

Stock Market

Stocks gain slightly in cautious trading

New Age, October 21, 2019

- Dhaka stocks gained marginally on Sunday despite a fall in share prices of most of the scrips and investors' participation as some institutional investors went for bargain hunting targeting the large capitalised companies to support the falling market while most of the investors remained on the sidelines.
- DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, increased by 0.23 per cent, or 11.10 points, to end at 4,782.09 points on Sunday after losing 50.63 points in the previous session.
- Share prices of Grameenphone increased by 0.95 per cent on Sunday after losses in the previous two sessions following the news that the High Court on October 17 issued an injunction for two months on realisation of BDT 12,579.95 crore in audit claim from GP by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.
- The average share prices of miscellaneous, general insurance and non-bank financial institution dropped by 1.5 per cent, 0.4 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively
- Out of the 352 scrips traded on the day, 180 declined, 129 advanced, and 43 remained unchanged. Blue-chip index DS30 added 0.41 per cent, or 6.93 points, to close at 1,685.95 points. DSE Shariah index DSES gained 0.47 per cent, or 5.17 points, to end at 1,099.20 points. National Tubes led the turnover chart with its shares worth BDT 14.43 crore changing hands on the day.
- Standard Ceramic, Monno Jute Stafflers, Paramount Textiles, Summit Power, Sonar Bangla Insurance, Agrani Insurance, Silco Pharmaceuticals, Continental Insurance and United Power Generation Company were the other turnover leaders.
- Malek Spinning Mills gained the most on the day with a 12.17-per cent increase in its share prices while Al-Haj Textile performed the worst, losing 8.88 per cent.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/88300/stocks-gain-slightly-in-cautious-trading>

Omera to raise BDT 2.38 bn

Company holds IPO roadshow in city

The Financial Express, October 21, 2019

- Azam J Chowdhury, director of Omera Petroleum Limited, addressing the IPO road show of the company on Sunday. The country's largest LPG firm, Omera Petroleum Limited, will raise funds worth BDT 2.38 bn from the capital market.
- The company will raise the amount by floating initial public offering (IPO) using the book building method. The company intends to use the money for purchasing an ocean-going vessel and repay loans, among other purposes.
- The company unveiled its future plan of investments alongside presenting the financials at an IPO road show held at a city hotel in the capital on Sunday. Officials of the company said more than BDT 1.86 bn will be used for purchasing a large ship with a capacity of carrying 3,800 tonnes of LPG.

- Besides, BDT 467.50 mn will be used for loan repayment. The investors, including merchant banks, asset management companies, stock brokers and dealers, among others, attended the road show.
- Company directors Azam J. Chowdhury, Tanjil Chowdhury, Raed W. Abul Nasr Bassatne, Bahaeddine Mohamed Aboul Nasr Bassatne, Richard Verbove, and chief financial officer Aktar Hossain Sannamat, among others, were present at the road show.
- Omera is also a subsidiary of MJL Bangladesh with a combined capacity of 100,000 tonnes a year. In partnership with European energy giant BB Energy, the company has installed an LPG import and storage terminal with a capacity of 3,600 tonnes at Mongla, Bagerhat, according to the company's website.

<http://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/omera-to-raise-BDT-238-bn-1571632212>

Elias becomes Jamuna Bank MD

New Age, October 21, 2019

- Mirza Elias Uddin Ahmed has been appointed the managing director and CEO of Jamuna Bank with effect from October 21, 2019, said a press release. Prior to the appointment, Elias had served the bank in the capacities of additional managing director and deputy managing director for over 7 years.
- With a career spanning over 34 years, Elias has worked in most banking fields including treasury, risk management, operation and services, business and credit. He later went on to work for Prime Bank and Mercantile Bank before joining Jamuna Bank as senior assistant vice-president in 2001.
- Elias is a diplomaed associate of the Institute of Bankers Bangladesh and founder general secretary of Bangladesh Money Market Dealers Association.
- He has been the chairman of Jamuna Bank Capital Management Limited, chief executive officer of Jamuna Bank Foundation, chairman of the Technical Committee of Primary Dealers Bangladesh Limited and member of the Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/88303/elias-becomes-jamuna-bank-md>

Hydrocarbon exploration: Last call for final deal on JV survey

The Financial Express, October 21, 2019

- Petrobangla has invited again the Norwegian-US joint venture (JV) to ink a final deal to carry out a survey to delineate hydrocarbon reserves in the Bay of Bengal. This is the final call for the TGS-Schlumberger JV to do the deal on the long-awaited multi-client seismic survey, said a senior official of the state entity.
- Earlier in May, the national oil, gas and mineral corporation invited the JV to sign it and initiate the survey in offshore areas. Instead, the firm requested Petrobangla to invite and discuss the model production-sharing contract (MPSC) with a dozen of international oil and companies (IOCs) and have their feedback on MPSC.
- Last month, Petrobangla completed talks with IOCs in line with the request and is waiting to ink the deal. The JV was selected for the job twice following two separate competitive biddings floated back in 2015. The initial bid in early 2015 was cancelled and the subsequent bidding in late 2015 has been held up in the past three-and-a-half years.

- But it had to cancel deals with shippers as Bangladesh has shelved the project over the past several years. However, the cabinet committee on economic affairs in the April 24 meeting approved the awarding of the job to the joint venture.
- The blocks cover 81,000-square kilometres having depth ranging from 20 metres to 2,500 metres in the Bay. On completion of the survey, Petrobangla plans to provide interested IOCs with the non-exclusive multi-client seismic data of the blocks.
- The aim is to help the companies carry out basin evaluation, prospect generation and participation in the bidding for exploration. The surveyors would not receive payments for their work, to be done in two years, from Petrobangla as per the bidding terms. It would be free to sell the seismic data to the interested IOCs for the next eight years. The TGS-Schlumberger, however, would have to share data and profits with Petrobangla.

<http://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/hydrocarbon-exploration-last-call-for-final-deal-on-jv-survey-1571630343>

Economy

Govt moves to reduce import, export processing time

The Financial Express, October 21, 2019

- The government has set a target of lessening the time of completing import and export procedures to two days and one day respectively by 2022. Currently, the time for releasing import goods needs eight days while export goods five days through different customs ports.
- The target is expected to be achieved under the National Single Window (NSW) project. Some 39 agencies, both public and private, would be interconnected with the integrated portal to deliver speedy services to the exporters and importers.
- BICF II is implemented by IFC and funded by DFID. It is providing technical assistance for technical and functional specifications, visioning exercise, NSW memorandum of understanding and legal provisions. According to the NBR, a total of 3,19,000 importers and exporters are expected to be benefited from reduced time and cost for trade once the system becomes operational.

<http://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-moves-to-reduce-import-export-processing-time-1571580378>

Defaulters rush to state banks to reschedule loans

HC extends application deadline by a month

The Daily Star, October 21, 2019

- Five state-owned commercial banks have received nearly 80 percent of loan rescheduling applications as defaulters rush to regularise their credits on easy terms under a special facility extended by the central bank.
- Around 4,000 loan rescheduling proposals have been submitted as of yesterday, the last day for sending in the applications as per the latest deadline, according to the officials of the banks.

- The number of applications may go up further as the High Court yesterday extended the deadline by a month. Of the lenders, five state-run commercial banks Sonali, Janata, BASIC, Agrani and Rupali received more than 3,000 proposals. While the state-run banks were flooded with the rescheduling applications, the picture was opposite for private banks as they were not much interested about offering the wholesale facility to the defaulters.
- Troubled BASIC Bank received more than 500 applications involving loans amounting to BDT 2,300 crore, an official of the bank said. On May 16 this year, the Bangladesh Bank issued a circular allowing borrowers who got defaulted by December last year to reschedule their loans for 10 years, by giving a down payment of only 2 percent instead of the existing at least 10 percent.
- The BB also capped the maximum interest rate at 9 percent, down from the existing rate of 10-14 percent. Also, based on a bank's relationship with a client, the accrued interest on the defaulted loan can be waived, leaving the defaulter to pay only the principal amount with the new interest rate of 9 percent.

BANKS WITH HIGHEST LOAN RESCHEDULING APPLICATIONS			
Sonali 1,000			
Janata	750	Agrani	340
Basic	530	Rupali	250

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/defaulters-rush-state-banks-reschedule-loans-1816585>

International

Boeing wants it to fly, but travellers fear the 737 MAX

New Age, October 21, 2019

- On September 12, Boeing started putting out 30-second videos in which employees tout its planes' safety, hoping to reassure travellers about the 737 MAX that has been grounded worldwide since two crashes that killed 346 people.
- But on a Facebook page for Boeing enthusiasts where the clip was posted, the response is negative. That came after the downing of a Lion Air MAX in Indonesia in October, 2018, killing 189, with the plane's MCAS anti-stall system being blamed in both accidents.
- It is not known when the MAX will return to service. Boeing, which still has not submitted a modified version of the MCAS system to regulators, hopes it will be before the end of the year. Just 19 per cent of the business travellers and 14 per cent of the leisure travellers would willingly take the 737 MAX within six months of returning to the sky, according to an Atmosphere survey.
- American Airlines, which has 24 MAX planes, has said its company brass and employees will be the first to fly on the aircraft once it's cleared to return to the sky. The MAX's setbacks have cast a shadow over a century of history at Boeing, a highlight of which was the success of its 747 jumbo jet, nicknamed the 'Queen of the skies.'

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/88305/boeing-wants-it-to-fly-but-travellers-fear-the-737-max>

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