

# Stocks continue to sulk over capital gains tax

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks ended flat yesterday, with turnover, one of the most important indicators of the market, dropping to a four-week low as investors shied away from placing fresh bids.

At the close of trading, turnover stood at Tk 223 crore, down 16.31 percent from the previous day.

DSEX, the prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, ended at 4,322.26 points, shedding 6.14 points or 0.14 percent.

The volatility of the market started after the government proposed capital gains tax on share sales in the upcoming fiscal year. The market lost more than 150 points since the announcement on June 5.

DSES, the shariah index of the Dhaka bourse, lost 4.17 points or 0.42 percent from the previous day to close at 988.79 points.

"The market is still under selling pressure. Investors are opting to watch from the sidelines whether the government changes the detrimental decisions it has taken in the proposed budget for fiscal 2014-15," LankaBangla Securities said in its daily market analysis.

The stockbroker said the situation would continue until the budget approval next week.

"The opening session absorbed another hit, with different phases of volatility," IDLC Investments said.

The market was upheld with the support of some specific issues such as Lafarge Surma Cement, Square Pharma and Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company (BSCCL), the merchant bank said.

Lafarge Surma Cement was the most traded stock with its transaction of 43 lakh shares

worth Tk 34 crore, followed by Grameenphone, Square Pharmaceuticals and BSCCL.

Of the 292 issues that traded on the DSE floor, 140 advanced, 114 declined and 38 remained unchanged.

Banks and foods were the only gainers among the major sectors, putting on 0.67 percent and 0.28 percent respectively.

Telecoms posted the highest loss, of 1.02 percent, followed by pharma 0.08 percent, non-bank financial institutions 0.35 percent and power 0.11 percent.

Beximco yesterday declared 15 percent stock dividends, while Beximco Pharma declared 10 percent cash and 5 percent stock dividends for 2013.

Monno Staffers was the day's highest gainer, posting a rise of 8.69 percent, while Asia Insurance was the biggest loser, slumping by 13.63 percent.

## Amazon to join railway station parcel service

BBC NEWS

Amazon customers will be able to pick-up their parcels from railways stations under a deal struck with a new click-and-collect firm, Doddle.

Doddle is a joint venture between Network Rail and Lloyd Dorfman, who made his fortune from the Traveler currency exchange business.

According to Dorfman, Amazon will begin using Doddle in September.

Last year Amazon was in talks with Transport for London about using tube stations as collection points.

It is not clear how the deal with Doddle will affect Amazon's plan to link up with London Underground.

Network Rail and Dorfman are investing £24m in Doddle and hope to expand its operation to 300 stations.

A pilot operation has been running at Milton Keynes station and Doddle's website said shops in London Cannon Street, Woking, Bromley South, Brighton and Chelmsford stations would "open soon".

But reaching an agreement with Amazon would be a huge boost for the business.



IBBL

Mohammad Abdul Mannan, managing director of Islami Bank, and Allen Bonke, acting chief executive of Grameenphone, exchange documents of an agreement at a local hotel in Dhaka yesterday to make the bank's "mcash" service available on the mobile company's network.

## New chief joins Meghna Bank

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mohammed Nurul Amin has recently joined Meghna Bank as managing director and chief executive officer for a three-year term, the bank said in a statement yesterday.

Prior to joining Meghna Bank, Amin served NCC Bank for nine years as managing director and CEO. He started his career as with Janata Bank in 1977 and also worked with National Bank.

He is a former chairman of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh and Primary Dealers Bangladesh Ltd and a former vice chairman of Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association.



Mohammed Nurul Amin



TRIJUNE

Mahfuzur Rahman, chairman of ATN Bangla, presents the champion's trophy of Meizan-Malaysian Palm Oil Chef of the Year 2013, to Syed Rahat Husain at a ceremony at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka recently.

## Google considering investment in new subsea cable

REUTERS

Google Inc is considering an investment in a new cable across the Pacific Ocean, the Wall Street Journal reported citing people familiar with the matter. The move comes as technology companies send an increasing amount of traffic across private networks, the report said.

Google took a stake in a similar \$300 million cable in 2010, according to the report. The Internet search company would use the new subsea cable to connect data centers in Oregon and Japan, the report said.

## Good governance: need of the time

FROM PAGE B1

The country cannot have good governance without good institutions that can run effectively and independently, Chowdhury said. Gowher Rizvi, the foreign affairs adviser to the Prime Minister, said democracy is vital for sustainable and long-term development. "But good governance will not come overnight," Rizvi said.

He said the authority of the Anti-Corruption Commission has been restored. There should be consensus among political parties on how to take the Election Commission forward.

At another session, Mohammed Farashuddin, a former governor of Bangladesh Bank, also called for consensus among political parties on broader economic issues.

Mohiuddin Alamgir, former president of Bangladesh Economic Association, said rules and regulations already exist to ensure good governance but these are not being implemented. He stressed increasing credibility of state institutions. "When politicisation of civil services is rampant then you have a problem."

AB Mirza Azizul Islam, another former adviser to the caretaker government, said there are no differences between the two major political parties as both focus on the private sector-led economic growth.

He suggested prioritising investment to give a boost to infrastructure, energy and power, healthcare, education, safety nets and food security. "We must strengthen government institutions to ensure proper delivery of public services and reduce corruption," he said.

## Focus on job-centric growth: analysts

FROM PAGE B1

Binayak Sen, research director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, urged the government to increase the threshold for safety net schemes so as to eradicate poverty.

Most of the safety net programmes, say widow allowance or old-age pension schemes, are examples of "tokenisms", as they provide only Tk 300-Tk 500 a month to each beneficiary, he said, adding that the government should come out from such practice. Azizur Rahman Khan, professor emeritus of the University of California's economics department, moderated the session.

## Robi to transfer 80pc tower assets to Edotco

FROM PAGE B1

The matter will be discussed soon at a meeting at BTRC, Samad said. Supun Weerasinghe, managing director and chief executive of Robi, said to The Daily Star in a statement, "Discussions with BTRC are ongoing so we prefer to refrain from commenting at this stage."



DAFFODIL UNIVERSITY

Atiur Rahman, governor of Bangladesh Bank, attends the launch of "Hand Book of Entrepreneurship Development" written and published by Md Sabur Khan, chairman of Daffodil International University, recently.



ORION PHARMA

Mohammad Obaidul Karim, managing director of Orion Pharma, attends an annual general meeting of the company at Orion Pharma Park in Siddhirganj, Narayanganj yesterday. The company approved 15 percent cash dividend for 2013. Mohammad Ferdous Jaman, company secretary, was also present.



NCC BANK

Golam Hafiz Ahmed, managing director of NCC Bank, poses with the participants of a foundation training course organised by the bank at its training institute in Dhaka on Thursday. Md Fazlur Rahman, senior executive vice president, was also present.



BATA

Rajeev Gopalakrishnan, chairman of Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh), presides over the company's 42nd annual general meeting at Dhamrai on Thursday. Bata announced 300 percent cash dividend for 2013. Chitpan Kanhasiri, managing director, was also present.

## IndustriALL draws ire from Tofail

FROM PAGE B1

In June last year, the US suspended Bangladesh's trade benefits under the GSP, citing the country's failure in ensuring internationally-recognised worker rights.

Following the suspension, Washington laid out an action plan to help the country win back the GSP. The plans comprises reforming labour laws, improving labour, fire and building standards, and removing obstacles to workers' freedom of association and collective bargaining.

"We have implemented most of the 16 conditions. They have expressed pleasure about the progress in many areas. They have also asked us to speed up the processes where there has been limited progress."

However, no country in the world currently enjoys the GSP benefits from the US following its expiry in 2013.

"If the GSP is revived by the US Congress, then the suspension order against Bangladesh will be withdrawn. There is no reason why Bangladesh won't get back the GSP."

Ahmed said he had informed the US

government about a survey conducted by the Democracy International for the USAID and the UK aid.

The survey, which studied factories and workers, showed that 80 percent of the respondents believe that there is no worker repression in the country, he said.

The minister mentioned labour leaders Kalpona Akter and Babul Akter of Bangladesh Centre for Worker Solidarity, who have become reference points for Bangladesh in the west.

"Foreigners name them but none of them are garment workers. They were never elected by garment workers to become their leaders. Garment workers want that their trade union leaders are elected by their own votes," Ahmed said quoting the survey.

The minister reaffirmed his government's commitment to improving working conditions in factories, while citing the duty-free benefits for imports of equipment needed to improve health and safety conditions as a case in point. "The negative perception about Bangladesh has petered out following my US visit."

## Young start-ups get a boost from Dhaka chamber

FROM PAGE B1

The exposition will act as a platform for professionals, entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers and industry leaders, said Mohammad Shahjahan Khan, president of DCCI.

Around 3,200 entrepreneurs were registered online with the DCCI and 2,200 business projects of different categories were received, he said.

So far 75 projects have been forwarded to 18 banks for financing, while many of the entrepreneurs have already started their ventures with their own funds, Khan said.

A lack of awareness, self-confidence and training holds back entrepreneurship development in the country, he added.

Some 1,050 entrepreneurs have already been trained on how to prepare business plans to be submitted to banks for loans.

Speaking at the inauguration of the show, lawmaker Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh stressed the need for creating new entrepreneurship as there is a need for transforming the country's huge population into skilled workforce.

Anwar Hossain, chairman of DCCI Foundation, said the new entrepreneurs will create employment opportunities in future.

"So we should promote and encourage our youth as they are important assets of our country," said Hossain, also chairman of Anwar Group of Industries.



DHL

An official of DHL receives awards for Best Express Operator, Best Logistics Service Provider-AirFreight, and Best 3PL, at the 28th Asian Freight & Supply Chain Awards in Shanghai, China recently. The awards were given to DHL based on customer polls conducted by Cargonews Asia.



WATCHES WORLD

Officials of Watches World Ltd, local distributor of Fossil brand watches, open at outlet of the company at Bashundhara City Shopping Mall in Dhaka on Wednesday.



APOLLO HOSPITALS

Shagufa Anwar, general manager for business development at Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, and Mir Nasir Hossain, managing director of Mir Akhter Hossain Ltd, attend the signing of an agreement at a programme in Dhaka recently to provide priority corporate benefits and medical services for the latter's employees and their dependants.