

heard on the street

UPL counter abuzz with takeover rumour

GRAPEVINE has it that United Phosphorus (UPL) may soon issue warrants to promoters in order to hike its stake in the company. When contacted a senior company official said that he did not wish to comment anything more than what the company has already told exchanges. Talk is that UPL is in the race to acquire the world's largest privately-held crop protection and life sciences firm Arysta LifeScience. Last year, the company had gone in for several fund-raising exercises, which led to much dilution in promoters' stake. Punters are betting that if the company has to raise money for the acquisition of the Japanese company, it may have to go in for more equity dilution, causing promoters' stake to dip further. Hence, issuing warrants would become a necessity, they feel. The board of the company will meet on Friday to discuss various ways to raise funds.