

Stocks plunge for third day

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Share prices declined for a third day with turnover at a three-year low on the Dhaka Stock Exchange, due to lack of investor confidence.

Turnover on the premier bourse slipped 37.5 percent to Tk 168 crore, compared to the previous day.

The benchmark General Index of DSE lost 1.07 percent or 41.53 percent to close at 3,845.65 points.

The market gained 74 points at 11:20am but finally closed negative due to massive sell-offs.

Market analysts said institutional investors acted like small investors and low institutional buying was responsible for accelerating the fall in share prices.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith on Wednesday asked

banks and insurers to fulfil their commitments to the stockmarket.

"Banks and insurance companies must fulfil their commitments they made during their meeting with the prime minister."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held a meeting on November 16 last year at Gono Bhaban with stockmarket stakeholders in an effort to stabilise the market.

Analysts said the frustrated investors went for massive selling of shares to save their money, who were expecting some policy measures to increase the credit flow to the market.

"The DSE continued its downward ride as selling pressure continued to overwhelm the index throughout the trading session," Green Delta LR Holdings said in its daily mar-

ket analysis.

A total of 0.077 lakh trades were executed with 4.32 crore changing hands on the Dhaka bourse. Of the total 260 issues traded: 78 advanced and 170 declined and 12 remained unchanged.

Among the major sectors: banks lost 1 percent and non-bank financial institutions 1.78 percent, while pharmaceuticals and power lost in excess of 1 percent. Grameenphone, which represent the telecoms sector, rose 1.09 percent.

The Chittagong Stock Exchange slipped with the Selective Categories Index losing 148 points or 2 percent to end the day at 7,147.14.

Losers beat gainers 152 to 24, with eight securities remaining unchanged on the port city bourse that traded 85.11 lakh shares with turnover of Tk 31.62 crore.

Trouble lingers in Ishwardi EPZ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police yesterday barred the workers of Roshita Knitting Ltd and Megha Textile Ltd from the two factories in Ishwardi Export Processing Zone as the authorities filed a case against 150 workers over Monday's vandalism.

The vandalism took place when the security guards of the factories beat up the workers while they were demonstrating demanding timely payment of salaries and bonus.

Over 5,000 agitated workers then besieged the house of Shamsur Rahman Sharif Dilu, lawmaker from Ishwardi, to press their demands.

The lawmaker's wife Kamrunnahar Sharif assured the workers of taking necessary steps as the lawmaker was not at home to attend the ongoing parliamentary session.

"As our workers went to join work on Thursday morning, law enforcers forced us to return from

the factories gates," said Md Helal Uddin, president of the workers' association of Roshita Knitting.

"Workers don't get salaries and bonuses regularly due to the intervention of Nahid Akter Nirob, general manager for administration of Roshita Knitting," he said.

"They damaged the factories by their own men, later filed the cases and called the police to harass us. We want quick removal of the general manager."

Roshita Knitting and Megha Textile issued notices at the factory gates on Wednesday saying they will open the factories on Sunday and Monday respectively as they are repairing the factories, said SM Aktari Alam Mostafi, general manager of Ishwardi EPZ.

The employees would be paid their dues by February 7, Mostafi said.

Cheu Y Hey, general manager of both factories, filed a case of vandalism with Ishwardi Police Station on Wednesday, said Kazi Haniful Islam, officer in charge of the station.



IBBL
GM Quader, commerce minister, hands the first award in mini pavilion category for Dhaka International Trade Fair to Mohammad Abdul Mannan, managing director of Islami Bank Bangladesh, at the closing ceremony of the show on Tuesday.

WTO approves two-year trade waiver for Pakistan

AFP, Geneva

The World Trade Organization approved a waiver on Wednesday allowing 75 Pakistani products duty free access to European markets for two years to help textile exports after devastating floods in 2010.

"This waiver is unprecedented. This shows the human face of the WTO. The Pakistani people have faith in the multi-lateral trade system," Shahid Bashir, Pakistan's ambassador to the international trade body told, AFP.

Trade officials said the EU is Pakistan's largest trading partner, receiving almost 30 percent of its exports -- worth almost 3 billion euros (\$3.9 billion).

Pakistan's trade with the EU consists mainly of textiles, which account for more than 70 percent of its exports to European countries.

The products chose for the waiver would amount to around 900 million euros in import value, accounting for about 27 percent of EU imports from Pakistan.

The WTO has not in the past offered such special trade terms to one member, but the EU requested it due to Pakistan's exceptional circumstances following the floods in the south Asian country.

Bashir said the agreement on textiles, leather goods and industrial alcohol could boost Pakistan's exports by 15 to 20 percent.

"We are very happy about the agreement," he said that had come after 18 months of wrangling.

The deal faced delays over objections raised by countries such as Argentina, Brazil, India, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

Bangladesh, which also relies heavily on textile exports, relented as it viewed the circumstances for the agreement as exceptional.

The waiver needs to be ratified at the general council meeting of the WTO on February 14 and 15 and if approved will apply until the end of 2013.



CITY BANK
Mashrur Arefin, deputy managing director of City Bank, and Mohammad Ali, head of corporate affairs of Executive Suites Ltd (Platinum Suites), sign documents of a deal at the bank's head office in the capital recently. The bank's gold credit cardholders and Visa cardholders will enjoy special offers at the restaurants of Platinum Suites.



BRAC EPL
Javed-Bin-Karim, director and head of marketing for sustainability and corporate affairs of BRAC EPL Investments Ltd; Rashedul Haque, director of Exponet Exhibition; Utpal Bhattacharjee of Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Ltd; and Redwan Hossain, managing director of New Nation Solar, attend a press meet to announce an international exhibition, Showcase CDM Bangladesh, at National Press Club in Dhaka recently. The three-day fair ends on February 18.

Global acclaim for Novo Nordisk

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Novo Nordisk, a global leader in diabetes care, has recently been ranked 43rd in the list of "100 Best Companies to Work For" in 2012.

Fortune magazine made the list, Novo Nordisk said in a statement yesterday.

"I'm convinced that it is our people who set us apart. Each and every person at Novo Nordisk wants to make a difference," said Jeff Frazier, corporate vice president for human resources of the company.

"As we continue to actively recruit high-quality talent in the United States, our goal is to identify and instill the same spirit in every new team member," said Frazier.

The annual ranking, now in its 15th year, is a prestigious recognition of the best in workplace culture and talent initiatives.

Fortune in association with the Great Place to Work Institute -- a global research and consulting firm -- has conducted an extensive employee survey to pick the best companies to work for.

Over 246,000 employees from 280 firms in corporate America took part in this year's survey.

Headquartered in Denmark with US operations based in Princeton, NJ, Novo Nordisk has nearly 4,000 employees across the US.

"Working at Novo Nordisk provides a meaningful experience because of our intense focus on improving care for those living with diabetes," said Kate Owen, clinical trials executive director at Novo Nordisk's US headquarters.

The company has been producing industry-leading diabetes treatments for nearly 90 years, according to the statement.

Textile machinery show starts Feb 9

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The ninth Dhaka International Textile and Garment Machinery Exhibition (DTG 2012) will be held for four days from February 9, organisers said in a statement yesterday.

Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, Chan Chao International Co Ltd and Yorkers Trade and Marketing Service Co Ltd will organise the exhibition at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Over 800 exhibitors will display a wide variety of latest textiles and garments technologies, machinery and parts.

More than 102 booths with leading brands like Baruda, CTMTC, Fong's, Groz-Becker, Jacob Muller, Karl Mayer and many others from 31 countries or regions will participate in the event.

DTG will introduce latest machines for the whole textile and garment industry supply chain of Bangladesh.

Fiscal discipline hinges on govt: Atiur

UNB, Dhaka

Central banks do not possess sufficient or effective instruments to impose fiscal revenue and expenditure discipline, which is the onus of governments, Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman said yesterday.

The central bank chief came up with the observation at an international research conference at Hotel Taj Palace, Mumbai, India, according to a statement yesterday.

Reserve Bank of India arranged the two-day second international research conference- 2012 with the theme of 'Monetary Policy, Sovereign Debt and Financial Stability: The New Trilemma'.

Global coordination of macroeconomic policies to prevent negative external spillovers from persistent imbalances in larger economies is also the subject for governments rather than central banks, Atiur said.

"Thus with that matter for stability resting with governments, central banks are not well equipped to take up explicit mandates for maintaining financial stability," he added.

He said by prolonging (and even further loosening) persistently loose monetary stance to avert economic slump in crises posing immediate threats to their financial institutions and markets, central banks of many advanced economies have sown

seeds of future instability, compromising medium- and longer-term inflation goals, both on national and global scale.

"It's not straightforward to figure out how far the goals have been compromised, but it should be possible to limit the negative consequences with careful management and coordination of macroeconomic policies in the years ahead, individually and collectively," Atiur said.

Central bank governors of India, Nepal, Brazil and Iceland also spoke. A number of eminent economists, multilateral institutional representatives and academics are also participating in the conference.

The governors shared their views on whether a new trilemma had emerged for central banks in advanced economies, sustainable sovereign debt's possibility without a role for the central banks, how should central banks respond to persistent fiscal dominance, do central banks have sufficient and effective instruments to take up explicit mandates on financial stability, and whether and how far the medium term inflation goal has been compromised by central banks of advanced economies.

A number of current governors and top level managers of central banks, eminent economists, multilateral institutional representatives and academics are participating in the conference.



DHAKA REGENCY
Musleh Ahmed, managing director of Dhaka Regency, and Shahid Hamid FIH, executive director, pose with a 26-member team of the hotel in a trip to Bangkok and Pattaya in Thailand recently.



PRIME BANK
Md Ehsan Khasru, managing director of Prime Bank, inaugurates the bank's new ATM booth at its Pabna branch recently. Kh Abdul Matin, head of the bank's Pabna branch, was also present.



AGORA
Niaz Rahim, managing director of Rahimafrooz Superstores Ltd, and Ranjan De Silva, chief executive officer, hand a dummy cheque to Kazi Zahir Uddin as the first prize of a promotional raffle draw on the occasion of Agora's 10th anniversary in the capital on Tuesday.