STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold ▲	Oil ▼	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI
▼ 0.85%	▼ 1.02%	$1,197.50 (per ounce)	$98.66 (per barrel)	▼ 0.32%	▲ 0.12%	▲ 0.36%	▲ 0.15%
4,228.90	8,306.62			21,032.71	15,889.33	3,127.29	2,092.91

CURRENCIES — STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
BUY TK	77.20	104.49	124.36	0.73
SELL TK	78.20	108.49	128.34	0.77

Star BUSINESS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25, 2013, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

STAR

Analysts take part in a seminar on green technology, jointly organised by the information and communication technology ministry and The Daily Star yesterday.

Homegrown solutions to lead way to green living

Analysts suggest at a seminar on green technology

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh should look to producing homegrown green technology instead of banking on expensive, and sometimes obsolete, imported solutions for efficient use of scarce natural resources, speakers said yesterday.

The call came at a seminar, "Green Technologies: Prospects and Challenges", jointly organised by the information and communication technology ministry and The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

Speaking as the chief guest, Khondaker Showkat Hossain, housing and public works secretary, said the country needs to give utmost attention to green technologies as the existing energy resources would dry up very soon.

He said the building owners construct their establishments as per the designs presented by their preferred architects and not in line with the one approved by Rajuk.

"If 1 percent deviate then it is easy to control them. But if 99 percent deviate then how could we establish good governance?"

Industries Secretary Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah said the country is sometimes forced to accept Western technologies randomly.

"A few years ago, thousands of computers were gifted to Bangladesh. Out of sheer enthusiasm, we distributed them in schools. Later, we found that those were used computers and were sent to the dump yards."

He called for proper policies on green technology and also verification of the merits of the imported technological solutions.

Moinuddin also said mass-scale industrialisation took place in the country recently, but there is no accountability due to lack of regulatory oversight on the government's part.

He said that many factories have set up effluent treatment plants (ETPs) after much persuasion from the government. But most of them are found closed during factory inspections.

ICT Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan, who presided over the event, said the government has to come forward first by making some of its buildings smart to convince others to follow suit.

"It could start with buildings, industries and power plants as they consume huge amount of electricity."

The secretary called for producing homegrown technology as imported solutions are in most cases expensive and do not offer opportunities to develop local skills.

Abu Sadeque, director of Building and Housing Research Institute, said a Green Technology Council should be formed just like the disaster management council to get better results.

"There is no scope to see climate change, green technology and disaster management separately," he said, adding that a study has found that investment on green building could be recouped in a year.

Sadeque also said the Bangladesh National Building Code 2013, which is now at its final stages, would seriously take into consideration the issues surrounding water management, water efficiency and energy efficiency.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Set up green technology council
- Formulate proper policies on green technology
- Devise action plan for all sectors
- Develop homegrown solutions
- Make technology user-friendly
- Raise awareness on energy saving, changing lifestyle

Regulator blocks 4 IGW operators

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The telecom regulator blocked four more international gateway (IGW) operators yesterday as they owe around Tk 150 crore to the regulator for the July-September period, an official said.

The four IGWs are Mos5 Tel Ltd, First Communications Ltd, SM Communication and Cel Telecom Ltd.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) sent letters to the six mobile operators yesterday afternoon to suspend traffic through these gateways.

IGWs provide an interface to send and receive calls between a domestic network and those in another country.

Earlier in September, BTRC blocked six IGWs having an outstanding amount of around Tk 600 crore. Bangladesh has 29 IGW operators.

The regulator also advised the telecom ministry to cancel the licences of two IGWs Telex Ltd and VisionTel.

However, Telex Ltd filed a case against the regulator on Sunday at a time when the government is preparing to cancel its licence.

Sunil Kanti Bose, chairman of BTRC, said Telex filed a case against the regulator even before its licence was cancelled.

The company filed the case as it could not pay dues to the regulator as the IGW did not receive payments from its international call contractors, said an official of BTRC.

According to guidelines, IGWs import international calls at $.03 a minute and they share 51.75 percent of it with the regulator, while a portion is shared with the mobile operators and interconnection exchanges.

Earlier, the government awarded 25 IGW licences in 2012.

> *IGWs import international calls at $.03 a minute and share 51.75 percent of it with the regulator, while a portion is shared with the mobile operators and interconnection exchanges*

Twelve companies permitted to borrow $85.5m from overseas

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A government panel yesterday gave permission to 12 companies to receive $85.5 million in overseas loans.

The approval came at a meeting of Board of Investment Scrutiny Committee, Bangladesh Bank said in a statement.

Of the loan recipients, Color City will receive the highest loan amount of $21 million, Raj Lanka Power Company $14 million and Walton Hi-Tech Industries $14.75 million.

The highest interest rate on the loans is 3-month LIBOR plus 4.5 percent a year, according to the statement.

The committee approved $1.82 billion in foreign loans in fiscal 2013, up from $1.04 billion in fiscal 2012.

The committee officials said at the meeting that many more foreign financing proposals are being processed and considered for approval.

Regulator green-lights textile IPO

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday gave the green light to Hwa Well Textiles (BD) to raise Tk 20 crore from the public.

The approval came at a meeting presided over by BSEC Chairman Khairul Hossain, the regulator said in a statement. Using the fixed price method, the textiles company is set to float 2 crore ordinary shares worth Tk 10 each.

Alfa Capital Management and Citizen Securities and Investment will manage the initial public offering, while proceedings will be used to purchase land and machinery, and construct new factory buildings.

The company's earnings per share as of June 2013 stood at Tk 3.66 with a net asset value per share of Tk 28.25.

Thirty-one textile companies are listed in the market.

BSEC also approved Premier Bank's proposal to issue non-convertible variable coupon rate bonds to raise Tk 200 crore through private placement.

The bank will offer 200 bonds at an issue price of Tk 1 crore each at an 11.5 percent annual coupon rate to raise the fund, which will be used to maintain the capital adequacy ratio under BASEL II requirements.

READ MORE ON B3

Coca-Cola reaffirms $50m pledge for Bangladesh

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Beverage giant Coca-Cola reiterated its plan to invest $50 million in Bangladesh to leverage the huge growth potential.

"The investment is part of Coca-Cola's plan to double the servings and revenues of the company by 2020," said Venkatesh Kini, deputy president of Coca-Cola for India and South West Asia.

The Atlanta-based firm plans to build manufacturing capability, install cooling equipment and expand rural reach, together with investing on research and development and consumer marketing, with the sum.

"We have acquired the land for the new plant, so a part of the investment is already on the ground. In the next one year or two you will see the results of the investment," he said, adding that the company is planning on further outlays.

Venkatesh Kini

Kini was in Dhaka last week for the FIFA World Cup Trophy tour, during which he sat down with The Daily Star for an interview.

Sponsoring the event, he says, is a means for the company to inculcate into people a passion for sports and healthy lifestyle.

Kini, who oversees Coca-Cola's operations in countries such as India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, said Bangladesh has one of the lowest per capita consumption levels for packaged beverages: it stands at three against the global average of 94.

The company, however, believes the country has tremendous potential, particularly because of the demographics of 160 million and the steady economic growth.

"Among the countries that I manage, Bangladesh has the highest business potential. We have the highest growth expectation from Bangladesh in the next five years as well," he said, adding that the business in Bangladesh has grown significantly in the last five years.

Coca-Cola is currently the second biggest player after Pepsico in the domestic soft drink market with annual gross sales of Tk 2,000 crore.

"Within our company, there is a lot of optimism about Bangladesh's long-term future. We came to Bangladesh when no other company even thought about the country -- you always want your baby to become a successful adult."

Kini, who will take over the presidency of the region officially in January, highlighted the "immense" potential in the packaged beverage segment.

"Our efforts in Bangladesh need to be directed at being the beverage of choice all day and every day."

He also touched upon the issue surrounding his company's severance of ties with its long-term bottling and marketing agent, Tabani Beverage, a concern of the Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust.

The American multinational beverage corporation cancelled its decades-old agreement with Tabani in 2008 following years of losses and failure to maintain quality standard. The company even agreed to pay $16 million to clear Tabani's dues.

"We have already made a proposal to the government to close the deal with Tabani Beverage, and there has been some positive progress. We are actually looking forward to reaching a settlement."