

# Stocks stay upbeat amid political calm

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks gained for the third week as investors went for fresh investments amid a sense of calm in the political arena.

DSEX, the general index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, closed the week at 4,519.35 points, after gaining 111.53 points or 2.53 percent.

Investors seem to be happy with the improved political situation, said LankaBangla Securities in its weekly market analysis.

"Market participants are probably expecting the new government to take necessary steps to make the economy more vibrant. The money market is very liquid with the call money rate hovering around 7.0 percent."

In the first sign of economic stability, money market liquidity seems to rush into the equity market, the stockbroker said.

The cement sector rallied 7.0 percent last week with a 70 percent increase in turnover.

"If the economy really stabilises, construction and financial companies will perform better than they did in 2013," the stockbroker said.

In 2013, the cement industry was almost flat with no growth. As political situation has improved to some extent, many expect 2014 to be a stable year, it said.

The market has closed above an important psychological level of 4,500 points and the average daily turnover rose by 42.5 percent to Tk 651 crore, compared to that in the previous week.

This turnover hike is also indicating strength in market movement, LankaBangla added.

"The upcoming corporate declarations and the monetary policy statement of the central bank generated scrip and sector specific trading motivations," IDLC Investments said in its analysis.

The gainers took a strong lead over the losers as out of 298 issues traded on the DSE floor, 216 advanced, 72 declined and 10 remained unchanged.

All the major sectors performed well except telecoms, which retraced 1.25 percent.

Non-bank financial institutions saw the highest gain of 4.72 percent, followed by pharma 3.69 percent, banks 3.24 percent and power 2.15 percent.

Appollo Ispat, from the engineering sector, saw the highest liquidity with 2.67 crore shares worth Tk 105 crore changing hands.

Pragati Life Insurance was the top gainer of the week, posting a rise of 28.67 percent, while Aramit Cement was the worst loser, slumping by 30.71 percent.

## Western Marine to deliver four govt ships soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Western Marine Shipyard will deliver four of the five government ships in the next few months, as work is nearly complete.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, while visiting the shipyard on Friday, expressed satisfaction over the work.

Of the four ships, two are passenger ships for Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation and the other two are port utility vessels -- a tugboat and a water supply vessel -- for Chittagong Port Authority.

Besides, a 60-metre long RoRo ferry is also under construction at the shipyard. The company built a similar ferry which was delivered to BIWTC in July 2011.



WESTERN MARINE

Shajahan Khan, shipping minister, visits Western Marine Shipyard to witness the progress of the government projects at the yard on Friday.

## Emirates' Dubai to Kiev daily flights

*Kiev in Ukraine is the airline's 35th destination in European network*

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Emirates launched a scheduled daily flight to Kiev on January 16, marking its first route to the Ukraine, the airline said in a statement yesterday.

Kiev is the 35th destination of Emirates in its European network.

Thierry Antinori, executive vice president of Emirates; Abdul Salam Hareb Al Romaithi, UAE ambassador to the Ukraine; and Petro Holoveshko, Ukraine's consul general to Dubai, were on board of the opening flight.

"We are very positive about our new service between Kiev and Dubai, and we believe this daily air link will further stimulate the growing business and tourism opportunities between both cities," said Antinori.

"Over 150,000 Ukrainians a year visit the UAE, and we know Dubai is a popular choice for Ukrainians."

Emirates will operate Airbus A340-500 to Kiev, offering 12 private suites in first class, and 42 deeply reclining business class seats among the total 204 seats on every flight.

In addition the flight will be able to carry 15 tonnes of cargo in its belly hold.

Passengers also have the advantage of a 30kg baggage allowance for those travelling in economy class, 40 kgs for business class, and 50 kgs for first class.



DHAKA BANK

Abdul Hai Sarker, chairman of Dhaka Bank, attends the bank's annual managers' conference at Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Khondker Fazole Rashid, managing director, was also present.



UCB

Senior officials of United Commercial Bank attends a workshop on green banking and CSR activities at the bank's corporate head office in Dhaka yesterday.



BANK ASIA

A Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Bank Asia, poses with the recipients of the bank's higher studies scholarship from Sirajdikhan, Malkhanagor, Baligaon, Nimtola, Rohitpur and Agla Bazar in a programme at Munshiganj on Friday. Md Mehmood Husain, managing director, was also present.

**Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre**  
Savar, Dhaka-1343  
No. 05.01.2672.130.007.111.12-557 Date: 16 January 2014

### Invitation for Tender Procurement of Vehicle

#### GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1 Ministry/ Division	Ministry of Public Administration (MOPA)
2 Agency	BPATC, Savar, Dhaka
3 Purchaser Name	Rector, Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, Savar, Dhaka-1243
4 Purchaser Code	Not Applicable
5 Purchaser District	Dhaka
6 Invitation for	01 (one) no. International Standard Built-in AC Mini Bus and 01 (one) no. Bus
7 Invitation Ref No	09/2013-2014
8 Date	16/01/2014
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>	
9 Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
10 Budget and Source of Funds	Government of Bangladesh
11 Development Partners (if Applicable)	N/A
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>	
12 Project /Programme Code (If Applicable)	N/A
13 Project / Programme Name (if Applicable)	N/A
14 Tender Package No.	01
15 Tender Packagae Name	1) 01 (one) no. International Standard Built-in AC Mini Bus, and 2) 01 (one) no. Bus
16 Tender Publication Date	19/01/2014
17 Tender Last Selling Date	05/02/2014
18 Tender Closing Date and Time	06/02/2014 05.00PM
19 Tender Opening Date and Time	06/02/2014 12.00PM
20 Name & Address of the Address office(s)	03.00PM
- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Assitant Director (Purchase & Store), PBATC, Savar Dhaka
- Selling Tender Document (Others)	N/A
- Recieving Tender Document	1) Office of the Director ( Administration), BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343 2) Deputy Director, RPATC, 49 New Eskator Road, Dhaka.
- Opening Tender Documents:	Office of the Director ( Administration), BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343
21 Place/ Date/Time of Pre- Tender Meeting (Optional)	Not Applicable
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>	
22 Eligibility of Tenderer	Manufacturers/Sole Distributors of new Vehicles having authorization from the manufacturer
23 Brief Description of Goods	1) 01 (one) no. International Standard Built-in AC Mini Bus and 01 (one) no. Bus
24 Brief Description of Related Services	Required
25 Price of Tender Document (TK)	Tk. 5,000/= ( Five thousand) each.
Package Identification of Package	Location Tender Security Amount (TK)
No	Completion Time in Weeks / Months
26 01	1) 01 (one) no. International Standard built-in AC Mini Bus 2) 01 (one) no. Bus
	BPATC, Savar 1) 1,80,000/- Dhaka 2) 2,10,000/-
	1) 3 Weeks 2) 3 Months

**Purchaser DETAILS**  
30 Name of Official Inviting Tender Md. Siddiquir Rahman  
31 Designation of Official Inviting Deputy Director ( Finance), BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343  
32 Address of Official Inviting Tender BPATC, Savar, Dhaka-1343  
33 Contact details of Official Inviting 7746617, Fax-7745029, acsiddique@yahoo.com  
34 The Pruchaser reserves the right to reject all tenders or annual the Tender proceedings

Md. Siddiquir Rahman  
Deputy Director (Finance)  
Phone 7744617

## Develop mobile apps for farmers: analysts

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It should be looked into whether farmers are getting value for the money they have spent for getting agriculture information services provided by the mobile operators since 2000, said Shykh Seraj, an award-winning agriculture activist.

He also said very few farmers know about the services provided by the Union Information and Services Centres at Union Parishads, the lowest tier of local government. "Sometimes, the people responsible for running the centres cannot be found," he said, urging the government to launch a subsidised project for taking information services to the farmers.

Seraj said it also has to be seen whether apps chosen by the government cater to the real need of the farmers.

The country will have to utilise the vast network of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in providing ICT services to farmers, said Rafiqul Hoque, vice chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh.

Mobile operators should set aside a portion of their budget under the corporate social responsibility for providing agriculture information services to farmers, said Mujibur Rahman, managing director of Teletalk Bangladesh. Greater emphasis has to be put on data collection and mining to gather knowledge about farming, said M Kaykobad, a professor of computer science and engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

The ICT sector could provide information and data services to farmers and help them trade their produce, said Mahmud Hossain, chief corporate affairs officer at Grameenphone. He also said the government and the private sector should work together in developing contents. "We have to take decisions in a way so the ICT sector can take the lead in 10-15 years," said Shameem Ahsan, president of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services.

The ICT sector has created immense scope for ensuring governance and accountability in providing services, said Anowarul Haque, a director of Care Bangladesh.

The use of ICT can wipe out middlemen and help farmers get fair prices for their produce, said TIM Nurul Kabir, secretary general of the Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh.

"We have to ensure that the agriculture sector can thrive further in this era of advanced technology," said MA Mubin Khan, managing director of Ethics Advanced Technology.

Abdul Quayum, associate editor of the Prothom Alo, who moderated the discussion, said investment and financial services would be needed to take e-commerce to farmers.

## Unrest piles up debt burden on small farmers

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"Most of the farmers did not harvest potatoes in the last few months due to hartals and blockades. Now almost all of them have started harvesting which caused a fall in the prices."

Economist Mahabub Hossain, who closely follows agriculture and rural economy, said the farmers who really face troubles in paying monthly instalments should get waiver. "Fresh loans may be extended to help the boro farmers by rescheduling existing loans."

## Ethical fashion brands target mass market

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Since then, labour unrest over working conditions has plagued the sector in Bangladesh and Cambodia.

The fashion industry has also been the target of vocal campaigns from environmental groups like Greenpeace. They have piled pressure on global brands to stop using chemicals which they say can pollute rivers near factories and threaten the health of workers and consumers.

Awareness of these issues has helped ethical fashion start to shake off its reputation as a niche sector, said Olaf Schmidt, organiser of the Ethical Fashion Show in Berlin.

The growing consumer interest is underlined by the number of brands showcasing their wares at the trade fair this year -- 116, up from 36 when the show launched two years ago and 85 last year, he said.

"It shows how important the topic is among consumers. But it is primarily about fashion. Being 'green' is in the background. The days of itchy jumpers are long gone," he said on Tuesday.

The Jan 14-16 show, part of Berlin fashion week, features brands which use organic cotton, wool and bamboo or alternative materials such as recycled leather and plastic, and pledge to improve pay and conditions for farmers and garment workers.

While the rapid rise of fashion discounter Primark might suggest otherwise, recent market research by Mintel shows consumers seek quality over price when shopping for clothes in Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

Mintel said ethical and environmental concerns are strongest in southern Europe.

"We don't want to go with a wagging finger to the customer. They should find us cool, and socially and environmentally friendly," Juerg Braendli said in Berlin as he launched men's casualwear brand "Outfitters of Change".

"We are not green fashion in the classic sense ... We want the collection and the price to appeal to the mass market."

The brand is marketing a range of men's T-shirts, sweatshirts and jackets costing 39 to 149 euros (\$53-200) in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. It offers an online tool to allow customers to trace the full supply chain of each item.

Sebastian Gluschak, co-founder of Berlin-based Kancha, is pursuing a similar strategy for embroidered felt and leather laptop and smartphone sleeves made in Kyrgyzstan, each featuring a label signed by the craftsman who made it.

"We don't just want green customers. We want normal design-conscious consumers. That is the only way to make change," he said in front of a big photograph of Kyrgyz craftswoman Elniza.

Consumer concern on ethical issues has also been recognised by big brands like Hennes & Mauritz AB and Marks & Spencer who have been trying to improve their green credentials by offering to recycle unwanted clothes, while also making commitments to improve factory working conditions.

Mintel retail analyst John Mercer said mainstream retailers should also provide more information on the origin and ethics of their garments either through labelling or online.

"Retailers need to work together as an industry to make the clothing supply chain more transparent to prevent the government imposing legislation upon the sector," he said.

Emmanuelle Leveque says she was driven to set up fair trade clothing brand Origines Nomades by her experience as a buyer for the mainstream garment industry in Bangladesh and India.

"I was asking the supplier to work day and night and I realised you can't ask people to work 90 hours a week when in France we work a 35-hour week," Leveque said, modelling a hand-woven fitted jacket with embroidered edging made in Bangladesh that retails for 129 euros.

"People are still looking for a cheap price but if you give them a reason why, they are prepared to pay more," she said.



ENERGYPAC

Humayun Rashid, managing director of Energypac, and Ashraf Alam Badal, general manager of Meghna Energy Ltd, attend the signing of an agreement recently for operations and maintenance of Rolls Royce Lean Burn Gas Gen sets and Perkins High Speed Gas and Diesel Gen sets.