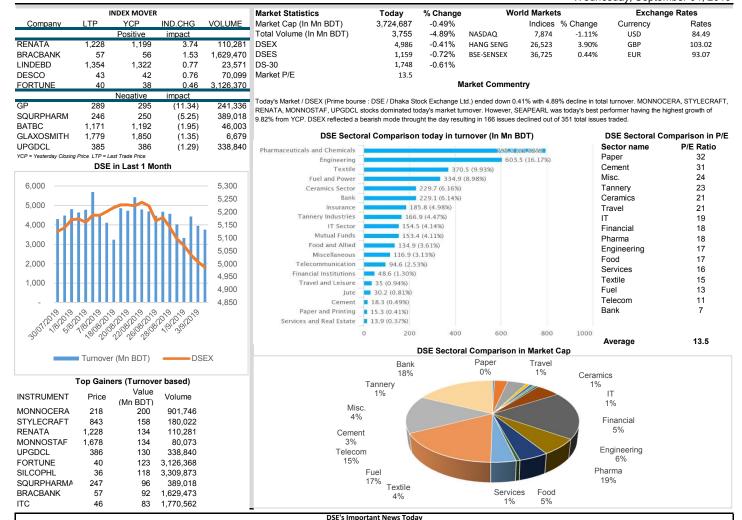
Wednesday, September 04, 2019



SEMI EBSI GE

Sale Confirmation of a Corporate Sponsor

FBL Securities Ltd., one of the Corporate Sponsors of the Fund, has further reported that it has completed its sale of 20,00,000 units of the Fund at prevailing market price through Stock Exchange as per declaration disseminated on 22.08.2019.

UNITEDFIN

Appointment of the Managing Director

The Company has informed that Mr. Kaiser Tamiz Amin has been appointed as the Managing Director of the Company with effect from September 01, 2019.

PIONEERINS

Elected Chairman

The Company has informed that the Board of Directors has elected Mr. A. K. M. Rahmatullah, MP as the Chairman of the Company.

Other News Today

NPL buildup, high cost of fund remain major potential risks: Study - Source: The Financial Express

The country's banking sector is now moderately competitive and stable. But, there are some potential risks for the sector, including further increase in the volume of non-performing loans (NPLs), insolvency, growing urban and rural discrepancy, and high cost of fund, a study opined. The Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) disseminated findings of the study - 'Competition, Concentration and Banking Sector Stability' - through a seminar on its campus in the capital on Tuesday. The study found a significant relationship between the banks' total asset and volume of NPLs. It implies that if the banks can reduce NPLs, they can increase their asset portfolio in a prudent manner, which eventually will reduce credit risk. The estimated coefficient for total asset implies that increase in bank assets will reduce Z-score. In banking, Z-score captures the probability of default of a country's banking system. Z-score compares the buffer of a banking system (capitalisation and returns) with the volatility of those returns. The study suggested increasing the banks' asset portfolio to ensure stability. It also opined that increased inflation may have an adverse impact on the banks' solvency that might trigger financial instability. Bangladesh's banking sector has experienced manifold growth over last four decades. During the period, the number of banks has grown by more than 400 per cent, the number of branches by around 250 per cent, and the growth in total asset, deposit and advance ranged from 500 to 550 per cent, the study noted. It also found the share of fixed deposit has increased to about double in the last four decades - from 24 per cent in 1980 to 46 per cent in 2018. On the other hand, the share of current account deposit significantly dropped over the four decades, even after a significant rise in 2018. The notable upward concentration in fixed deposit should remain as a point of worry in the market, as it causes high cost on deposit and cost of fund, the study opined. It also observed that dependency on high cost deposit may cause high possibility of liquidity crisis, as there will be no space to offer higher profit to depositors. The top banks that performed well in almost all nine areas are - the Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, the Sonali Bank Limited, the Janata Bank Limited and the Agrani Bank Limited. Only 19 banks competed for top-four position in last 40 years, while 34 banks for top-seven positions, and 43 banks for top-ten positions. The study placed a set of recommendations, including segmentation of banks instead of all-purpose banks, and policy for progressive banking etc. Speaking at the programme, the BB Deputy Governor S M Moniruzzaman said the banking industry of Bangladesh has become highly competitive in terms of many parameters, like - the number of banks, areas of operation, access to credit, cost and quality of financial services, and innovation etc. He also said competition (among banks) can bring significant benefits to the market players, national economy and society. But, it can also be a source of potential instability due to the tendency of taking more risks. Dr Muzaffer Ahmed Chair Professor of the BIBM Barkat-e-Khuda said all parties need to work together for getting expected results for the financial sector. Director General of the BIBM Md Nazimuddin said findings of the study along with opinions and observations provided in the programme will help the BB to take future actions. A research team, led by former faculty member of the BIBM Abdul Qayum Mohammad Kibriya, conducted the study. Other members of the team were Antara Zareen, Rexona Yesmin and Tofayel Ahmed, all assistant professors of the BIBM, and Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Robin, joint director of the Bangladesh Bank. S A Chowdhury, former managing director of the Sonali Bank Ltd; Helal Ahmed Chowdhury, supernumerary professor of the BIBM; Md Yeasin Ali, former supernumerary professor of the BIBM; Quazi Osman Ali, Managing Director and CEO of the Social Islami Bank Ltd; and Dr Mohammed Helal Uddin, Professor of the Dhaka University, also spoke at the event, among others.