

**Bangladesh and US have seemingly settled their differences regarding gas export.** They agreed to jointly make a realistic estimate of the country's total gas reserve and later decide on the basis of the findings. According to the latest available data provided by PetroBangla, Bangladesh has an estimated 10 trillion extractable gas reserve. It is expected to run till 2025 at current level of utilization. The matter has been negotiated when the US energy delegate Mr. Calvin Humphrey visited Dhaka to resolve differences on gas export that US gas companies are pressing for, to ensure quick payback of their investment in Bangladesh.

**Government has opened up gas transmission for private investment** for the first time in Bangladesh as part of the gas sector reforms. PetroBangla, the state-owned gas company has decided to invite private participation in the proposed 82 km Rashidpur-Ashugong (R-A) Transmission Line with an estimated cost of Tk 3.61b. The project with a capacity of 250mcf per day in the first phase has been conceived for transmitting gas from the fields at Sylhet to Chittagong and Dhaka region with a plan to enhance the gas supply by 180 mcf per day. Currently, total gas supply is around 900mcf with a shortage of 100mcf per day.

**A \$25m LPG import terminal and bottling plant** is planned to be setup at Mongla. LPG is used as a household alternative fuel in suburban areas and small towns, where national gas grid network has not been extended and mostly wooden fuel is used. An US-Bangladesh joint venture agreement has been signed between Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and Mohammadi Petrotrade on the Bangladesh side and Esso Global Investments on the US side in this regard.

**An Export Diversification Project of \$50m** to be financed and directed by Ministry of Commerce and Industries has been launched. Around \$24m will be spent from the fund of which \$12m will be sanctioned as grant for assistance to entrepreneurs in developing new export products and expanding market. Currently Bangladesh fetch \$5.3b from export that is heavily skewed towards the ready-made-garments industry.

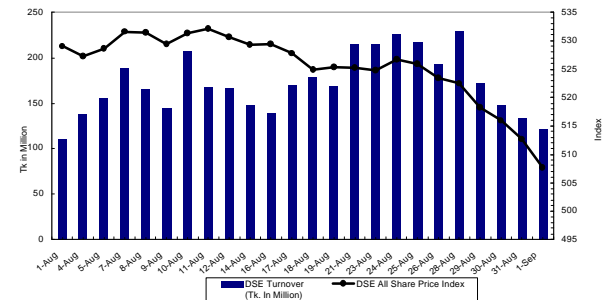
**Privatization of two state-owned jute mills,** Nabarun and Mymensingh is underway and expected to be offloaded by the next month. As part of that process, employees are being compensated for 'golden handshake.' Earlier, Purbachal Jute Mill and Hafiz Textile Mill have been privatized in 1997 during the tenure of current government. However, handing over of Hafiz Textile Mill has been interrupted due to land dispute.

### Economic Indicators

Exchange Rate	1 US\$	= Tk 49.5
Bank Rate	7%	
Inflation Rate	8.79%	Budget 1999-2000
Forex Reserve	\$ 1.514 b	Budget 1999-2000
Export Receipt	\$ 5.28 b	(1998-9)
Import Payment	\$ 8.20 b	(1998-9)

**Yawer Sayeed, Managing Director & CEO**  
**Shamsur Rahman, Manager, Research Group**  
**Mahmudul Bari, Manager, Fund Management Group**  
**Mizanur Rahman, Manager, F&A Group**

### Stock Market Movement



	DSE π			CSE π		
	This Week	Last Week	Change %	This Week	Last Week	Change %
Index	507.72	523.49	-3.01	213.87	216.16	-1.06
Average Daily Turnover (Tk.m)	166.28	205.79	-19.20	43.46	34.49	26.00
MarketCapital(Tkm)	46,336	47,776	-3.01	39,282	39,691	-1.03

Market further declined this week at both the bourses due to outflow of funds from the secondary market to subscribe in coming IPOs of Bionic Sea Food Exports and Prime Bank. DSE All Share Price Index dropped by 3.01% closing at 507.72 and CSE by 1.06% at 213.87.

Dhaka Fisheries Limited has made a sharp impact on DSE All Share Price Index due to sudden rise and fall of its stock price. It jumped to Tk 303.25 on August 29 and later plunged to Tk 176.65 on September 01. This seems to be a major manipulation by taking advantage of the daily netting off system. Securities & Exchange Commission has formed an inquiry committee to probe into the matter.

### Top 7 Gainers

Company	Average Price (Tk)			Avg. Daily Turnover, Tk
	This Week	Last Week	Change %	
Metalex Corp.	156	105	48.57	17637.86
Purabi G Insurance	100	78	28.21	11185.71
6th ICB M.F.	160	133	20.3	14591.43
Monospool Paper	132	114	15.79	10818047.14
Monno Jutex	948	825	14.91	4441.43
BEMCO	78	69	13.04	20375.71
Kohinnor Chemical	82	76	7.89	300975.71

### Top 7 Losers

Company	Average Price (Tk)			Avg. Daily Turnover, Tk
	This Week	Last Week	Change %	
Dhaka Fisheries	177	297	-40.4	42515600.0
Modern Industries	68	83	-18.07	1555.71
UCBL	75	88	-14.77	3185.0
BTC	113	130	-13.08	9841850.0
Chic Tex	7	8	-12.5	222857.14
Rahim Textile	59	67	-11.94	1840.71
Dandy Dyeing	59	67	-11.94	853707.14

### Top 7 Turnover Companies

Company	Average Price (Tk)			Avg. Daily Turnover, Tk
	This Week	Last Week	Change %	
Dhaka Fisheries	177.0	297.0	-40.4	42515600.0
Raspi Food	200.0	218.0	-8.26	26702428.57
Monospool Paper	132.0	114.0	15.79	10818047.14
BTC	113.0	130.0	-13.08	9841850.0
Imam Button	113.0	106.0	6.6	7419592.86
Gulf Food	152.0	153.0	-0.65	5705385.71
Tulip Dairy & Food	229.0	235.0	-2.55	5365398.57