

DSE barred from finalising software purchase decision

New board takes charge on Feb 13, will take decision for the purchase

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The regulator yesterday instructed Dhaka Stock Exchange not to take a final decision on the purchase of new trading software.

A new board will take charge of the bourse in an annual general meeting on February 13, and then it can take the decision and give work orders to purchase the software to replace the existing one, said officials.

The instruction came from Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday while the premier bourse made a presentation on the purchasing process of the software, at BSEC premises in Dhaka, officials added.

The commission will finish reviewing the documents of the purchase before the AGM, a BSEC official said.

He said it is also necessary to get prior approval by the bourse from the regulator to buy, sell or transfer any fixed asset before completion of the demutualisation process.

In July last year, BSEC barred the stock exchanges from trading any fixed assets until completion of demutualisation.

In case of any emergency, prior approval from the commission will be needed for such activities, the directive said.

Earlier on January 28, BSEC sought documents on software purchase from DSE.

The DSE introduced an online trading system—MSA Plus—in June 2013. However, the brokerage houses were facing problems whenever a new company made a trade debut on the market.

Later, BSEC found in an investigation that negligence of the software vendor and the DSE was responsible for the glitches.

Since then, the DSE took the initiative to replace its trading system.

However, the DSE did not float any tender for the purchase; it officially contacted the software providers and invited them to make technical presentations and give price quotations.

The DSE selected four companies, but did not yet give any work order.

India 2G telecoms auction gets under way

BBC NEWS

Mobile phone companies have begun placing bids in a key auction for India's second generation (2G) telecoms licences.

The auction is expected to deliver the government at least \$1.8bn (£1.1bn) and could last a week.

Eight telecoms firms are bidding for pan-India licences covering 22 regions.

Two earlier attempts in 2012 and 2013 to sell the licences failed after the telecoms firms boycotted them, saying that starting prices were too high.

The previous licences were issued in 2008 by former telecoms minister A Raja, who is accused of mis-selling the bandwidth in what has been called India's biggest corruption scandal. Raja, who is currently on trial for fraud, has denied any wrongdoing.

Government auditors said the scandal cost the country about \$40bn (£24.5bn) and the Supreme Court in February 2012 cancelled 122 licences.

"The latest auction is important for the telecoms operators. Some of the licences are expiring in November 2014, so it is a crucial auction for those operators," Ranjan Mathew of the Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) told the BBC.

The auction has been marred by controversy as firms not only complained about the high base prices, but also alleged that the limited amount of bandwidth being offered had deterred many bidders.

Sale of faster third-generation (3G) licences in 2010 fetched India's government nearly \$15bn.

India has over 900 million mobile phone connections, according to the COAI.



Pradeep Shrivastava, chief marketing officer of Robi Axiata, and Jamie D Terzi, country director of CARE Bangladesh, pose with the documents of an agreement to jointly design, develop and implement sustainable enterprise development initiatives especially for rural women, at the Robi corporate office in Dhaka on Sunday.



Anjan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Toiletries, attends the company's annual sales conference at Hotel Sea Palace in Cox's Bazar on Sunday.



Mohd Shawkat Jamil, deputy managing director of United Commercial Bank, and Waqar Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of Vanguard Asset Management, exchange documents of an agreement at a programme recently for strategic partnership to generate future business between the two institutions.



Saïdi Meck Sadick, regional commissioner of Dar Es Salaam region in Tanzania, along with his delegation visits the Western Marine Shipyard at Patia in Chittagong yesterday. Western Marine is building an aluminium ferry for Tanzania. Sakawat Hossain, managing director of the shipyard, was also present.

Dhaka Bank appoints new DMD

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Khan Shahadat Hossain has recently been promoted to the post of deputy managing director of Dhaka Bank, the bank said in a statement yesterday.

He served as the bank's senior executive vice president prior to the appointment.

Hossain began his banking career with National Bank in 1983 and joined Dhaka Bank in 1997. He also worked with Premier Bank for a while.

Hossain did his Honours and Masters in finance from



Stocks surge for fourth day

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks gained the highest DSEX value yesterday, the fourth day of a gaining streak, riding on investors' buying spree in anticipation of a positive market outlook.

DSEX, the benchmark general index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, closed the day at 4,826.51 points, after surging 38.85 points or 0.81 percent, which is the highest value since its launch on January 27 of last year.

DSES, the shariah index of the Dhaka bourse, went up 2.24 points or 0.23 percent, to close the day at 981.52 points.

Investors are showing appetite for the stocks of the financial and service sector, LankaBangla Securities said in its regular market analysis.

"Backed by continued upbeat sentiments, the key index DSEX surfaced over 4,800-point level for the first time," IDLC Investments said in its daily market analysis.

Banks led the market, both in terms of price and volume, riding mostly on lucrative prices and earnings and dividend expectations, the investment bankers said.

The gainers took a modest lead over the losers as 175 issues advanced, 90 declined and 24 issues closed unchanged—out of the 289 issues that traded on the DSE.

Banks performed well as a large-cap sector that gained 2.24 percent, which is the highest among the major sectors. The sector also topped the turnover chart contributing 17.5 percent of the total market turnover.

The power sector that ranked second among the major sectors rose 1.0 percent. Telecoms and foods went up marginally by 0.28 percent and 0.10 percent respectively.

A total of 1.64 lakh trades were executed with 19.98 crore shares and mutual fund units changing hands on the Dhaka bourse.

Meghna Petroleum dominated the top turnover chart with 16.85 lakh shares worth Tk 46 crore changing hands, followed by Mercantile Bank, LankaBangla Finance, Aamra Technologies and Padma Oil.

Islami Insurance was the day's highest gainer, posting a rise of 8.30 percent, while Rahima Food was the worst loser, slumping by 4.26 percent.

The Chittagong Stock Exchange closed higher, with its selective categories index, CSCX, gaining 86.33 points, to close at 9,493.35 points.

Gainers beat losers 131 to 83, with 18 issues remaining unchanged on the port city bourse that traded 2.2 crore shares and mutual fund units with turnover of Tk 71 crore.

Muhith signals major changes in corporate tax

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On bringing down interest rate to single digit, the finance minister said a notion has deepened in Bangladesh that the banks' lending rates would be between 12 percent and 18 percent. "I myself had propagated the idea of cutting down the interest rates 30 years ago, but nothing has changed. So, we have to think something new."

Muhith said the agreement for constructing the expressway between Zero Point in Gulistan and Mawa would be finalised this year. The project will cost \$150 million, with the government providing \$100 million.

The finance minister also expressed disappointment over the snail-paced implementation of the Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Mymensingh four-lane highways and blamed the respective contractors.

Among a range of demands, DCCI President Shahjahan Khan said the government should take measures to bring down the spread between lending and deposit rates to 3 percent so credit flowing to the private sector gains momentum.

He also demanded continuation of the 2 percent incentives for readymade garment sector for exploring new markets for export.

BB warns Mercantile Bank

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The central bank in the letters to the Mercantile Bank bosses said the presence of outsiders in the board meeting is against the interest of the depositors and good governance in the banks.

The letters cited provisions of the Banking Companies Act and asked them to clarify why punitive actions would not be taken against them.

Amanullah, however, denied the presence of any outsider in the board meeting and also receiving the notice from the BB.

The Daily Star made two phone calls to the managing director of the bank but he did not respond.

Lufthansa hits out at Etihad's Alitalia plans

AFF, Frankfurt

German airline Lufthansa hit out Monday at plans by Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways to buy debt-laden Alitalia, saying it amounted to covert state aid.

"We reject repeated subsidies and partial nationalisation of European airlines, regardless of whether they are bought by European countries or state-run firms outside of Europe," Lufthansa said in a statement.

"We call upon the EU Commission to ban such side-stepping tactics," the statement said in a reference to European anti-trust and fair competition regulations.

Lufthansa did not explicitly name Etihad or Alitalia, but the statement was issued a day after the Abu Dhabi-based group said it had entered the final stage of an assessment of whether to purchase a stake in the trou-

bled Italian carrier.

Etihad is the national airline of the United Arab Emirates and is expanding rapidly. It has bought minority stakes in several smaller carriers around the world as it competes with larger Gulf rivals Emirates and Qatar Airways.

Etihad owns 29 percent of Air Berlin, 40 percent of Air Seychelles, 19.9 percent of Virgin Australia and three percent of Aer Lingus.

Lufthansa said that outside Europe "there are highly integrated, national air traffic systems comprising airports, airlines and other service suppliers. These are expanding aggressively."

Europe would be able to compete with these only "if policymakers ensure that there is fair competition worldwide," Lufthansa argued.



Shamsul Alam Bir Uttam attends the inauguration of the relocated premises of the Fakirapool branch of Dhaka Mercantile Co-operative Bank in Dhaka on Saturday. Abu Zafar Chowdhury, vice chairman of the bank, was also present.



KS Tabrez, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank, meets with cleft-lipped child patients and their parents at a Dutch-Bangla Bank organised two-day plastic surgery operation campaign for the poor, at Yamagata Dhaka Friendship Hospital in the capital recently.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with Board Audit Committee and Management to execute annual audit plan in an effective manner. Ensure that internal policies and instructions issued by Regulatory entities are complied with. Monitor business risk aspects and evaluate internal control procedures to ensure that independent control measures are in place. Assist external auditors/Central Bank inspectors at the time of their audit. 	<p>Interested candidates are requested to submit their complete résumé to:</p> <p>IPDC of Bangladesh Limited Human Resources Department Head Office:Hosna Center (4th Floor) 106 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka 1212</p> <p>Or email application to: email@ipdcdb.com For further details please visit our website: http://www.ipdcdb.com/</p>
Education & Qualifications	Application Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualified Chartered Accountant with MBA or M.Com degree in Accounting/Finance. Auditing experience of at least 2 years with renowned audit firms or Banks/FIs will be an added advantage. 	<p>February 19, 2014</p>