

# Fresh funds push stocks up

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The market edged higher for the second running session yesterday with turnover hitting a 22-session high as investors took fresh positions on the multinationals, textile and fuel and power companies' stocks.

Turnover advanced 11.4 percent to Tk 820 crore from the previous day. It was the highest turnover since July 18.

DSEX, the benchmark general index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, closed the day at 4,163.18 points, after surging 37.91 points or 0.91 percent.

Buoyed by the high level of trading volume of textile sector and multinational companies, first trading sessions of the week closed higher with vigorous turnover amid liquidity in continuation of last week, LankaBangla Securities said in its daily market analysis.

"Stable political frontier coupled with positive economic and capital market moves helped the market start

with bullishness," the stockbroker said.

Multinational companies helped fuel the market rally as investors tried to park their money in safer stocks, it said.

The country's forex reserve of \$16.15 billion, growth in remittance, and expectation on first instalments of re-financing on Sunday made investors optimistic about the rejuvenating capital market, the stockbroker added.

"Hope continued as week started, but could not keep the phase amid profit taking," IDLC Investments said in its regular market analysis.

As the session progressed, investors opted for realising short-term gains, since the index loaded a large spike of 329.65 points in the last ten sessions.

"This stimulus improvement in hype-driven positioning and profit booking helped turnover to boost over Tk 8.0 billion level after 22 sessions," the merchant bank said.

Gainers took a modest lead over the losers as 171 advanced, 92 declined and 25 remained unchanged

out of 288 issues that traded on the prime bourse.

All the major sectors edged higher except banks and power, which declined 1.23 percent and 0.19 percent.

Telecoms gained 4.30 percent, the highest among the sectors as the heavyweight Grameenphone alone advanced 5.60 percent.

The stocks topped the turnover chart as well with 22.55 lakh shares worth Tk 48.59 crore changing hands.

Pharma gained 3.0 percent and non-bank financial institutions 0.65 percent.

Activity increased on the prime bourse with total 1.63 lakh trades being executed with 13.69 crore shares and mutual fund units changing hands.

Meghna Life Insurance was the day's highest gainer, posting a rise of 9.97 percent, while ICB Eighth Mutual Fund was the worst loser for the third consecutive session, slumping by 7.81 percent.

# GE gas turbines for Bhola power plant

## Electricity to come by 2015

STAR BUSINESS DESK

A French subsidiary of GE will supply two 6F gas turbine-generators to China Chengda Engineering Co Ltd, to be used for a gas-based combined cycle power plant in Bangladesh's southern district of Bhola, GE said in a statement yesterday.

With the addition of this new contract, in a little over eight months, respective GE entities will now be supplying gas turbines that will together produce 900 megawatts of power in Bangladesh. The Bhola plant will produce nearly 200 megawatts of power.

China Chengda Engineering is an interna-

tional contractor engaged in EPC activities.

GE's 6F gas turbine will be the first advanced F-class gas turbine-generator installation in Bangladesh in this megawatt range. The project is expected to begin generation by 2015.

The new installation will help compensate and reduce the energy mismatch currently being experienced in Bangladesh by delivering power with high efficiency, availability, reliability and low emissions.

In the first half of 2013, GE received orders to supply 9F 3-series gas turbines for two power plants in Siddhirganj and Bibiyana. Together, these projects will produce 675 megawatts of power.



Sukomol Sinha Chowdhury, general manager of Bangladesh Bank, speaks at a farmer's gathering at Birula of Savar recently. Md Khurshed Alam, head of SME of Eastern Bank (EBL), was also present. EBL organised the meeting to find scope of financing for the regional flower cultivators and traders.

# Bangladeshi selected as member of jury for Asia's brand competition

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Rabeth Khan, chief executive officer of MediaAxis, has been selected as a member of the jury for the first Asia's Most Promising Brands and Leaders event.

The showcase (www.mostadmiredasia.com) will play out on August 26-27 at Madinat Jumeirah hotel in Dubai.



Rabeth Khan

Khan is the first individual from Bangladesh to be selected as a jury member for a leading brand award platform in the international arena.

Asia's Most Promising is a platform of Asia-only originated brands. It is an initiative by World Consulting and Research Corporation (WCRC) and ibrand 360 research.

Other members of the jury include global marketing expert Malcom McDonald; Oliver Ellis, managing director of Publicitas Middle East and UK; Ashish Bhasin, chairman of Aegis Media India and chief executive South East Asia; Lord Karan Billimoria, chairman of Cobra Beer and vice chairman of London Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Business Association; and Abhimanyu Ghosh, executive editor and managing director of Asia's Most Promising Brands.

# Keep your aid pledges

FROM PAGE B1

"The UN remains committed to pushing for the maximum allocation of ODA, for wealthy countries to meet the target of 0.7 percent of their GDP in the ODA."

Walker also called for the best use of the ODA funds and enhancing national spending.

"First, we must use what ODA is available as effectively as possible. Second, let's emphasise the need to strengthen government investments in development against criteria of effectiveness and impact," he said.

He also urged the developing countries to use ODA to effectively complement their investments in the crucial battle to build sustainable and equitable development.

Walker praised Bangladesh for its engagement with the global debate on the Millennium Development Goals and mobilising funds in difficult times.

"Bangladesh has actively been engaged in the global conversation on what comes next."

"In this difficult context, Bangladesh has successfully mobilised resources from its own internal revenues, from new donors and has benefited, both ways, from South-South Cooperation."

He said results are dependent not on frameworks, actions plans, and agreements, but on the hard work of committed individuals, working in a spirit of collaboration and focused on the outcomes the countries and the development partners are trying to achieve.

The UN official was backed by Planning Minister AK Khan, who said developed countries spent only 0.29 percent of their gross domestic product last year instead of 0.7 percent promised.

"Only strong voice of the developing nations is needed on their financing needs to strengthen the implementation of the post-2015 agenda," he said, urging the rich nations to look beyond the MDGs.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith stressed the need for addressing the problems regarding poor people, very poor people and unemployed people, especially in Asia, in forging effective development partnership in the post-2015 development agenda.

"The task is gigantic. Even in Asia, it still remains a serious problem," he said.

Muhith said special focus has to be put on enhancement of productive capacity and maintaining economic stability.

He said public-private partnership has emerged as an important tool in recent years to advance development agenda.

The aim of the workshop is to assist the Asian countries to enhance development cooperation, particularly in the context of transitioning from the MDGs to the post-2015 development agenda.

Government representatives from 26 countries in the Asia Pacific region, including Indonesia, South Korea, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Mongolia, Myanmar, Afghanistan, the Maldives, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and East Timor, are attending the programme.

ERD Secretary Abul Kalam Azad and Additional Secretary Arastoo Khan also spoke.



Aminul Islam, deputy managing director of Bank Asia, presents a crest to Atiur Rahman, governor of Bangladesh Bank, at the inaugural session of CAMLCO Conference-2013 at Cox's Bazar on Friday.



Humayun Rashid, managing director of Energypac Power Generation Ltd, presents the prize to the first winner of 'JAC Vehicle's Lakhpati offer' of the company at Mirpur in Dhaka recently. Jashim Uddin, deputy general manager, was also present.

# DCCI opens helpdesk for registration of new firms

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Entrepreneurs have begun registering their new companies at Motijheel, the city's commercial district.

Under the initiative, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) has opened a helpdesk at its headquarters at Motijheel to provide services to the new entrepreneurs on behalf of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC).

"It will be beneficial for businessmen. They will be able to get registration for their new entities staying at the city's main business hub Motijheel," said Bijon Kumar Baishya, registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms.

DCCI help desk is now in operation and five companies have already registered their companies, the chamber said in a statement.

The helpdesk will formally be launched on September 2.

The desk to facilitate registration of new firms comes into operation following an agreement between RJSC and DCCI signed last month.

Baishya said entrepreneurs will be able to get name clearance for new firms from the helpdesk and get registration.

"This is an exceptional and first example in Bangladesh that a private organisation is providing government services, which will help creating new entrepreneurs in the country," the chamber said.

# Mahindra motorcycles hit Bangladesh market

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Indian automobile giant Mahindra has entered Bangladesh's two-wheeler market with motorcycles and scooters in partnership with Aftab Automobiles, a local company.

The local firm, a sister concern of Navana Group, will market the motorcycles and scooters of Mahindra Two Wheelers, a motorcycle maker.

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader formally launched the Mahindra-branded motorcycles and scooters at a function at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in Dhaka on Saturday.

Customers will get best after-sales support and spares availability through the group's showrooms,

workshops and dealer network across the country, said Shafiul Islam, chairman of Navana Group.

Prices of Mahindra Pantero motorcycle have been fixed at Tk 1.4 lakh, Mahindra Rodeo RZ scooter at Tk 1.47 lakh and Mahindra Duro DZ scooter at Tk 1.42 lakh. The prices of Mahindra Centuro motorcycle may be fixed at Tk 1.5 lakh.

Describing the motorcycles' features, Gajanan Umarekar, regional business manager of Mahindra Two Wheelers, said these are powered by Mahindra's indigenously developed 110cc engine.

Mahindra scooters offer the power of an advanced and powerful 125cc engine that provides instant pick-up and multi-terrain acceleration, Umarekar said.

# Govt counts losses of tax as companies defy rules

FROM PAGE B1

But in practice, it does not happen. "After processing returns, we are left with little time to do any sort of monitoring," said a deputy commissioner.

"The work pressure should reduce after the increase in tax offices and cut in work area for officials. Now, the authority should better define the officials' monitoring responsibilities," said Mazid.

The former NBR chairman suggested a tie-up with RJSC to draw out an exhaustive list of registered companies based on region.

Taxmen pointed that there has been improvement in monitoring following expansion of field offices last year. The number circles to oversee companies' tax compliance increased to 90 from 24 earlier.

Meanwhile, allegations of unholy collusion are also present. It has been said that tax officials in many circles bypass their monitoring duties for small companies in return for bribes.

# 600 tonnes of milk stuck at Ctg customs

FROM PAGE B1

The world's biggest cooperative, Fonterra said it had sold contaminated whey protein concentrate to eight customers for use in a range of products, including infant milk powder, according to Reuters.

In Bangladesh, the government does not know whether any firm has yet imported any whey protein from Fonterra. But some companies imported Fonterra's 'whole' or full-cream milk to market under their own brands, according to customs officials.

Since July last year, nearly 21,000 tonnes of whole milk from Fonterra entered the Bangladesh market through the Chittagong port. Five local companies imported the milk.

The commerce ministry plans to issue a notice soon, making mandatory tests of imported milk, mainly from New Zealand, before their release from the port, said a senior official of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports.

# Time to go for a new round of microcredit projects

FROM PAGE B1

Finance Minister AMA Muhith said microcredit is a concept more than 100 years old and flourished in the continent with the help of independent sponsors.

Microfinance institutions now disburse a significant portion of credit, the minister said. "It's a tremendous progress."

However, he said, "Microcredit is not the only solution to poverty."

microcredit programmes.

"Bangladesh is the birthplace of microcredit," said Pauline Tamesis, country director of UNDP in Bangladesh.

Microfinance institutions contribute around 3 percent to Bangladesh's economy, she said.

Gaining lessons from Bangladesh, the UNDP is implementing a number of projects locally and globally, Tamesis said.

The InM also organised six technical sessions covering areas such as financial inclusion in Bangladesh, access to finance and enterprise development,

microfinance and poverty, micro insurance and food security, during the conference.

Around 66 percent of the households in Bangladesh now have access to credit, savings and insurance from banks or microfinance institutions and cooperatives, according to a study of the InM.

Access to credit contributes to higher productivity by more than 176 percent in terms of total factor productivity and by 13 percent in average productivity of labour and sales than credit-constrained enterprises.

In absence of such institutions, the overall financial access becomes shallow, and even in absence of microcredit, extreme poverty in rural Bangladesh would have been 9-12 percent higher, according to the research findings.

"The purpose of the conference was to put focus not only on poverty, but also on development," said MA Baqui Khalily, executive director of InM.

Shahnaila Tazreen Azher, senior policy adviser to DFID Bangladesh, also spoke.

The conference has brought together more than 350 participants from national and international organisations.

# Apple don't have to disclose profit details

REUTERS

Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd do not have to make public the financial details submitted to a US court during high-profile patent litigation, a federal appeals panel ruled on Friday.

The Federal US Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington reversed a lower court ruling that ordered the two companies to disclose portions of documents that contain profit and sales information.

# Regulator may extend deadline for earnest money

FROM PAGE B1

A committee made by the representatives of the NBR, BTRC and mobile operators is now reexamining the matter.

Bose said the operators want to get an idea how much of the NBR claim they will have to pay as the amount is huge.

The tax administrator was supposed to produce a report yesterday on the SIM replacement issues as the committee had earlier collected 1,000 SIMs of each operator from the market to examine whether those were sold twice.

But the task to examine the SIMs was not complete till yesterday.