

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
▲ 0.08%	▲ 0.17%	▲ \$1,303.20 (per ounce)	▲ \$51.99 (per barrel)	▲ 0.62%	▲ 0.47%	▲ 0.12%	▲ 0.35%	BUY TK 81.00	94.84	106.90	0.71
6,013.84	11,286.51			32,633.64	21,255.56	3,323.06	3,378.80	SELL TK 82.50	98.44	110.50	0.75

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ফোন : +৮৮০-২-৯৬৪২২৯৭
Hotline: 01991150900

Star BUSINESS

DHAKA TUESDAY OCTOBER 17, 2017, KARTIK 2, 1424 BS

Nuisance of marketing SMSs

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Hasanullah, a 65-year-old surgery patient, was lounging in his hospital bed one afternoon when his peace was disturbed by a phone call.

The phone call was from his mobile operator and it was to inform him of the various offers the company was providing on data packages. Ruffled, the retired banker spoke very curtly to the operator's representative.

"I get about ten text messages a day from my operator about their offers, so what was the point of calling me?"

Not that Hasanullah is happy to receive the unsolicited text messages from his operator as well as from third parties. Allegations run rife that the third parties somehow manage customers' information from operators.

"Those marketing text messages distract me. They are of no use to me," he added.

Hasanullah's grievance is shared by a large section of mobile phone subscribers,

who complain that important text messages get buried under the deluge of messages from the operators and businesses.

Khaled Hossain, a subscriber, yesterday said he received a marketing SMS at 6:30am.

"This is a regular phenomenon. Because of this, I have to keep my phone on a silent mode when I am sleeping. But this can't be a solution because I may miss out important calls and text messages."

However, mobile operators said they are sending text messages to their customers in accordance with the directives of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

"Customers may opt out any time from receiving promotional SMS, voice call or bulk SMS containing a message," said Mahmud Hossain, chief corporate affairs officer of Grameenphone.

Subscribers can block promotional SMS free of cost by calling GP's hotline 121 and opting for the 'Do Not Disturb' service.

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Rules relaxed for duty drawback

SOHEL PARVEZ

The revenue authority has eased the provision of physical inspection for export consignments until June 2018 to clear a backlog of 2,300 applications submitted mainly by jute and leather exporters for duty drawback of raw materials.

In an order, the National Board of Revenue recently said the applications for duty drawback could be settled upon confirmation of exports based on documents such as proceed realisation certificates and without physical inspection report.

"We welcome the step. This will be helpful for us to get duty drawback," said Md Shaheen Ahamed, chairman of Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA).

Revenue officials and exporters said the move would be beneficial for exporters who have been waiting for several years to get refund of duty and taxes which they have to pay for import of raw materials to process goods for exports in absence of duty free import benefit given under bonded warehouse scheme.

Ahamed said the issue had been pending since November last year. He said they did not get duty drawback in the last one year because of the rule of submission of inspection report online by customs officials for export consignments.

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DSE turnover hits four-month low

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Both trading volume and turnover in Dhaka Stock Exchange crashed to a four-month low yesterday, plunging thousands of retail investors into sudden uncertainty.

Compared to the previous session, the turnover fell 19 percent to nearly Tk 503 crore, which is the lowest since June 18 and less than half of the turnover of Tk 1,092 crore recorded on October 11.

The trading volume has also gone down to only 14.08 crore, the lowest since June 13.

Merchant bankers and stockbrokers said many investors were inactive and remained on the sidelines to safeguard their position.

The market, however, ended flat with the DSEX—the benchmark index of the DSE—advancing by 4.90 points to 6,013.8.

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Spinners rely too much on Indian cotton

Overdependence worries them

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The overdependence on Indian cotton is becoming a cause of concern for local spinners as India itself is turning into a major cotton consumer with an increase in its export of apparel items, industry insiders said.

Currently, Bangladesh imports more than 60 percent of its required cotton from India, the single largest source of the raw material for the country.

"The overdependence on Indian cotton is a cause of concern for us. We should think of alternatives," said A Matin Chowdhury, managing director of Malek Spinning Mills Ltd, one of the major local cotton importers in Bangladesh.

Bangladeshi spinners import cotton from India because of shorter lead-time, which is very necessary for the garment business in the present context of fierce global competition, Chowdhury said.

The prices of Indian cotton are almost the same as those of other countries, he said. The cotton supply from India is not always stable as New Delhi sometimes imposes ban on export when domestic consumption of the raw material goes up. "In such cases, Bangladeshi spinners have to face a dearth of cotton," said Chowdhury.

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