

| STOCKS | | COMMODITIES | | ASIAN MARKETS | | | | CURRENCIES | | | |
|----------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------|------------|--------------|---------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| DSEX | 0.06% | CSCX | 0.08% | Gold | \$1,253.90 | Oil | \$47.30 | MUMBAI | 0.05% | TOKYO | 0.10% |
| 5,801.89 | | 10,879.16 | | (per ounce) | | (per barrel) | | 32,228.27 | 19,955.20 | SINGAPORE | 0.51% |
| | | | | | | | | | | SHANGHAI | 0.21% |
| | | | | | | | | | | BUY TK | 80.25 |
| | | | | | | | | | | EUR | 92.74 |
| | | | | | | | | | | GBP | 103.88 |
| | | | | | | | | | | JPY | 0.71 |
| | | | | | | | | | | SELL TK | 81.75 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 96.34 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 107.48 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 0.74 |



রোগ নির্ণয়ে সর্বাধুনিক যন্ত্রপাতি, সর্বোচ্চ মান।
 প্রতিটি ডায়াগনস্টিক টেস্ট, আইসিইউ, সার্জারী ও ডায়ালাইসিসে ন্যূনতম **৩০%** সঞ্চয়।

SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center
(SIBL Foundation Hospital, Diagnostic & Dialysis Center)

Hotline: 01991150900

ফার্ম প্রাইভেট, এম.এ. প্রাইভেট, পাবনা প্রাইভেট
 ফোন: +৮৮০-২-৯৬৪২৯৭

Star BUSINESS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JULY 26, 2017, SRABAN 11, 1424 BS

Citycell gets another lease of life

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Supreme Court yesterday instructed the telecom regulator to return Citycell's spectrum in yet another twist to the operator's scrap for survival.

The apex court ordered the Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission to give back Citycell's spectrum within 24 hours and also revoke its decision to cancel the operator's licence.

The development comes after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who also heads the posts, telecommunications and information technology ministry, last week gave the green light to cancellation of Citycell's licence over non-payment of fees and charges.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed the order after hearing a contempt of court petition filed by Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited, Citycell's parent company, against the telecom regulator.

PBTL's lawyer Ahsanul Karim told The Daily Star that the SC on November 3 last year ordered the BTRC to reinstate Citycell's spectrum



and let it continue operations -- conditional upon payment of Tk 100 crore by November 19 last year.

The down-and-out operator had furnished the sum two days before the deadline, according to Karim.

But the BTRC on April 26 issued a notice to Citycell about disconnecting its frequency. And on June 11, the spectrum allocation was cancelled.

"This amounts to contempt of court," Karim said.

PBTL recently filed the contempt of court petition with the SC against the BTRC chairman and the director of spectrum division on charges of committing contempt of court.

In the petition PBTL sought for return of Citycell's spectrum, he added.

In October last year, the BTRC shut down Citycell's networking switch over dues of Tk 377 crore pertaining to spectrum and licence fees, revenue sharing and late penalty.

The operator then paid Tk 230.19 crore to the BTRC along with Tk 14 crore as tax to the National Board of Revenue, according to documents.

It, however, went on to dispute the amount claimed by the BTRC, prompting the court to form a three-member committee to work out the exact sum outstanding.

In the meantime, the court asked Citycell to continue to clear its remaining dues to the BTRC.

But Citycell did not make any payments between October last year and March this year, meaning it violated the court's order as well, according to BTRC officials.

The Section 46 of the Telecommunication Act allows the BTRC to cancel the licence of any entity for non-payment of dues. In June, the BTRC made its recommendation to cancel Citycell's licence.

READ MORE ON B3

Regulator to probe abnormal price hike of five firms' shares

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has decided to investigate the abnormal rise in share prices of five companies listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

The decision of the BSEC, which has formed a probe committee to look into the matter, was posted on the DSE website yesterday.

The five companies are: Khulna Printing and Packaging (KPPL), Fu Wang Foods, Beach Hatchery, Bangladesh Welding Electrodes (BD Welding) and Aziz Pipes.

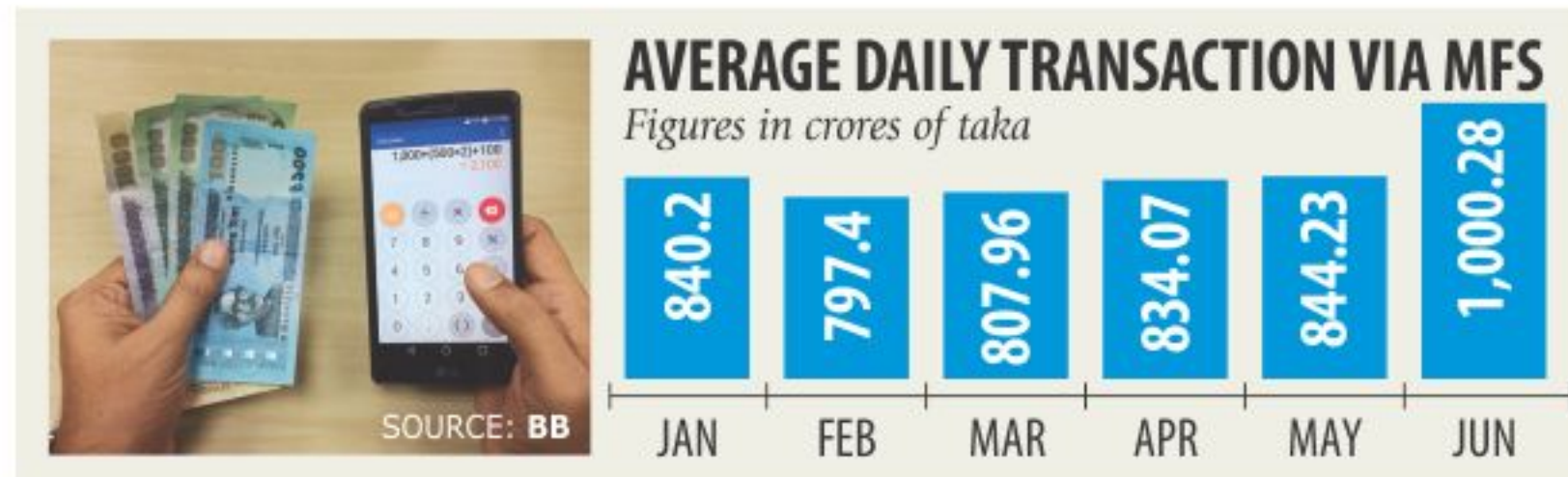
Stocks of Aziz Pipes, a "Z" category share as the company has failed to give dividends to shareholders for incurring losses, went up more than 90 percent in 35 trading days.

According to the DSE, a share of Aziz Pipes traded at Tk 62.9 on May 24, but it rose to Tk 119.8 on July 16.

READ MORE ON B3

MOBILE FINANCIAL SERVICE

Daily transactions reach Tk 1,000cr



MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Mobile transactions reached Tk 30,008 crore for the first time in June, according to Bangladesh Bank.

During Eid celebrations in June, transactions through mobile reached Tk 1,000.28 crore a day on an average, up by 18.48 percent from the previous month.

Mobile financial service providers say people are becoming more comfortable with electronic transactions.

Different incentives like cash back and discounts are offered before Eid, which boost the volume of such transactions then, they said.

"June was a dream month for the mobile financial service providers and we need to take some more time to reach that level of regular transactions in every month," said Shamsuddin Haider Dalim, head of corpo-

rate communications at bKash.

"Nowadays people are adopting more digital services in their daily life and we hope this phenomenal growth will increase in the days to come."

In June, a good number inactive mobile financial service accounts also became active to avail the Eid offers, industry insiders said.

At the end of June, the number of active accounts grew by 27.76 percent from May to reach 2.74 crore, the highest level so far.

Meanwhile, the total number of accounts, both active and inactive, reached 5.37 crore.

Up to 20 percent cash back was offered by bKash on shopping at select outlets on the occasion of Ramadan and Eid.

Rocket, another leading mobile financial service operator, also came up with such offers.

READ MORE ON B3

Suspected transaction reporting on the rise

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Reports on suspicious transaction and activity received by the Bangladesh Bank's anti-money laundering department rose more than 54 percent year-on-year in fiscal 2015-16.

During the year, the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) received 1,687 suspicious transaction reports (STR) and suspicious activity reports (SAR).

The information was revealed in the unit's annual report for fiscal 2015-16.

The BFIU is responsible for analysing STR, SAR, cash transaction reports and information related to money laundering and

terrorist financing received from reporting agencies and other sources.

It then disseminates the information to law enforcement agencies.

The unit is also empowered to supervise the activities of reporting organisations and carry out on-site inspections.

"The rise in the number of STR/SAR from the reporting entities illustrates the efficacy of the BFIU's initiatives in furthering awareness of anti-money laundering (AML) and combating the financing of terrorism (CFT) among the reporting organisations," the annual report said.

The number of cash transaction report (CTR) and the transac-

tion volume involved increased 39.36 percent and 19.46 percent respectively from a year earlier.

The unit for the first time received the CTR from non-banking financial institutions involving an amount of Tk 246 crore.

In the same fiscal year, the unit disseminated 180 intelligence reports to law enforcement agencies, mostly to the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Criminal Investigation Department for their next course of action.

The BFIU also conducted AML and CFT inspections on 56 bank branches.

During the inspections, no bank branch got "strong" rating, whereas the majority of them

received "fair" and "marginal" rating.

Three banks were rated "satisfactory", 28 banks "fair", and 24 banks "marginal". One bank was rated "unsatisfactory". The annual report did not name the banks.

Among the NBFIs, 77.8 percent of the head offices got "fair" rating and 22.2 percent "marginal" rating.

On the other hand, 70 percent of the NBFIs branches got "fair" rating and 30 percent "marginal" rating. No branches received "unsatisfactory" rating.

The BFIU got 31 requests from FIUs of different countries in fiscal 2015-16 compared to 17 the previous year.

All the requests for cooperation

were entertained with utmost care by the unit, according to the annual report.

In fiscal 2015-16, the unit sent 186 requests to foreign financial intelligence units (FIU), most of which were related to the cyber heist of the BB reserve account.

In the reported fiscal year, the BFIU received 91.7 percent of the total STRs/SARs from banks.

Despite having the lowest number of branch network and clients, foreign banks submitted the highest number of STRs/SARs: 642.

Private commercial banks and Shariah-based banks submitted 511 and 362 STRs/SARs respectively.

READ MORE ON B3

Wheat imports may go up further

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's wheat imports and consumption are likely to go up further this fiscal year, driven by resilient domestic demand and lower international prices, said industry operators.

Imports are expected to hit 60 lakh tonnes at the end of the current fiscal year, posting a 5.44 percent gain year-on-year, said the US Department of Agriculture recently.

Two industry operators said import of grain may exceed 60 lakh tonnes this fiscal year because of increased consumption as a substitute to rice, the staple food.

The USDA revised upward Bangladesh's wheat consumption forecast to 73 lakh tonnes for the current fiscal year, up three lakh tonnes from its March forecast on increased consumption as an alternative to rice in flood affected areas.

"A lot will depend on rice prices. Demand for wheat will rise if rice prices remain at the current level in the domestic market," said Abul Bashir Chowdhury, chairman of BSM Group, a Chittagong-based importer.

Price of coarse rice, which is consumed mostly by poor and lower middle-income people, dropped marginally from a record high of Tk 47.30 per kilogram in June.

WHEAT IMPORT

In lakh tonnes

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF FOOD



Retail prices of coarse rice were Tk 42-45 per kilogram yesterday thanks to increased imports after reduction of import duty by the government to 10 percent from previous 28 percent.

Yet, prices of the grain was Tk 16 higher a kilogram than wheat flour. Locally known as ata, retail prices of wheat flour were at Tk 26-34 each kilogram in Dhaka city yesterday, according to data from the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

Chowdhury said the demand for wheat goes up when the prices of rice remain higher. Import may rise by 10 percent from what came in last year, he said.

Bangladesh's wheat import hit a new high at 56.90 lakh tonnes in fiscal 2016-17, up 30 percent year-on-year, due to low prices, a shift in consumers' diet preference and flour-ishing bakery market.

This was the fifth consecutive year when wheat arrivals rose to meet growing domestic demand as local production meets one fifth of the annual demand.

The USDA estimated Bangladesh's wheat production to be 3 percent lower year-on-year at 12.5 lakh tonnes in fiscal 2016-17 because of a reduction in cultivation area as some farmers sought to avoid the risk of a recurrence of wheat blast.

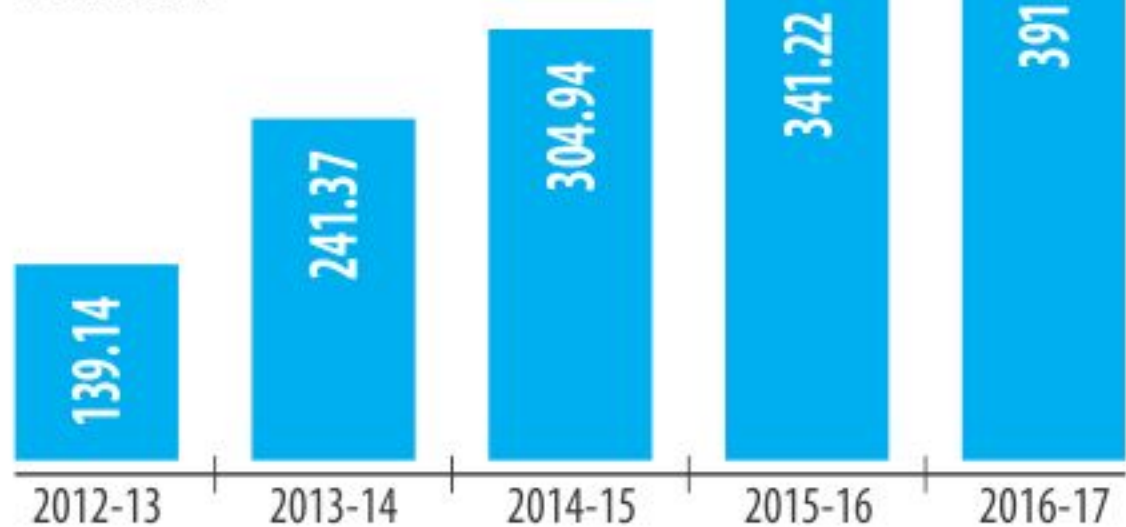
READ MORE ON B3

Rising apparel exports to China a sign of new opportunities

GARMENT EXPORTS TO CHINA

In millions of \$

SOURCE: EPB



REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Riding on a duty-free trade privilege, Bangladesh's garment export to China increased 14.77 percent year-on-year to \$391.59 million in fiscal 2016-17, something exporters are seeing as a sign that new opportunities are awaiting.

China, the global leader in apparel business, has turned into a major export destination for Bangladesh because of its huge population with a growing section of middle-income households.

Moreover, China is shifting production from basic to high-end garment products and has a shortage of skilled labour.

Garment manufacturers are also giving more preference to Chinese markets for a shorter lead-time and better prices from retailers and brands.

Exporters are upbeat about Chinese markets as this potential can be a very good substitute for continued apparel export growth at a time when shipments to other traditional destinations like the US, EU and Canada is falling.

During the 2008-2009 global recession, global trade experienced a significant slump but Bangladesh's export got a boost for increased shipments to China.

"Garment export from my group has been maintaining 10 percent growth every year to China. China is a new destination for us," said Asif Zahir, director of Ananta Group, a leading garment exporter.

READ MORE ON B3



Customers are seen at a shop in the port city's Khatunganj, which was inundated for a third consecutive day yesterday for tidal waves, affecting hundreds of shops, warehouses and offices.

Ctg traders continue to suffer

Waterlogging taking toll on wholesale hubs

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Chittagong

Waterlogging continued hurting businesses at Khatunganj and Chaktai in the port city yesterday, as tidal wave entered hundreds of shops, godowns and offices in the areas for the third consecutive day.

Water from Chaktai canal overflowed yesterday again and submerged the wholesale hubs at 2:30am for the first time and at 12:30pm again, local traders said.

Almost all of the 1,200 shops, godowns and offices in Khatunganj

and 2,500 such establishments located on the ground floor bore the brunt of the rush of water.

Syed Sagir Ahmad, general secretary of Khatunganj Trade and Industries Association, said the loss in the last three days could reach Tk 300 crore.

The staff along with labourers were seen bailing water out of the stores while some were busy in raising the height of the already erected walls at the entrance of the shops.

The traders are also suffering from a crisis of labourers and repairmen, who are now charging almost double

their regular payments for a day, said Md Maksud, manager of Bagdadi Corporation.

The repairmen were asking up to Tk 3,000, up from Tk 1,000, to build walls at the entrance of the shops.

At least 800 sacks of onion, 400 sacks of garlic and 300 sacks of ginger stored in the firm's entrepots and two godowns were damaged, which could worth nearly Tk 20 lakh, he said.

"The continuous rain does not let us dry up our goods to make them saleable at least at cheaper rates again."

READ MORE ON B3



Sunon
 No. 1 office furniture brand from China

32 Progati Sharani
 Block-J, Baridhara, Dhaka

www.sunon-bd.com
 019 555 440 12