

Rural poverty declines, but income widely unequal

Rural poverty situation in Bangladesh improved substantially over the past decade but the increase in income was not fairly distributed; it was claimed in a workshop organized by the Ministry of Planning. The keynote paper on 'Rural Poverty Mapping in Bangladesh' observed that average household income in rural areas increased from \$927 in 1987-88 to \$1,348 in 1999-2000, growth being 3.2% pa. The rural income grew from the sources of remittance, trade and business and non-rice agriculture, but the income from rice farming and agricultural wage declined in absolute terms. The workshop also revealed that the standard of living is also not at all geographically uniform.

Export woes continue

Export earning fell short by \$750m or 15.68% from targeted \$4,780m at the end of first 8 months (July-Feb) of the current fiscal. It is also short by \$317m or 7.29% from the last year's corresponding period. Price index as well as quantity declined by 1.27 and 6.02% respectively. The sector-wise achievement of target: was as under:

Sector	Achieved (\$m)	Target (\$m)	% of shortfall	% of growth
RMG	2,155.08	2,466.67	(12.63)	(6.44)
Knitwear	950.20	1,133.35	(16.16)	(2.26)
Frozen food	190.19	260.00	(26.85)	(29.80)
Leather	137.94	192.00	(28.16)	(11.35)
Jute goods	161.40	183.33	(11.96)	4.51
Chem. products	39.52	73.33	(46.11)	NA
Raw Jute	42.66	46.67	(8.59)	2.94
Tea	14.19	24.00	(29.05)	(26.59)
Handicrafts	3.77	5.33	(29.27)	(21.78)

The Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) sounded alarm on export potential in next five years. It forecasted export growth during the period to be 9.26%, 9.15%, 7.68%, 5.8% and 6.06% respectively.

22 bank directors owes Tk. 6.55b

Directors of 22 private commercial banks owe Tk 6.55b to their own banks. The amount peaked to Tk 7.53b, but after the central bank restricted taking loan by the directors from their own banks, the outstanding declined by Tk 979.7m in 2001. Among them directors of 5 banks defaulted on a total of Tk 575.4m. IFIC Bank, National Bank and The City Bank are among the top recalcitrant. The directors' default scenario at their own banks is as under:

Bank	Default amount (Tk m)	% of Bank's default loan
IFIC Bank	2,770.00	16.27%
National Bank	807.00	4.91%
The City Bank	776.00	7.47%
Uttara Bank	577.40	2.84%
Islami bank	438.60	1.17%
United Commercial Bank	287.80	2.63%
Al-Arafah Islami Bank	222.70	4.77%
NCC Bank	164.50	1.62%

Japan tops donors' list

Japan is the single largest bilateral donor to Bangladesh, which provided over \$6.0b as grants since 1972, whereas total support of EU as a whole comes to little over \$1.0b. Economic Relations Division (ERD) statistics reveal that Japan shares the largest portion of aids and donations from various bilateral and multi-lateral donors, accumulating to \$24.1b to the date. The following table shows the extent of assistance:

Donor	Amount	Donor	Amount
Japan	\$6,049m	ADB	\$4,655m
USA	\$3,395m	UN systems	\$2,438m
Canada	\$1,860m	Germany	\$1,444m
UK	\$1,274m	EU	\$1,162m
Netherlands	\$1,039m	Saudi Arabia	\$ 888m
Sweden	\$ 652m	Denmark	\$ 586m

New BB rule to scuttle default management

A new Bangladesh Bank (BB) directive on down payment to reschedule defaulted loans has created fresh concerns, undermining recovery measures. BB has advised that banks could reschedule term loans by accepting 10% down payment on the defaulted installment instead of the present provision of realizing 10% of the default loan amount. The Bank has also changed the loan disbursement policy of scheduled banks by deciding to deduct 50% contingent liabilities in calculating big loan liabilities (i.e. 15% of total loans to a single client), instead of 100% as present. Earlier it directed the banks not to provide more than 65% of their loans to the big borrowers. This would now advantage the big borrowers at the cost of the small and medium enterprises, it is feared.

French LPG plant in Chittagong soon

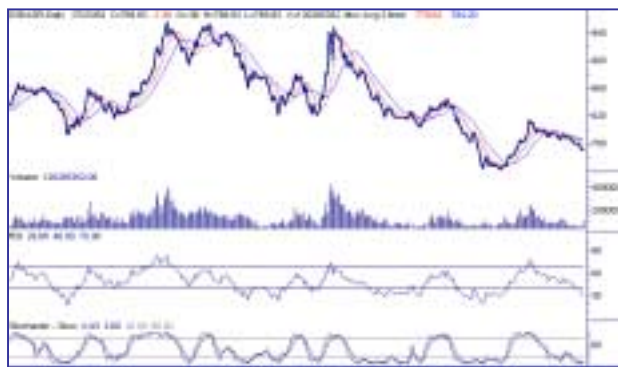
The French TotalFinaElf, a leading energy company, will set up a liquid petroleum gas (LPG) at Chittagong. This will be the second largest French investment in Bangladesh after Lafarge Cement. Premiere, a subsidiary company will be responsible for the operations in Bangladesh. The plant will have an annual capacity of 2,200 tons and the gas will be sold in cylinders and may be exported. The regional office in Singapore will supervise the marketing operations. Depending on marketing success, the plant may be expanded to produce 35,000 tons a year.

Habiganj-Ashuganj gas pipeline completed

A Bangladesh-China joint venture has completed construction of a vital gas pipeline system from Habiganj to Ashuganj, which would facilitate transmission of additional gas to the national grid from Sylhet region. The turnkey Summit-Daqing project commissioned the 54-km 30-inch diameter pipeline on April 20 last. The Petrobangla and Gas Transmission Co Ltd (GTCL) negotiated the deal with the joint venture of Daqing of China and Summit Industrial and Mercantile Corporation (Pvt) Ltd of Bangladesh over installation of the Habiganj-Ashuganj (HA) gas pipeline. In two years Petrobangla wants to increase gas supply by 180m cubic feet per day (mmcf) to the national grid. The existing North-South gas pipeline in the region has a transmission capacity of 330 mmcf, and is already supplying 300 mmcf. The country at present consumes 1000 mmcf.

This week's data runs from Apr 18, 2002 to Apr 24, 2002

Stock Market Movement



	This Week	Last Week	+/- %
DSE General Index	769.83	779.98	-1.30
Average Daily Turnover, Tk	76594475.43	74,453,929	2.87
Market Capital, Tk	61049211843	61,733,814,252	-1.11
Market PEx*	7.36		
Market PBRx*	1.04		
Market EPS, Tk per Tk100*	27.42		
Market Dividend Yield,%*	8.42		

* PE is based on latest reported data of listed companies which registered positive earning, PBR is based on latest reported book values, companies with negative book value have been excluded. The companies earmarked as 'B' and 'Z' category by SEC have also been excluded from calculation. **1 year Holding Period Yield

Top Gainers

Company	Average Price(Tk)		Change %	Avg. Daily Turnover, Tk
	This Week	Last Week		
Savar Refractories	73	67	8.96	521
Dulamia Cotton	30	28	7.14	3,717
Rangpur Foundry	21	20	5.00	3,636,571
Dandy Dyeing	107	102	4.90	168,300
National Tea	552	528	4.55	13,053
Phoenix Insurance	254	244	4.10	27,029
Libra Infusions	220	212	3.77	1,234
7th ICB MF	149	144	3.47	3,193
Eastland Insurance	162	157	3.18	1,800
Green Delta Insurance	448	436	2.75	3,079

Top Losers

Company	Average Price(Tk)		Change %	Avg. Daily Turnover, Tk
	This Week	Last Week		
Quasem Textile	3.50	4.00	-12.50	600
Tripti Industries	29	33	-12.12	26,683
Maq Paper	37	42	-11.90	190,989
Excelsior Shoes	15	17	-11.76	5,500
Jute Spinners	148	165	-10.30	640
Chittagong Cement	576	641	-10.14	2,774,785
Modern Industries	54	60	-10.00	1,397
Safko Spinning	83	91	-8.79	663,221
Texpick Industries	32	35	-8.57	466
Monospool Paper	43	47	-8.51	16,283

Top Turnover Companies

Company	Average Price(Tk)		Change %	Avg. Daily Turnover, Tk
	This Week	Last Week		
Beximco Pharmaceu	42	44	-4.55	4,510,186
Rangpur Foundry	21	20	5.00	3,636,571
1st BSRS MF	110	114	-3.51	3,094,264
Reckitt Benckiser	103	105	-1.90	2,962,814
Meghna Cement	311	303	2.64	2,830,300
Chittagong Cement	576	641	-10.14	2,774,785
National Bank	268	269	-0.37	1,925,343
Padma Oil	176	176	0.00	1,702,171
Eastern Cables	164	166	-1.20	1,390,467
Dhaka Bank	453	464	-2.37	1,342,536

Technical Talk

Market sinks deep

Another frustrating week passed as the indices continued to fall. Turnover remained at painfully low level except on Wednesday when the newly listed Fine Foods added some temporary momentum. The market as a whole remained oversold. It appears that frustration is slowly gripping in among investors in absence of any visible confidence building measure or incentive from the new government, against high expectations during the first six months.

During the week, the blue chip DSE-20 slipped 14.22 points (1.45%) closing at 966.42 (base being 1000), and the DSE General Index (A & B Category) lost 10.14 points (1.30%) to close at 769.84.

Based on the daily charts of DSE movement, which is used to track short-term trend, technical readings are as under:

Moving Average

DSE General Index remained below both the moving average lines. Buy signal would occur when price line will go above the moving average line.

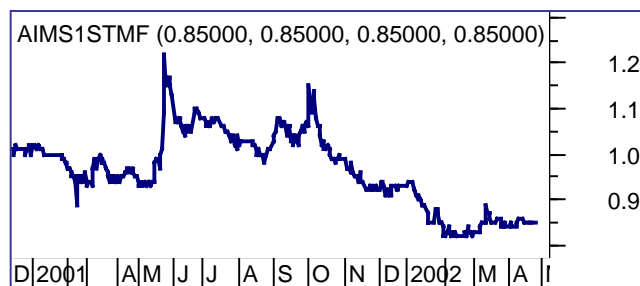
Relative Strength Index (RSI)

The RSI indicator is now in the oversold territory and remains at 29.66.

Stochastic-Slow

Stochastic indicator remained in the oversold territory. A turnaround in this indicator will signal buy.

Price Movement of AIMS First Guaranteed Mutual Fund



Technical Notes:

Support/Resistance Lines: Support/Resistance Lines are horizontal lines drawn on chart and are used to identify market retracement and price breakouts. These are indicators of psychological price levels.

Moving Average: Buy signal occurs when (1) price line goes above the moving average, (2) short term moving average crosses above the long term moving average. Opposite is true for sell signal.

Overbought: Description of a security or a market that has recently experienced an unexpectedly sharp price rise and is therefore vulnerable to a price drop. When a stock has been overbought, there is fewer buyers' left to drive the price up further.

Oversold: Description of a stock or market that has experienced an unexpectedly sharp price decline and is therefore due for an imminent price rise. When a stock has been oversold, there are fewer sellers left to drive the price down further.

RSI (Relative Strength Index): This indicator issues buy signal when the RSI line dips below the bottom line into the oversold zone; a sell signal is generated when the RSI rises above the top line into the overbought zone.

Stochastic-Slow:

Sell signal happens when the SlowK (Solid line) goes below the SlowD (dotted line) and vice versa. This indicator is good for picking sells.

Recently Listed

Company	Subscription Period	IPO (M.Tk)	Private Placement (M.Tk)	Trading started on DSE on
Meghna Condensed Milk Industries Ltd.	July11-12,2001	20	60	October23,2001
Bangladesh Online Ltd.	July09-10,2001	20	12.5	October23,2001
Beach Hatchery Ltd.	October 08-09, 2001	30	50	January 7, 2002
Square Textile Ltd.	Direct listing	251.90m		January 24, 2002
Al-Amin Chemical Ind.	October 15-16, 2001	10	10	January 28, 2002
Metro Spinning Mills Ltd.	November 11-12,2001	15	15	March 14, 2002
Modern Cement Ltd.	January 19 - 20,2002	40	60	March 14, 2002
Fine Foods Ltd.	January 07 - 08,2002	15	17	April 24, 2002

Initial Public Offering

Company	Subscription Period	IPO (M.Tk)	Private Placement (M.Tk)	Purpose of the issue
Information Services Network Ltd.	February 17 - 18, 2002	10	25.59	Expansion of business.
Padma Cement Limited	April 08 - 09, 2002	38	100	Repayment of bank loan and working capital financing

Sector Indicators

Sectors	PE	PBR	EPS	DY	Sector Index	
					% This Week	Last Week
Cement	5.63	1.76	42.61	3.58	240.09	697.51
Commercial Banking	6.77	1.25	41.91	4.17	283.81	241.88
Dairy, Poultry & Fishery		0.25	-5.86		24.0	54.25
Dry Cell Batteries	8.75	0.67	16.02	3.75	140.19	148.37
Edible Oil		0.29	-4.45		26.67	72.75
Frozen Shrimp	8.03	0.45	10.62	8.93	96.06	155.82
Fruit Processing	7.96	1.3	42.2	5.95	336.0	423
General Insurance	5.79	0.92	38.63	8.62	223.72	200.89
Heavy Engineering	11.76	0.56	3.28	6.35	75.76	96.84
Household Durables	13.47	6.18	77.27	7.68	1041.0	1324
Industrial & Medical Gas	6.82	1.56	80.81	4.38	551.27	739.67
Industrial Chemical	7.38	0.96	11.37	1.57	115.04	178.11
Investment	4.66	1.38	48.55	9.23	226.23	113.06
Leasing	8.93	1.77	48.83	5.27	436.06	457
Leather	13.61	1.56	12.95	9.03	233.93	294.07
Life Insurance						332
Paper & Printing	0.13	0.33	265.14	13.25	33.35	
Pharmaceutical	7.33	1.05	84.49	4.95	653.26	749
Real Estate	14.54	0.46	3.48	3.9	50.68	87.88
Retail Electric Appliance	71.68	1.34	2.73	5.7	195.64	
Steel Products		0.48	-28.18	6.45	83.4	
Tea		1.41	-45.3	3.17	552.0	
Textile	5.34	0.45	8.22	13.17	59.85	
Tobacco	12.5	2.26	59.18	5.41	740.0	

* Based on latest reported year of listed companies. Companies, which did not hold AGM for last two years, and new companies yet to report audited accounts have not been included in the calculation of the indicators. Companies that registered negative earnings have been excluded from PE calculation and those that have a negative book value have been excluded from calculation of PBR.

Yawer Sayeed, Managing Director & CEO
Mahmudul Bari, Head of Operations
Md. Mizanur Rahman, Head of Finance & Administration
Wasiq al Azad, Head of Research & Corporate Finance
Md. Moniruzzaman, Manager, Operations
Laila Mahmuda Shilpi, Sr. Executive Officer, Research
Naheed Nusrat, Sr. Executive Officer, Customer Support Center

Top 20 Beta

Dutch-Bangla	0.3
Gulf Food	0.29
Southeast Bank	0.26
Maq Paper	0.22
Dhaka Bank	0.21
BD. Autocars	0.21
Prime Bank	0.18
Meghna Cement	0.18
Beximco Fisheries	0.18
Uttara Bank Ltd.	0.18
NCCBL	0.17
Modern Dyeing	0.17
Glaxo Wellcome	0.16
Libra Infusions	0.16
Ashraf Textile	0.16
Rangpur Foundry	0.16
National Bank	0.15
1st BSRS MF	0.15
Aramit Cement	0.15

Least 20 Beta

Rose Heaven	-0.58
Perfume Chemical	-0.41
Legacy Footwear	-0.31
Tallu Spinning	-0.29
Apex Spinning	-0.27
Rasplit Food	-0.24
Bionic Sea Food	-0.21
Metalex Corporation	-0.21
Fu-Wang Ceramic	-0.18
Reckitt Benckiser	-0.18
Sajib Garments	-0.16
Monospool Paper	-0.16
Aftab Automobiles	-0.15
Safko Spinning	-0.15
Chic Tex	-0.14
Mark Bd Shilpa	-0.14
Eastland Insurance	-0.13
National Tubes	-0.13
Savar Refractories	-0.12

Beta indicates volatility of the stock's weekly return relative to the market since last 200 days.

Top 20 Liquid

	Liquidity Index		Liquidity Index
Eastern Cables	7.47	Apex Tannery	0.43
Padma Textile	7.17	Confidence Cement	0.4
Aziz Pipes	2.66	BD. Autocars	0.37
Monospool Paper	1.43	BCIL	0.36
Beximco Pharma	1.13	Dynamic Textile Ind	0.32
Beximco Fisheries	0.97	Meghna Shrimp	0.31
Quasem Drycells	0.94	Saiham Textile	0.29
Rasplit Food	0.88	AB Bank	0.28
Tripti Industries	0.69	Paper Processing	0.22
Olympic Industries	0.45	Eastern Housing	0.2

Liquidity Index = $\frac{\text{Number of market lots traded average daily for last one month}}{\text{Price of a market lot}}$

Top 20 Market Capital

	Tk million		Tk million
BATBC	4,416	Petro Synthetic	1.64
Square Pharma	3,103	The Engineers	2.02
EasternBank	2,167	Texpick Industries	2.50
Beximco Pharma	1,854	Therapeutics	5.10
Islami Bank	1,823	Himadri	5.25
Singer Bangladesh	1,722	Bangladesh Hotels	5.40
BataShoe	1,573	Eagle Box & Cartoon	5.50
Chittagong Cement	1,490	Padma Printers	6.40
Prime Bank	1,436	Karim Pipe	7.54
Rupali Bank	1,388	BD. Autocars	8.09
Dhaka Bank	1,383	Modern Dyeing	8.34
BOC	1,338	Paper Processing	9.00
National Bank	1,149	Ahad Jute	9.00
Glaxo Wellcome	1,122	Islam Jute	9.36
Shinepukur Holdings	1,020	Quasem Silk	10.60
AB Bank	1,017	Monospool Paper	11.92
NCCBL	977	Monno Stafflers	12.24
Southeast Bank	976	Tulip Dairy & Food	13.62
ACI	869	Amam Sea Food	14.11
Padma Oil	862	Nothern Jute	15.13