছ। ডাকযোগে কোন দরপত্র বিক্রয় করা হবে না। জ। দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার নির্ধারিত তারিখে সরকারি ছুটি বা অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ কার্যালয় বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী কার্যালয়বসে একই সময়ে একই স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে। ঝ। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র আংশিক অথবা সম্পূর্ণভাবে গ্রহণ অথবা বর্জন করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

প্রফেসর মুহাম্মদ নূরুল হুদা
সচিব
মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, চট্টগ্রাম



Ranks Power & Renewable Energy, a concern of Ranks Group, has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Facitroom Bangladesh to supply 12,000 solar home systems at a programme in Dhaka recently. Romo Rouf Chowdhury, managing director of Ranks Power, and RK Das, general manager for sales, marketing and purchase of Facitroom, signed the agreement.

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