

FAS Finance gets nod to raise Tk 54.24cr

Regulator fines six firms for violating rules

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) yesterday gave a go-ahead to FAS Finance and Investment to raise Tk 54.24 crore through rights offer.
The listed firm will offer one rights share for existing one share at an offer price of Tk 10 each, said a statement.
The company will issue 5.42 crore rights shares to raise the fund.
The approval came at a meeting of the stockmarket regulator with the commission's Chairman M Khairul Hossain in the chair.
The BSEC also approved a trust deed and investment management agreement of a Tk 10 crore open-end mutual fund -- CAPM Unit Fund.
The regulator also rejected the appeals of Reliance Insurance, United Commercial Bank and IDLC Finance to extend the deadline for complying with

the requirements of Corporate Governance Guideline.
The regulator imposed Tk 1 lakh fine each on Fidelity Assets and Securities Company, Mona Financial Consultancy and Securities, and Salta Capital for violating margin rules while providing share credit against Paramount Insurance Company stocks.
The market watchdog also imposed Tk 1 lakh fine on Mercantile Bank Securities for violating margin rules while providing share credit against Anwar Galvanising stocks, a Z-category company.
In another move, the BSEC also fined Globe Securities and Shyamol Equity Management Tk 1 lakh each for violating margin rules while providing share credit against Anwar Galvanising stocks.
The regulator also warned Nizam Uddin, an investor, for violating securities rules in transaction of All Tex Industries shares.

Stocks go up, but turnover drops

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Stocks gained for the fourth day in spite of the back-to-back dawn-to-dusk shutdown enforced by the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami.
DSEX, the benchmark general index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, closed the day at 4,201.98 points, after rising 10.48 points, or 0.25 percent.
"As the daylong political protests continued into the second day, the turnover declined once again," said IDLC Investments in its daily market commentary.
It added: "As the political situation eased, the investors eyed their focus back on the market, and as a result, scrip-wise movements gained a momentum."
"The market continues to see declining turnover as investors' presence in brokerage houses was relatively low due to the nationwide strike," said LankaBangla Securities in its regular market analysis.
Turnover declined 2.74 percent from the previous day to Tk 259 crore.
A total of 0.84 lakh trades were executed, with 6.68 crore shares and mutual fund units changing hands on the Dhaka bourse.
Of the 272 issues that traded on the DSE floor, 158 advanced, 87 declined and 27 remained unchanged.
Titas Gas made a 3.21 percent gain over the news of completing a new gas well-drilling, the IDLC said.
The power sector registered the highest gain, posting a rise of 1.81 percent, followed by food at 1.59 percent and non-bank financial institutions at 0.77 percent.
However, telecoms declined 1.12 percent, general insurance 0.88 percent and information technology 0.44 percent.
United Airways was the most traded stock, owing to its transaction of 64.88 lakh shares worth Tk 14.43 crore.
Unique Hotel and Resorts and Grameenphone were the next popular stocks of the day.
Fifth ICB Mutual Fund was the day's biggest gainer, posting an 8.43 percent gain, while Reliance Insurance was the worst loser, plunging 5.49 percent.



Commerce Minister GM Quader visits a stall after inaugurating the 11th Chittagong Apparel Fabric and Accessories Exposition (CAFAXPO)-2013 in the port city yesterday. Story on B1.

Krishi Bank gets new chairman

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Alauddin A Majid has joined Bangladesh Krishi Bank as its chairman, the bank said in a statement yesterday.
Prior to the new assignment, he was a director of the bank and also served the bank as its managing director.
He was also the managing director of BASIC Bank Ltd, according to the statement.
Majid, who obtained his bachelor's degree from the American University of Beirut and the master's degree from the University of Sydney, began his career at Bangladesh Krishi Bank.



Muhammad A (Rume) Ali, chairman of BRAC Bank Ltd, poses with the bank's officials after giving 'Chairman's Excellence Award' for outstanding performance in loan recovery at an event in Dhaka recently. Syed Mahbur Rahman, managing director and chief executive officer of the bank, was also present.



GM Quader, commerce minister, hands over a trophy to KM Akhteruzzaman, chairman of Akhter Group, at the closing ceremony of Dhaka International Trade Fair in the city recently, for outstanding performance in making pavilion on the fair premises.

Minister sees bright prospect of migrant workers

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The minister said Bangladesh's economy was stable due to higher remittance inflows amid the global economic crisis.

Inward remittances grew 10.26 percent to \$12.85 billion in 2011-12, compared to the previous year.
"The real figure of inward remittances will be much higher if we count the remittances that come through informal ways," economist Prof Abul Barkat said.
World Bank's data showed the real remittance figure of Bangladesh will rise by 15 percent from the existing figure, said Barkat, also the president of Bangladesh Economic Association.
"Goldman Sachs recognised Bangladesh on the list of 'next 11' emerging countries as we have human, physical and national capital," the economist said.
"Now we are talking about quality remittances," he said. Barkat stressed the need for reducing migration cost and providing special benefits to the migrant workers.
On Padma bridge financing, he suggested issuing bonds with special interest rates for migrant workers and diasporas.
More than Tk 98,000 crore can be raised from 14 domestic sources to build the Padma bridge with own resources, including migrant workers and non-

Starbucks opens first outlet in Delhi

AFP, New Delhi
Starbucks, the world's biggest coffee chain, launched its first outlet in central New Delhi on Wednesday and vowed an aggressive drive for business across India.
"We are committed to the India market for the long term and will aggressively grow our business, expanding stores and providing locally relevant innovations," John Culver, company president for China and South Pacific, said in a statement.
Starbucks entered the vast Indian market in a joint venture with the country's giant Tata conglomerate and

launched its first store in the commercial hub Mumbai last October.
The new store in Delhi is located in the landmark Connaught Place. A branch opened in the city's main international airport last month.
Like other Western chains that have come to India, such as Pizza Hut, Starbucks is offering "Indianised" versions of its food and beverages to appeal to local palates.
Starbucks will mainly compete with Indian-owned Cafe Coffee Day, which dominates the market, and with well-established foreign chains such as Britain's Costa Coffee and the US Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf.

Govt seeks waiver from IMF on borrowing limits

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The loan is payable in 10 years, with a grace period of five years.
The IMF even warned the government in December that the two deals would take the country's hard-term borrowing past its quota under the ECF programme.
The official said that the government told the IMF that although the deal was being signed now, the repayment would not start for another four or five years -- and would have no adverse effect on debt sustainability.
"The IMF board may be satisfied with the government explanation and is likely to release the second instalment of the ECF loan," he said, adding that the government has already fulfilled the structural conditions tagged with the ECF loan.
In early January, the petroleum price was hiked and the parliament passed the VAT law.
The IMF board meeting is scheduled on February 11. The review of Bangladesh's performance against the criterion set under ECF facility is on the agenda.

GSK promises growth this year after 2012 shortfall

REUTERS, London
GlaxoSmithKline, Britain's biggest drugmaker, renewed its promise to return to growth this year, after failing to deliver a hoped-for sales and margin recovery in 2012.
GSK also announced a restructuring of European operations, drug manufacturing and research, designed to save at least 1 billion pounds (\$1.6 billion) annually by 2016, while it placed its Lucozade and Ribena drinks brands under strategic review.
After putting a number of major drug patent losses behind it, GSK had originally banked on pulling out of its trough in 2012. In the event, sales were held back by larger-than-expected drug price cuts in austerity-hit Europe.
Chief executive Andrew Witty hopes to do better this year.
He predicted on Wednesday earnings per share, after stripping out some items, would grow by 3 to 4 percent at constant exchange rates in 2013, with sales rising about 1 percent.
"2013 should be the first in a series of growth years for GSK," Witty told reporters.
GSK is relying on a clutch of new drugs to revive its fortunes in the mid-term, starting with six that have already been submitted for approval in lung disease, melanoma, diabetes and HIV/AIDS.
Keenly awaited final-stage Phase III clinical trial results are also due for two high-risk, high-reward projects in heart disease and cancer.
That makes 2013 a crucial year for GSK's pipeline, although the main impact on the sales line will be felt during 2014 and beyond - assuming the new medicines live up to expectations.
"Flat sales over the last year highlight the importance to GSK of the potential new product launches in 2013, as it looks to return to growth," said Mick Cooper, analyst at Edison Investment Research.
Sales in the final quarter of 2012 fell 3 percent to 6.80 billion pounds, generating "core" earnings per share (EPS) up 4 percent at 32.6 pence.

Japan's Suzuki to resume production in Myanmar

AFP, Tokyo
Japanese automaker Suzuki said Wednesday it will resume production in Myanmar, the latest in a push by Asia's second-biggest economy to tap the once-isolated state.
Small-vehicle producer Suzuki, which has seen huge success in India with its Maruti Suzuki unit, said it will invest about \$7.0 million to restart its wholly-owned Suzuki (Myanmar) Motor in the commercial capital Yangon.
Production will start from May at the factory, which was operated as a joint venture with Myanmar's government between 1998 and 2010, a Suzuki spokesman said.
The plant shuttered after the

contract expired, the spokesman added, without saying why the agreement was not extended at the time.
The factory will initially produce just 100 Carry mini-trucks monthly for the local market, with up to 90 local employees.
"With Myanmar's democratisation efforts, investment activities (by foreign firms) are in a full swing," he said.
"The auto market might be in a transition period. But we expect the market to grow, and we wanted to be there when it does."
On Tuesday, a delegation of Japan's biggest business lobby, known as Keidanren, told Myanmar President Thein Sein that it will

provide money and expertise for the country's development.
Tokyo, meanwhile, has said it would forgive 300 billion yen (\$3.2 billion) of the 500 billion yen owed by Myanmar.
Last month, the government said it would extend 50 billion yen of new loans to the long-isolated Southeast Asian nation to help upgrade power systems, boost rural development and fund a planned industrial park.
Myanmar is one of the poorest countries in Asia after decades of economic mismanagement and isolation under army rule. But it has undertaken big economic and social reforms, sparking renewed interest in the country from business abroad.

Facebook fatigue prompts breaks from network: study

AFP, San Francisco
More than half of US Facebook members have taken breaks from the leading social network, with the top reason being they are just too busy, according to a study released Tuesday.
About 61 percent of US users said they had taken time off from Facebook at some point, with 27 percent planning to spend less time on it in the coming year, the Pew Research Center said.
The largest group -- 21 percent -- said they had taken a break because they were too busy. Other reasons

included being "tired of stupid comments," "crazy" friends, boredom, and having it cause love life problems.
"These data show that people are trying to make new calibrations in their life to accommodate new social tools," said Pew Internet Project director Lee Rainie, a co-author of the study titled "Coming and Going on Facebook."
"They are adding up the pluses and minuses on a kind of networking balance sheet and they are trying to figure out how much they get out of connectivity vs. how much they put into it."
Slightly more than two-thirds of

adults in the United States who use the Internet belong to Facebook, according to Pew.
A fifth of those who were not Facebook members said they once belonged to the service but quit, the study said.
Reasons given for leaving included getting tired of "minding everybody else's business" and it "takes my time away."
The survey, which has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points, was based on telephone interviews between December 13 and 16 with 1,006 adults living in the continental United States.

DSE to launch Bangla website on February 18

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The present website was launched in 2003.
Apart from getting daily stock updates, the investors will also find the history of the stock exchange, investor guidelines, profiles of the market, functionalities and activities, trading system, indices methodology and computation in Bangla.
However, the DSE officials said the securities laws will not be translated into Bangla.
The corporate news section will be available in Bangla a few days after the launch of the website,