

## Stocks slide for third day

## STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Share prices declined on the Dhaka Stock Exchange for the third day yesterday as investors went for a selling spree to bag profits.

DSEX, the benchmark general index of DSE, closed the day at 4,684.07 points, after falling 29.81 points or 0.63 percent.

DSES, the shariah index of the DSE, closed the day at 977.31 points, after falling 8.12 points or 0.83 percent.

Turnover, the most important indicator of the market, fell 11.85 percent to Tk 344 crore from the previous day, the lowest in the last month and a half.

Volatility made a come-back yesterday alongside frequent scrip switching by investors, said IDLC Investments in its regular market analysis.

As recent sessions have been somewhat downbeat, fresh funds continue to stay on the wane as investors remained cautious, the investment banker said.

Of the 292 issues that traded on the DSE floor, 98 advanced, 158 declined and 36 remained unchanged.

Almost all major sectors ended in red, except banks that rose 0.3 percent.

# Telenor pins mobile internet growth on Asian youth

## STAR BUSINESS DESK

Telenor Group projects an overwhelming majority of 500 million children in its emerging Asia markets, including Bangladesh, will access the internet for the first time via mobile in the coming decade.

Within the next three years alone, Telenor expects up to 85 million children will be introduced to the mobile internet in its global markets.

Telenor is prioritising the online safety of children, a vulnerable demographic to cyber risks, in Telenor's vast Asian footprint, Telenor said in a statement yesterday.

"An estimated 500 million children live in Telenor's Asian markets, nearly 50 million of them in Bangladesh alone, many of whom will be first accessing the internet in the subsequent several years."

"Telenor came to Asia two decades ago — starting right here in Bangladesh—with a fundamental belief that mobile is for everyone," said Sigré Brekke, head of Telenor's Asian operations and chairman of Grameenphone.

"Now, the mass market is moving towards mobile internet and we are determined to bring internet for all."

"Mobile and data connectivity brings tremendous opportunities to people, business and societies, especially for youth who can connect, learn and avail services unimaginable only a few years back," Brekke said.

He said the opportunities of the

internet do not come without risks.

Current data from the Boston Consulting Group on internet use among children show that 8 percent may have unknowingly subscribed to commercial services, one in 10 have potentially been subject to personal data misuse, one in five potentially exposed to harmful content, and half of underage users may have been exposed to cyberbullying.

"As we connect Asia, it's important that we do so safely and responsibly, particularly for first-time users and children," said Ola Jo Tandre, Telenor's director of corporate responsibility.

Already, the Group has long experience in educating children about the internet from successful outreach programmes in Norway, Malaysia, Serbia, Sweden and Montenegro.

The Group aims to take advantage of the knowledge it has developed with other players in these markets to launch similar initiatives in more Telenor markets—particularly in Asia—going forward.

Telenor was the first mobile provider in the world to collaborate with Interpol to create a mobile internet filter for child sexual abuse content.

The company has filters in place in all but one of its European business units, and in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The rest of the business units in Asia are currently developing programmes to follow through in the coming months, according to the statement.

Most recently, Telenor and Grameenphone announced the provision of 21 lakh free internet hours for schoolchildren in collaboration with development organisation Brac.

Students from 250 schools across Bangladesh will be able to use free internet at the Gonokendra, a multi-purpose community learning centre managed by Brac at school premises and be guided on how to most safely and effectively take advantage of the opportunities the internet provides.

"Increasingly widespread internet access for youth through programmes like this also demands that students and children are educated on how to safely use the internet such that risks are minimised and learning opportunities maximised," Tandre said.

"We've committed to bringing Internet for All to Asia, and the positive trends in data demand and consumer access show that the ICT industry and the corresponding regulatory agencies are working together well with consumers and constituents," Brekke said.

"Every additional user with affordable, reliable mobile internet access means we are one step closer to bringing Internet for All."

"A pillar of our Internet of All movement is that every one of our new users be equipped not just with the access to the internet, but with the right support system to be able to navigate this new world safely," Tandre said.



Commander BNM Shahed Karim, director of communication and MIS wing at RAB headquarters, and Mahmud Hossain, chief corporate affairs officer at Grameenphone, sign an agreement at a programme recently for complete business solutions for RAB.



Senior officials of Citibank NA Bangladesh, Sonali Bank, Bangladesh Bank, and National Board of Revenue attend the signing of an agreement for corporate tax e-payment solution through the country's corporate tax e-payment platform yesterday.



Syed Abdul Momen, head of small business at the SME Banking Division of Brac Bank, and Babar Huda, chief executive of Link3 Technologies, sign a deal for online bill payment facility for Link3 customers recently.



Sohail RK Hussain, managing director of City Bank, and Kyle F Kelhofer, IFC country manager for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal, sign an agreement for collaboration on automation of loan origination, collection management processes and assisting in its capacity building programme, at City Bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

## PROFESSIONALS' CONNECT

First session  
Best Strategy to Become a Successful Entrepreneur



Rokia Afzal Rahman, former caretaker government adviser, attends the launch of Professionals' Connect, an entrepreneurship forum of 3D, which is a learning initiative of Ispahani and the British Council, recently. Mirza Ali Behrouze Ispahani, chairman of Ispahani Group, was also present.

## Muhith clears confusion over Padma bridge payments

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The minister asked the central bank governor to explain to reporters how the foreign currency payments will be made to successful bidders. The BB governor said the government would make payments to the Padma bridge contractors the same way it makes payments for imports of fertiliser and petroleum products.

The government funds will be deposited in an Agrani Bank account dedicated to the project and the bank will purchase the required foreign currencies to make payments, Rahman said. The central bank governor said if Agrani Bank does not have the necessary foreign currency or cannot purchase it from the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the central bank will help it out.

The central bank will always remain careful so that the exchange rate does not become instable, he added. According to the Bridge Division estimates, payments to the contractors will amount to \$2.1 billion in the next five years.

## Telcos' investment jumps manifold

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The law has not yet specified the violations and punishments, he said.

The industry invested Tk 10,099 crore in 2011 and Tk 5,569 crore in 2010, which was only Tk 300 crore in 1997 when the industry made a debut in Bangladesh, according to a study by AMTOB.

The capital-intensive industry continues to invest in technological developments, said Ala Uddin, head of corporate finance of Robi.

Referring to data from AMTOB and Bangladesh Bank, the telecom

industry alone invests 60 percent of total foreign direct investment in Bangladesh, which is around 10 percent of the national revenue.

The industry has paid more than Tk 53,000 crore to the government exchequer as taxes, revenue sharing and spectrum charges.

However, the industry is facing a huge tax burden, which has become a challenge against investment, Ala Uddin said.

For example, if Robi earns Tk 100 as revenue, it pays Tk 22 to the National Board of Revenue, Tk 28 to

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and Tk 9 as SIM tax; the company receives the rest Tk 41 that it continues to spend on capital and operational expenditures.

The telecom sector not only contributes to the government exchequer, but it also contributes to the country by creating a knowledge-based economy, said Mahmudur Rahman, executive vice president of Robi.

In contrast, the investors are not getting sufficient returns on their investment due to high taxes, he said.

## Bad loans fall on relaxed rules

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An official of a private bank said political uncertainty accounted for the heightened default loan situation, as most of the classified loans are related to trade financing.

As businesses could not operate normally during the volatile political climate, its chain effect is being felt on the banking sector, the official said.

An official of Janata Bank said their bad loan recovery got a boost as they regularised some loans through rescheduling.

A Sonali Bank official said they made the highest recovery last year in the bank's history and so their default loans decreased.

Default loans at the state banks

on December 31 last year were Tk 16,606 crore or 19.76 percent of their outstanding loans, which were Tk 21,514 crore or 23.87 percent a year ago. On the same day, private banks' defaults were Tk 14,315 crore or 4.54 percent of their outstanding loans, which were Tk 13,034 crore or 4.58 percent a year ago.

The amount at the specialised banks was Tk 8,357 crore on December 31 last year, up from Tk 7,330 crore a year ago. Foreign commercial banks' default loans were Tk 1,033 crore in December last year against Tk 845 crore a year ago.

Among a total of 56 banks, classified loans of six rose, while 40 saw the amount fall, and it remained unchanged at 10 banks.

## Car sales show signs of pick-up as prices fall

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Banks earlier financed up to 70 percent of the value of a car; the maximum limit now is 30 percent, said Dawn.

The import of used cars fell 23 percent to 7,353 units in 2012-13, from 9,588 units in the previous fiscal year, according to the association's data.

The imports of reconditioned cars rose 25 percent to 4,724 units in the first six months of this fiscal year from the same period a year ago.

Reconditioned cars account for 90 percent of the market and the rest is filled by new vehicles, Barvida says.

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দ্বারা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন			
প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, যান্ত্রিক, ধলপুর, ঢাকা			
আপনার শহর পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন			
<b>দ্বরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি</b>			
১. মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	১. হানীর সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়।	১. ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন।	
২. সংস্থা	১. নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, যান্ত্রিক বিভাগ, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন।		
৩. দরপত্র আহবানকারী	১. খেলা দরপত্র আহবান (OTM) প্রকৃতি।		
৪. সংগৃহ পদ্ধতি	১. যান-যান্ত্রিক প্রক্রিয়াকরণ, উন্নয়ন ও ত্বরণ।		
৫. তহবিল ও খাত	১. ৮৮-৮৬-২০৭.০০৭.০২.১০১৪০৮৮		
৬. দরপত্র আহবান নথ ও তারিখ	১. ৮৮-৮৬-২০৭.০০৭.০২.১০১৪০৮৮		
৭. দরপত্রাত্তর যোগ্যতা	১. সরকার কর্তৃক জারিত "Public Procurement Rules 2008" এর আলোকে সরবরাহ কাজের যোগ্যতা ও অভিভাবকসম্পর্ক টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান।		
৮. দরপত্র প্রকৌশলী, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশনে স্থান প্রদান কর্তৃত প্রক্রিয়া ও সকল অর্থন এবং টেকনোলজি ক্ষেত্রে বিভাগ, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশনে স্থান প্রদান কর্তৃত প্রক্রিয়া ও সকল অর্থন এবং প্রক্রিয়া বিভাগ যান্ত্রিক উত্তর এর কার্যালয়, ধলপুর, ঢাকা।			
৯. দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	১. নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, প্রকৌশল বিভাগ যান্ত্রিক উত্তর এর কার্যালয়, ধলপুর, ঢাকা।		
১০. দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	১. ১৯/০৩/২০১৪ সময়সংক্রান্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।		
১১. দরপত্র খোলার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১. ২০/০৩/২০১৪ সময়সংক্রান্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।		
১২. দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	১. ২০/০৩/২০১৪ সময়সংক্রান্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।		
১৩. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১. ২০/০৩/২০১৪ সময়সংক্রান্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।		
১৪. কাজের নাম	১. দরপত্র নিরাপত্তা জামানত (টিকা)	১. দরপত্র নিরাপত্তা জামানত (টিকা)	১. কার্য সমাপ্তির সময়সীমা
১৫. জামানত প্রকার নিরাপত্তা কাজের নাম	১. জামানত (টিকা)	১. মূল্য	১. ১২০ দিন
১৬. প্রকার নি			