

Punish rule violators: DSE

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government should punish the responsible persons involved in the stockmarket manipulation, said the president of Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.

Shakil Rizvi said the government has little to do with the prices of stockmarket because those depend on many other variables.

But the government can punish the law violators, he said at a press briefing at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

The government should also find out whether the borrowed money from financial institutions was invested in the

intended sectors in absence of proper monitoring by the central bank.

"A crisis has been created with diversion of fund from the market. But the market will rebound soon," he said, adding that the market is under pressure for different reasons now.

"The trading on the market will start at its regular time from Sunday. DSE trading started two hours late on the last two days because of a volatile situation," he said.

When Rizvi was at the briefing, the benchmark DSE General Index (DGEN) fell 600 points only in six minutes into the two-hour-delayed



Shakil Rizvi

start of trading at 1pm.

When asked why the index plunged 600 points in spite of a

circuit-breaker, he said: "We will see how it happened."

On Wednesday the DSE set a circuit-breaker at 225 points, meaning the trading will stop automatically if the prices go up or down this limit.

He said so far three companies have been listed on the stockmarket under the book building method.

The Securities and Exchange Commission should also correct the book building method, because this system has some flaws that can lead to price manipulation, the Dhaka bourse president said.

He sought cooperation from the media for disseminating

right information.

He also complained that a private television channel has been disseminating wrong information over the last few days about different issues of the stockmarket.

The DSE entered into agreements with six TV channels and two newspapers to allow the media houses to broadcast live trading updates of the bourse, Rizvi said.

Chief Operating Officer of DSE Zahurul Alam said the premier bourse will also sign such deals with some international media houses such as Bloomberg, Reuters and a Middle East-based one.

Carat wins Global Media Network award

STAR BUSINESS DESK



Jerry Buhlmann

Carat has been awarded Campaign's 2010 Global Media Network of the year award for the third time in five years, said a recent statement of media and market research company Aegis Group.

The award reflects several important management appointments and a strong new business performance in the US and Asia Pacific, supporting Carat's global position during the course of the year.

Jerry Buhlmann, chief executive officer of Aegis, said: "I am delighted that Carat has once again been recognised with this prestigious award. It is a tribute to the hard work and commitment of our global teams, and demonstrates the breadth within the Group."

The win gives us momentum to further progress our power brand strategy, he added.

Carat is represented in Bangladesh by its official affiliate, MediaAxis since 2009. Carat handles the media duties of Nokia, Air Asia, Cooline and Best Air in the country. Another two to three international brands are expected to be added in the account in 2011.

MediaAxis Chief Executive Officer Rabeth Khan said "Winning of the award demonstrated our tenacity and prowess in dominating the global media scene. We are working in Bangladesh with the same spirit and hope to shake up few surprises this year."

In March 2010, the agency landed the \$100 million Beiersdorf account from Omnicom and \$250 million business from Pfizer's Wyeth. Carat also secured \$125 million business from the food manufacturer JM Smucker, and Red Bull's \$50 million account in 2010.

Carat also grew its Asia Pacific business with the \$250 million win of China Telecom bid. In local markets, Carat retained key businesses such as £100 million pan

MLM investors demand quick govt move

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

People who have investments in multilevel marketing yesterday demanded a quick and acceptable move by the government to save them from huge losses.

They claimed at a press meet in Chittagong that the business has been playing an important role in easing unemployment problems in the country.

Investors of Unigateway2u Trading (pvt) Ltd organised the conference at Chittagong Press Club protesting allegations over MLM system.

They have been pouring their money in the business as the government provided all clearances to those companies one and a half years ago, the investors said.

The government's moves against MLM companies, including freezing bank accounts of Unipay2U, panicked the investors, one of the participants of the meeting said.

The media that presented the news extravagantly is also responsible for this situation, he said. "It gave a

Korean seminar on power next week

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Twelve leading Korean electric power companies and the state-run Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) will organise a seminar on advanced transmission and distribution system in Dhaka next week.

KOTRA Dhaka, the commercial section of South Korean Embassy in Dhaka, will hold the seminar as well as a one-to-one meeting in cooperation with Korea Electrical Manufacturers Association and KEL, a local consulting company, Saturday and Sunday respectively.

The events, at Sonargaon Hotel, is expected to bring together Bangladeshi companies with the leading Korean companies in the electrical sector, said a KOTRA statement yesterday.

During the seminar, KEPCO, which has been successful in keeping power system loss to only 4 percent, will give an overview of smart grid and advanced transmission and distribution technologies to Bangladeshi utility operators and companies.

The company is now implementing smart grid

Olitalia launches olive oil

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Italy-based Olitalia Corporation launched its olive oil products in the Bangladesh market recently. Local company Fair Distribution will distribute the product.

Olitalia, an ISO certified company, is one of the world's leading edible oil producer and its business expands over 130 countries in the world.

The oil is now available in 100ml, 150ml, and 250ml packages in different parts of the city such as Uttara, Mohammadpur, Gulshan, Mirpur and Dhanmondi.

Its vitamin E and biological anti-oxidants prevents skin sagging and wrinkles, the company said in a statement.

The company won the superior taste award by International Taste and Quality Institute in 2006. Olitalia is also working with Diabetic Association, Bangladesh in creating awareness for prevention of diabetics.

Yunus signs clothing deal with French company

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Yunus Centre and ID Group, a French company, yesterday signed a deal to produce functional clothing for children of 0-5 years under social business in Bangladesh.

The business will also provide technical training to the rural poor and generate employment. It plans to start production by the year-end.

They will also set up a day-care centre for children under another social business, Yunus Centre said in a statement.

ID Group Chief Executive Officer Jean-Luc Soufflet and Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus inked the deal while Soufflet with a five-member delegation, paid a visit to Grameen Bank to discuss future prospects and



AFP

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, seated right, and ID Group CEO Jean-Luc Soufflet sign a memorandum of understanding yesterday to produce clothing for babies and set up a day-care centre under social business.

collaborations with the microcredit agency.

In a six-day visit, the group focused on the development

and progress of currently running social businesses in Bangladesh and gaining a deeper understanding of further invest-

ments in clothing in the country.

The ID Group has four different brands namely Okaidi, Obaibi, Jacadi and Veronique

Delachaux that produce children clothes with 860 retail outlets in 55 countries around the world.

The delegation visited Grameen Shikha-OKWorld Pre-school Project -- financed by OKWorld -- a concern of ID Group, in Manikganj district where students learn through games and toys in a joyful environment and other social business projects of Grameen in Bogra.

The group is committed to start a social business with Grameen that will involve producing high quality clothes for children at an affordable rate. Delegations from several foreign universities and international medical institutes visited Grameen social business companies during the week of January 15-20 for setting up social businesses in healthcare.

Army pullout from Ctg port to take some time: Minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Armed forces will be withdrawn from the Chittagong port after discussion with the port users and reinstatement of the sacked workers, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan said yesterday.

Although the present situation in Chittagong port is normal, the withdrawal of the armed forces would take some time as the issue has to be discussed with the port users and government officials, he said at a meeting of the advisory committee on the port.

The minister was presiding over the second meeting of the committee, which approved an action plan containing short-, mid- and long-term proposals to improve the efficiency and capability of the port management.

The three-phase action plan included issues like -- labour management, law and order situation, security system, berth and ship-handling system, operational capacity of container and bulk carriers, capacity build-up, handling equipment collection, navigation preservation, and tender process.

RU Ahmed, member secretary of the committee and chairman of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), presented the action plan containing 28 agendas on different issues.

The committee at the four-hour meeting decided to take measures to stop sand-extraction from the Karnaphuli river and set up a separate terminal to provide parking facilities for trucks and trailers carrying goods in the port.

The minister also directed the CPA chairman to submit a report on the progress of the short-term proposals at the next meeting.

Committee member and lawmaker Mainuddin Khan Badal proposed formation of a body to monitor and carry out research on the Karnaphuli river, in order to save it from filling-up and pollution.

Lawmaker Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury called to form a trusty board to run the daily activities of the port instead of the existing administrative system. The committee also decided to form the board comprising Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury and Shamsul Hoque, another lawmaker, and four others to take decision on it.

Shipbuilding zone, maritime university on cards

BSS, Dhaka

The government plans to set up a separate shipbuilding industrial zone to help the potential industry flourish.

"The government has also decided to establish a maritime university, first of its kind in the country, to build skilled manpower suitable for the industry," Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan said to the news agency yesterday.

A coastal area under Kalaroa upazila in Patuakhali district has been selected initially for the proposed zone, he said. "We are also considering building a seaport in the same area."

The maritime university will be established on 40 acres in Chittagong Marine Academy, Khan said. "The proposal for setting up the university will be finalised at an inter-ministerial meeting Sunday."

Six more marine academies will be set up in Narayanganj, Barisal, Sylhet, Pabna, Rangpur and Chittagong division, the minister added.

The government has taken steps to meet the sector's global demand to regain its past glory, Khan said.

Bangladesh is now a member of the

second grade governing body of IMO (International Maritime Organisation), he said. "Of 118 countries, 10 are the first grade members and another 10 belong to the second grade."

The IMO Secretary General Eftimios E Mitropoulos, who visited Bangladesh recently, asked for setting up a separate shipbuilding industrial zone after taking a close look at the industry, Khan said.

"During the visit, the IMO official expressed satisfaction at the silent revolution that took place in Bangladesh's shipbuilding industry and gave assurances of providing cooperation to this end."

Bangladesh earned \$18.2 million in the last six months from ship exports, \$5.63 million up from the target, said Shipping Secretary Abdul Mannan Hawlader.

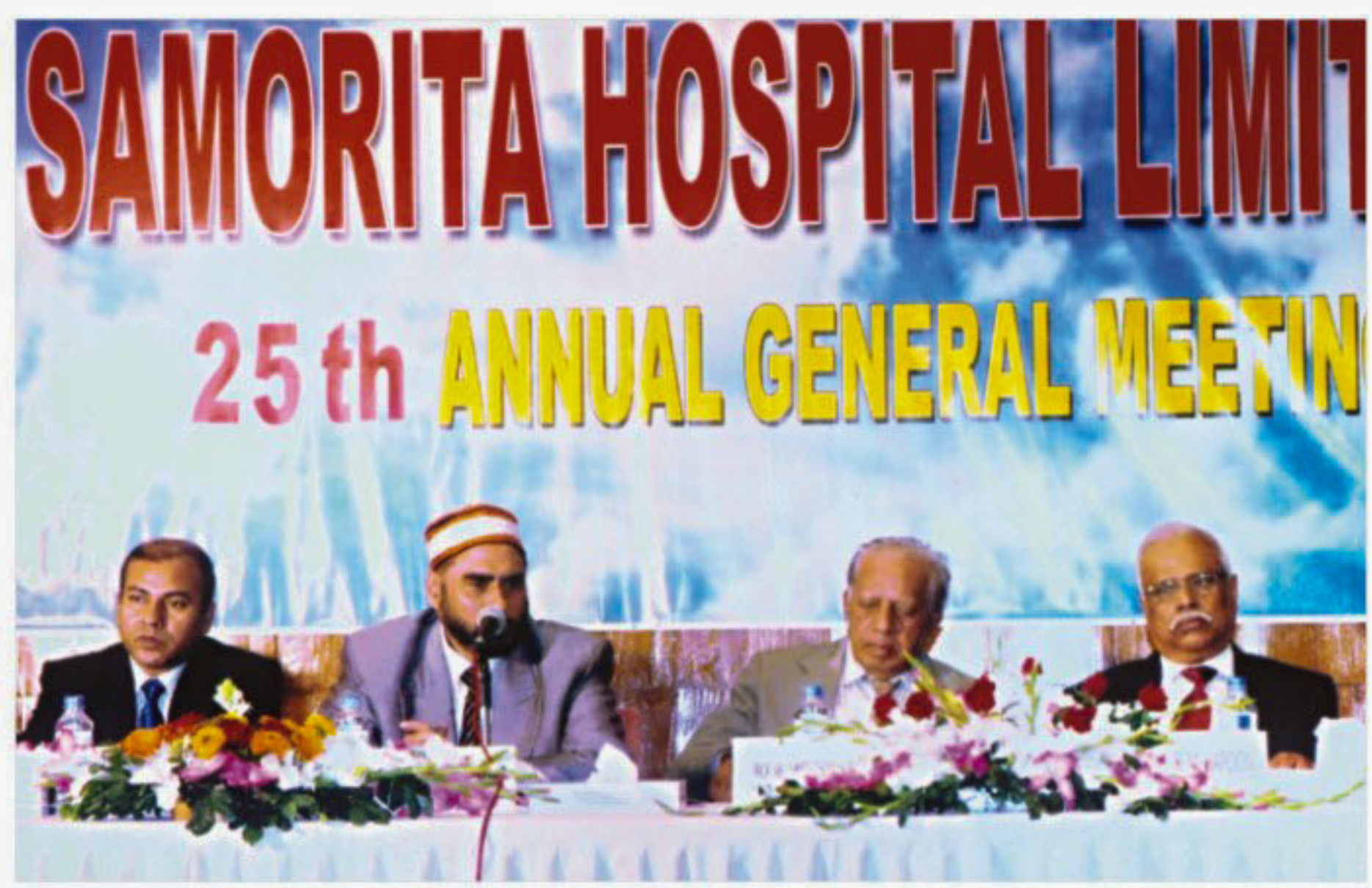
"The country fetched \$0.89 million more in July-December 2010 period over the same time of 2009, and the period bears a fabulous growth rate of 1,924.72 percent."

"The Chittagong Marine Academy now provides two-year cadetship. With the new university, the two-year course will be turned into an eight-year course to create world standard marine engineers in nautical, marine laws, port management and shipbuilding management," said Commandant of Chittagong Marine Academy Sajid Hossain.



BRAC BANK

Syed Faridul Islam, head of SME banking of BRAC Bank, and AKM Sahadat Hossain, general manager of Building Technology and Ideas (BTI), exchange documents after signing a deal to provide special benefits to BTI clients at a programme in Dhaka recently.



SAMORITA

Abu Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman of Samorita Hospital, and ABM Haroon, managing director, attend the hospital's 25th annual general meeting in Dhaka recently. The company approved 16 percent dividend for its shareholders.