

Stocks rebound after five-day decline

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The indexes of the stock market in Bangladesh rebounded yesterday, snapping a five-day losing streak.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), edged up by 11.15 points, or 0.22 percent, from the previous day to close at 5,145.

Similarly, the DSES, the index that represents the Shariah-based stocks, went up by 4.89 points, or 0.42 percent, to 1,155.

In the blue-chip segment, the DS30 index rose by 8.61 points, or 0.45 percent, to 1,902.

Out of the 396 scrips, 172 saw a hike in prices, while 160 closed lower. The rest of the issues did not see any price movement.

The day's turnover, which measures the total value of share transactions on the DSE, stood at Tk 368 crore, an increase of 1.19 percent compared to the previous day's

trading session.

The pharmaceuticals sector dominated the turnover chart, accounting for 19.57 percent of the total.

In the individual category, ADN Telecom Limited emerged as the most-traded share, with a turnover of Tk 14.6 crore.

Sector-wise, general insurance, information technology, and life insurance were the top three sectors that closed in the positive, according to the day's market update by UCB Stock Brokerage.

However, the non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs), jute, and mutual funds became the top three sectors that closed in the negative.

In its market update, Shanta Securities noted that market movement was driven by positive changes in the market capitalisation of life insurance, paper and printing, and general insurance scrips amid negative

changes in the market capitalisation of travel and leisure, banking, and financial institution scrips.

Sectors with substantial market capitalisation showed mixed performances, as per the daily market update by BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage.

The telecommunication sector experienced the highest gain of 0.45 percent, followed by pharmaceuticals (0.43 percent) and engineering (0.21 percent).

However, the food & allied sector logged a loss of 0.08 percent, followed by the banking sector (0.39 percent), fuel & power (0.53 percent), and NBFIs (0.97 percent).

At the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), the CSE All-Share Price Index (CASPI), the prime index of the port city bourse, saw a similar rising trend, as the index increased by 12.50 points, or 0.09 percent, to settle at 14,364.

Stocks at record

FROM PAGE B1

increased remittance inflows through formal channels.

With austerity measures on imports, rising exports, and steady remittance inflows, the current account deficit declined in early FY25 and is expected to remain low throughout FY25, the report said.

Although foreign debt repayment is expected to increase in the second half of fiscal year 2024-25, Bangladesh has foreign fund commitments amounting to \$4.9 billion, which it is expected to receive within the next one and a half years.

The recent depreciation of the local currency, coupled with the declining current account deficit, suggests that another significant currency depreciation is unlikely

under the current economic circumstances.

Going forward, depreciation is expected to align with the long-term average rate of 3.4 percent observed over the past 20 years.

"The declining trend in global inflation and interest rates, along with the increasing yield differential between Bangladesh and US Treasury instruments—currently at 7.46 percent—further supports such expectations."

Depending on crop seasons, the report suggested that inflation might ease in the second half of this year.

However, rice prices rose as the Aman crop was adversely affected by recent flooding. With the Boro harvest scheduled for April to June, rice prices are expected

to decline after the harvest.

Lower freight and commodity prices in the international market are also likely to help curb inflation.

IDLC Securities said that once inflation is brought under control, interest rates in the banking sector would also decline. The recent rise in interest rates was driven by multiple increases in the central bank's policy rate.

On Saturday, DSE Chairman Monimul Islam said at a press conference that the market would hopefully show improvement by June this year with different reform initiatives bearing fruit.

IDLC Securities also said that if reforms take place, the stock market index will get a boost, as was seen in Pakistan and Sri Lanka in recent years.

lenders," it said.

Hasanat provided an example of how delayed payments exacerbate foreign exchange losses.

"When we submitted bills [for electricity or fuel imports], the exchange rate was Tk 118. But by the time we received payments, it had risen to Tk 126," he said.

The PDB is obligated under its power purchase agreements to clear payments within 45 days.

However, payments are being delayed for more than five months at a time, with the resulting backlog having persisted for more than three years now.

READ FULL STORY ONLINE

Power producers

FROM PAGE B1

He said the central bank governor was very cordial and assured them that he would convey their message to senior government officials.

BIPPA has long been pushing the government to clear at least half of its overdue payments, amounting to Tk 9,000 crore, as soon as possible.

They wrote to the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources on January 9, requesting that the payments be cleared within 10 days to ensure uninterrupted power supply during Ramadan.

Hasanat said that the unpaid dues are preventing local power producers from

importing the furnace oil needed to generate electricity.

"If we don't get at least half of our payments, we will not be able to open letters of credit to import furnace oil in due time to generate adequate power during Ramadan," he added.

In its letter, BIPPA mentioned the significant financial losses being caused by the taka's devaluation.

Besides, the foreign exchange losses of independent power producers were compounded by delayed payment.

"These losses have eroded financial confidence among

lenders," it said.

Hasanat provided an example of how delayed payments exacerbate foreign exchange losses.

"When we submitted bills [for electricity or fuel imports], the exchange rate was Tk 118. But by the time we received payments, it had risen to Tk 126," he said.

The group's clients include all Inditex brands, such as Bershka, Zara-TRF, Zara-Women, Zara-Men, Pull & Bear-Men, Pull & Bear-Women, Lefties-Ladies, Lefties-Kids, and Lefties-Men.

The list also includes C&A, PVH, Marks & Spencer, Michael Kors,

READ FULL STORY ONLINE

Beximco workers

FROM PAGE B1

They have been lobbying the government to sell a piece of the group's land in Narayanganj for approximately Tk 800 crore to restructure the bank loans, said a senior officer of the group.

However, top government officials are not approving the sale, said the officer, asking not to be named.

"These are not loss-making units, as almost all the internationally reputed clothing retailers and brands are their regular customers," said Shefat Ahmed, a merchandiser in the group's garment division.

Beximco used to export \$30 million worth of textile and garment items in a month prior to August 5 last year.

The merchandiser also said Beximco has been doing business with many reputed clothing retailers and brands for many years, and they are still interested in continuing the business.

"So, it is not true that the group's textile and garment factories lack work orders," he added.

The group's clients include all Inditex brands, such as Bershka, Zara-TRF, Zara-Women, Zara-Men, Pull & Bear-Men, Pull & Bear-Women, Lefties-Ladies, Lefties-Kids, and Lefties-Men.

The list also includes C&A, PVH, Marks & Spencer, Michael Kors,

READ FULL STORY ONLINE

Reforms may cause

FROM PAGE B1

Moreover, the point-to-point core inflation, which excludes volatile items such as food and fuel, increased to 10.40 percent at the end of the July-September quarter of FY25, up from 8.32 percent at the end of the previous quarter.

The central bank said it intensified its contractionary monetary policy to ease persistent inflationary pressures.

"Inflation may require the continuation of a tight monetary policy stance for some periods ahead," it said, adding that the BB is likely to maintain its contractionary monetary policy stance until clear signs of easing inflation are

evident.

The central bank said its initiatives for banking reforms to ensure governance in the financial sector are expected to bring macroeconomic stability very soon.

"In the medium term, the economy is anticipated to rebound gradually with the advancement of the reform activities and correction processes initiated by monetary and fiscal authorities."

The central bank said Bangladesh's external sector started to recover, reflected in an improved current account balance, a more stabilised exchange rate, and slower erosion of foreign exchange reserves.

Only 45% of foreign

FROM PAGE B1

To this end, Bida identified 19 priority sectors for attracting FDI and driving economic growth.

These include established industries such as apparel and pharmaceuticals alongside emerging ones like renewable energy, information technology, and light engineering.

With the focus ranging from advanced textile manufacturing to agro-processing, the report showcases diverse opportunities for innovation and development.

Bida said that by prioritising these sectors, Bangladesh could enhance its competitiveness in global markets. "This initiative aligns with the nation's vision for sustainable growth and economic self-reliance,"

it added.

Bida informed that it created the heatmap as a strategic tool to facilitate FDI by addressing challenges hindering its inflow.

Drawing inspiration from global best practices, including collaborations between investment bodies and academia, the heatmap aims to align FDI efforts with Bangladesh's long-term economic goals.

Against this backdrop, Bida said Bangladesh must address systemic bottlenecks in investment promotion to fully capitalise on its FDI potential. The report pointed out critical hurdles for increasing FDI, such as the lack of long-term vision in corporate planning and poor competitor benchmarking.

READ FULL STORY ONLINE

Power Grid Bangladesh's revenue grows amid persistent losses

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

.....

Power Grid Bangladesh, a government-owned company responsible for power transmission throughout the country, saw its revenue increase in the fiscal year 2023-24 despite persistent losses putting a dent in its earnings.

The company reported a revenue of Tk 2,785.56 crore in FY24, a 14 percent year-on-year increase.

Despite the revenue growth, the company incurred a net loss of Tk 457.46 crore, a significant improvement from the Tk 720.27 crore loss recorded in the previous year, according to its audited financial statements.

Shares of Power Grid Bangladesh fell 13 percent to Tk 34.3 during midday trading on the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.

The company reported a loss per share of Tk 5.01 for FY24, down from a loss per share of Tk 10.11 in the prior year.

The company said in its audited financial statements that its total income

rose by 12.52 percent, while total expenses

increased by 2 percent, reducing the net loss by Tk 262.80 crore.

Net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) improved slightly to Tk 12.86 for FY24, compared to Tk 12.32 in the previous year.

The increase was attributed to higher cash receipts from customers and reduced tax payments.

The board of the company recommended no dividend for FY24.

For the first quarter of FY25, the company posted a loss of Tk 256.53 crore.

As a result, the loss per share was recorded at Tk 2.81, compared to a loss per share of Tk 1.42 in the same quarter of the previous year, according to its unaudited company statements.

The company attributed higher expenses relative to income in driving the decline in earnings. NOCFPS for Q1 stood at Tk 5.74, up from Tk 4.74 (restated) in the same period last year.

The increase was attributed to higher cash inflows from customers and lower cash payments to suppliers, contractors, and employees.

Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

This shift is creating opportunities for fresh graduates specialising in biotechnology and genetic engineering to make valuable contributions to the pharmaceutical sector, he said.

READ FULL STORY ONLINE

IMF defers

FROM PAGE B1

Another condition was reducing tax exemptions and unifying the rates of value-added tax (VAT).

On January 9, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) increased VAT and supplementary duty (SD) on nearly 100 goods and services.

The VAT was raised to 15 percent, up from as low as 5 percent. The VAT rate hike on certain products and services drew a lot of criticism from businesspeople and economists.

Afterwards, Finance Adviser Salihuddin Ahmed told journalists that they were reviewing the VAT rate on some products and services and might withdraw the new VAT rate on them.

The finance ministry is also negotiating with the IMF and will withdraw the new VAT rate on some products, the finance ministry official added.

Drugmakers hiring

FROM PAGE B1

"They can contribute across production, quality control, research, and marketing departments in pharmaceutical companies," he said.

Zaman added that expertise in pharmacy is essential across all fields of the pharmaceutical industry, noting, "The future for quality young pharmacists is bright, both at home and abroad."

By channelling their passion into industries like pharmaceuticals, Bangladesh can build a robust economy driven by innovation and self-reliance, he stated.

He emphasised that as the market continues to expand, so does the need for trained professionals to support the industry's dynamic growth.

The evolving landscape offers young professionals an exciting platform to thrive and contribute to one of Bangladesh's most promising sectors, he said.

"Local pharmaceutical companies in Bangladesh are progressing from chemical medicines to biomedicines," said Md Abu Zafar Sadek, deputy general manager of UniMed UniHealth.

However, two decades

 <p>প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর সর্কার ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ঢাকা-১০০০</p> <p>তারিখ: ১৯/১/২৫</p>					
e-GP Tender Notice(OTM)					
<p>e-GP Tender is invited in the National e-GP System (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works mentioned below under University of Dhaka.</p>					
SL No	Tender ID	Package No	Name of Work	e-Tender Last selling date & Time	e-Tender Closing date & Time
1	1063404	SSZ-03	Repair and Painting Work for Verandha ceiling with roof of main Building Mosque Shahed Sergeant Zahirul Haque Hall, University of Dhaka.	04-02-2025 12.30	05-02-2025 12.30
<p>This</p>					