



An escalator inside one of the Dhaka metro rail's stations in Agargaon. Imported materials comprise a large portion of the Tk 33,500 crore metro rail project but a substantial amount of locally made rod, steel products and cement have also been used by the foreign construction firms. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Orion Infusion will now give 20% cash dividend

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Orion Infusion has decided to give 20 per cent cash dividend to its investors for 2021-22.

However, the company's initial plan was to declare 10 per cent stock and 10 per cent cash dividends for its shareholders.

But the pharma company had to retract its plan as the stock market regulator asked it to give the whole amount as cash dividend for the betterment of the investors.

Last month, the board of directors of Orion Infusion recommended 10 per cent stock and 10 per cent cash dividends based on the company's performances in 2021-22.

But Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission rejected the stock dividend announcement today and advised the company to go for 20 per cent cash dividend.

So, to abide by the recommendation, Orion's board decided to convert and give the whole amount as cash dividend today, the company said in a disclosure posted on the Dhaka Stock Exchange's website today.

In the last six months, stocks of Orion Infusion surged around five times to Tk 488, according to data of the Dhaka bourse.

Construction materials of some 12 local firms used in metro rail

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Around a dozen local companies supplied materials such as rods, steel products and cement for the construction of the country's first metro rail, signifying that products made in the country are achieving international standards.

While a large portion of the Tk 33,500 crore project comprise imported materials, locally made rod, steel products and cement have been used by the foreign construction firms.

The local products were recommended by consultants satisfied of their top grade, said MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company, the implementing and operating agency, earlier.

Using those gave confidence to the local manufacturers and was a matter of pride for the country, he added.

According to an official of Dhaka Mass Transit Company, 111,840 tonnes of mild steel (MS) rods have been used till date for the partially completed project.

Around 72,000 tonnes of MS rods were provided by Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills (BSRM),



one of the country's leading steel manufacturers.

Tapan Sengupta, deputy managing director of the BSRM, said up until now they have provided the lion's share of the MS rods used, which means their product quality was of an international standard.

He said Japanese experts frequently conducted tests and supervised the manufacturing process before placing orders.

GPH Ispat said to have provided some 8,000 tonnes of "high quality" steel.

McDonald Steel Building Products provided 14,000 tonnes of steel products for installation at the metro rail's 16 stations.

"It is an example that local manufacturers are capable of producing world class products," said the company's managing director, Md Sarwar Kamal.

The company set up a dedicated production line to make the products, including roof trusses, which are prefabricated structures designed to support the roofs.

According to Kamal, Japanese experts supervised the manufacturing process while random samples were tested at a laboratory of the Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology prior to installation.

Premier Cement Mills provided an uninterrupted supply of "hundreds of thousands of tonnes" of cement, said its managing director, Mohammed Amirul Haque.

He claimed that Bangladeshi cement had attained international standards for which international construction firms were using it.

Bashundhara Cement has so far supplied more than 3,50,000 tonnes of cement, said Khandaker Kingshuk Hossain, the company's chief marketing officer.

Berger Paints Bangladesh said to have supplied "premium" industrial and decorative paints. It provided all paint-related materials to the Uttara depot and supplied paint and helped in its application in all stations from Uttara to Motijheel.

The company got the work order directly from the contractor, said Managing Director Rupali Haque Chowdhury.

All kinds of internal cables, except the main electricity line, were provided by BRB Cable Industries.

No foreign cable has been used, said Rafiqul Islam Rony, director for marketing and sales.

Tax system not favourable for industries: BCI

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The present tax system does not favour industrial development as losses of firms are not accepted in many cases, the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) said yesterday.

Tax offices assess taxes of firms on the basis of sector based gross profit, the chamber said in a press release.

"This is not reasonable," said BCI President Anwar-ul Alam Chowdhury at the chamber's 36th annual general meeting at its office.

The trade body said the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine war forced 40 per cent of the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) out of business.

"We have to come forward to protect them," he added.

The BCI has signed a memorandum of understanding with the SME Foundation to develop new entrepreneurs and small industries all over the country and solve their problems.

3 more RMG factories get green certificates

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Three more Bangladeshi garment factories have been awarded the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for extraordinary initiatives taken for green production.

The newly awarded factories include Swisstex Village situated at Kohilatoli of Jamirta in Manikganj. It received gold certification.

The RMG building of Jinnat Knitwears Ltd at Mawna in Gazipur received the platinum certification.

The same company's Printing Building located at Mawna, Sreepur in Gazipur was awarded the LEED certification under the platinum category.

So far, 183 garment factories have been awarded the LEED certification by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) in Bangladesh.

Of the total, 60 are platinum rated, 109 gold rated, 10 silver rated and four only certified.

According to the entrepreneurs, green factories are one of the most scientific ways of keeping the balance of growth and sustainability.

Green factories attach the highest importance to energy use, water use, indoor environmental quality, and material selection and its effects on the site.

Pubali Bank to raise Tk 700cr thru bond

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Pubali Bank has got go-ahead to raise Tk 700 crore through its third subordinated bond.

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) approved the bond, which will be non-convertible and have floating rate in between 6 to 9 per cent.

Through a private placement, the lender would raise the fund from institutional investors and high-net-worth people.

Face value of each unit of the bond is Tk 1 crore.

With the bond proceeds, Pubali Bank will strengthen its tier-2 capital base.

DBH Finance PLC is going to act as its trustee and Standard Chartered Bangladesh as arranger.

Stocks continue to drop

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks continued to drop for a second consecutive day yesterday while turnover rose as many investors tried to sell shares apprehending that listed companies would perform poorly in the coming months.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), fell 9 points, or 0.15 per cent, to 6,180 points.

The DS30, the blue chip index, rose 0.02 per cent to 2,191 points while the DSES, the index that represents Shariah-based companies, declined 0.13 per cent to 1,352 points.

The macroeconomic scenario of Bangladesh is not favourable now as is for other countries for the Russia-Ukraine war so investors are not feeling comfortable holding onto shares or investing further, said a stockbroker.

They apprehend that the performance of listed companies will deteriorate, so they are trying to sell shares, he added.

Among the companies to witness trade, 17 advanced, 136 declined and 160 remained the same.

Turnover, an important indicator of the market, increased 35 per cent to Tk 269 crore from that on the previous day.

The Dhaka stocks remained in the red for a second consecutive day as worried investors continued with their selling spree amid low trading activities, said International Leasing Securities in its daily market review.

Following the previous day's fall, the market started off on a negative note, which continued till the end of the day as investors liquidated their investment from stocks having no floor prices, it said.

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A potter pushes logs into a kiln to bake earthen jars at Shimuleshwar village in Jhalakathi. The jars are now in demand for use in the extraction of sweet sap from date palm trees, selling for Tk 30 a piece at wholesale. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Islami Bank to issue Tk 800cr bond

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has approved Islami Bank's fourth subordinated bond worth Tk 800 crore.

Tenure of the mudaraba bond is seven years and it would be redeemable and non-convertible.

The bond will have floating rate, which would be the latest six months' deposit rate of shariah-based banks and additional 2 per cent.

Face value of each unit of the bond is Tk 10 lakh.

The fund would be raised through private placement among institutional investors and high-net-worth individual investors.

With the bond proceeds, it would strengthen its capital base.

DBH Finance PLC will work as the trustee of the bond.