

Key stock index lowest in two and a half months

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks in Bangladesh sank to a two-and-a-half-month low yesterday as investors poured their funds only into selective shares to pocket short-term gains amid price fluctuations.

The DSEX, the main index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), fell by 1.09 percent from the day before to close at 5,257 points, marking four days of constant decline.

The last time the DSEX had reached such a level was on August 4, when it stood at 5,229 points.

The DSES index representing Shariah-compliant companies edged down 0.74 percent from the day prior to close at 1,174 points and the DS30 index comprising blue-chip stocks slipped by 0.90 percent to close at 1,930 points.

Of the 395 scrips traded at the DSE, 53 saw their prices rise while that of 293 fell and 49 did not witness any movement.

Daily turnover of the DSE, which indicates the volume of shares traded, increased by 3.56 percent from the day prior to about Tk 306 crore.

The banking sector dominated the turnover chart, accounting for about 22 percent of the total.

Block trades, meaning high-volume securities transactions that are privately negotiated and executed outside of the open market, contributed 4.1 percent,

or Tk 12.7 crore, of the turnover, Shanta Securities said in its daily market update.

Agni Systems Limited emerged as the most traded share, registering a turnover of Tk 22.8 crore, followed by Taufika Foods and Lovello Ice cream PLC, BRAC Bank and Islami Bank Bangladesh.

Among all sectors, non-bank financial institutions (NBFI) and ceramics were the only two that closed in positive territory, showed the daily market update of UCB Stock Brokerage.

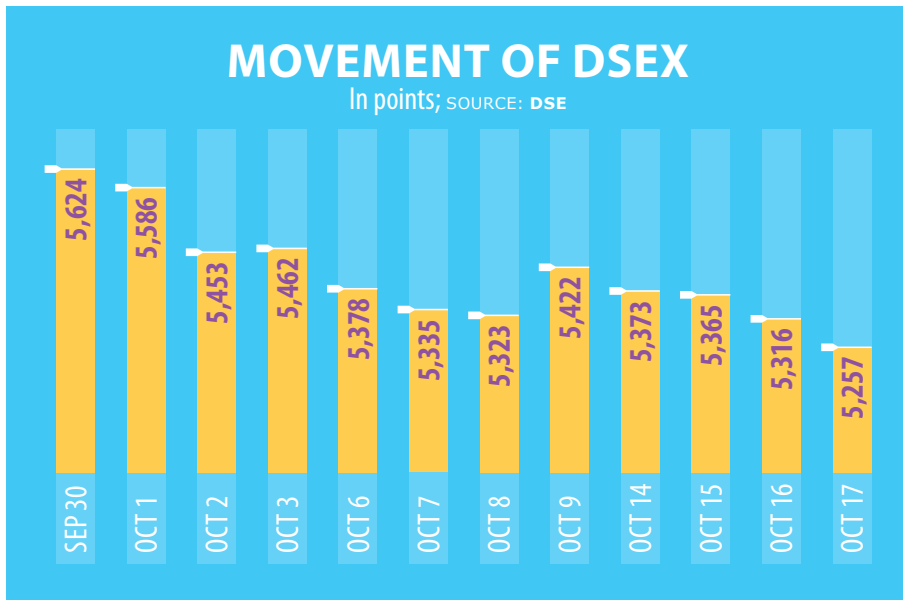
On the other hand, the services and real estate, life insurance and general insurance sectors were the top three sectors that closed in negative territory.

Most sectors that account for large amounts in market capitalisation, which refers to the total value of a company's outstanding shares, showcased negative performances, as per the daily market update of BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage.

Of them, the engineering sector experienced the highest loss of 2.02 percent followed by banking (1.33 percent), fuel and power (1.06 percent), food and allied (0.87 percent), telecommunications (0.76 percent), and pharmaceuticals (0.32 percent).

Meanwhile, the NBFI sector recorded a gain of 0.60 percent.

Shares of companies like Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Olympic Industries, Kohinoor Chemicals, Beacon Pharmaceuticals, Shahjalal Islami Bank,



Advent Pharma, Paramount Textile PLC, Padma Oil Company Limited, Uttara Bank PLC, and SK Trims and Industries Limited drew a significant number of investors, according to the LankaBangla Financial Portal.

However, none of them saw double-digit growth in share prices. Shares of Beximco Pharmaceuticals registered growth of 3.03 percent, the highest among all blue-chip and large-cap scrips.

Shares of BRAC Bank, Islami Bank Bangladesh, BAT Bangladesh, Square Pharmaceuticals, LafargeHolcim Bangladesh, Bangladesh Submarine Cables, Gramophone, Renata, National Bank and Prime Bank suffered losses.

At the Chittagong Stock Exchange, the CASPI, the main index of the port city bourse, slipped by 1.01 percent from the previous session to settle the day at 14,821 points.

Don't invest in polluting industries Rizwana asks banks

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Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has urged banks in Bangladesh not to invest in heavy polluting industries as a part of their responsibility to protect the environment.

She made this plea while addressing an event organised by BRAC Bank at the InterContinental Dhaka in the capital yesterday.

At the event, BRAC Bank launched its Sustainability Report 2023, titled "Bloom into the Future".

Rizwana, who was present as chief guest of the programme, said all banks in the country need to invest in sustainable businesses and renewable energy.

Highlighting the importance for environment-friendly investment, Rizwana said she is scared to know that some banks are investing in shipbuilding.

She also praised BRAC Bank for its efforts in disclosing its sustainability agenda.

"I envision a future where sustainability is integrated into every aspect of life, from urban planning to agriculture, which means embracing innovative solutions such as green finance, circular economy practices, and sustainable technologies," Rizwana said.

BRAC Bank has taken steps in this direction, and its initiatives in green finance can serve as a model for others looking to scale their impact and contribute to a greener, more resilient economy, she added.

Bangladesh Bank Deputy Governor Nurun Nahar emphasised the central bank's dedication to promoting a culture of sustainability disclosures among banks.

BB wants to see a strong Nagad Prioritise withheld

FROM PAGE B1

"If we can ensure QR codes in all vendors - from rickshaw pullers to barbers - only then can financial inclusion move forward. Only cash in and cash out cannot ensure financial inclusion," he added.

Snigdha Ali, Bangladesh's country lead at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, said many RMG companies provide salaries through MFS providers, but employees must pay charges to cash out.

If there was scope to pay all their expenses, from house rent to groceries, through MFS, it would be more convenient for them, she said.

"We are here to work intensively to ensure financial inclusion," she added.

Zaidi Sattar, chairman of PRI, said if the country can include artificial intelligence in the ecosystem, financial

inclusion can be achieved faster and more smoothly.

Initially, Bangladesh saw progress in financial inclusion, but it is now lagging compared to neighbouring countries, said Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, director of PRI.

Challenges that have hindered the expansion of financial inclusion in Bangladesh include regulatory gaps, which lead to concerns about security, accountability and an uneven playing field.

Persistent gender and rural disparities as well as limited innovation and product diversification are other reasons, he said.

Razzaque recommended strengthening the regulatory framework to ensure all MFS providers operate under a unified and transparent system.

Enhancing digital infrastructure, promoting gender-inclusive financial services and encouraging innovation in financial products are also necessary, he said.

He focused on developing a roadmap for deepening financial inclusion through coordinated efforts among the government, financial institutions, the private sector and development partners.

Bazul Haque Khondker, research director of PRI, Abu Sayed Md Kamruzzaman, director general of the National Cyber Security Agency of the Information and Communication Technology Division, Shah Zia-Ul-Haque, additional director of the BB, and Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, also spoke at the event.

FROM PAGE B1

He believes if Chinese companies get involved, local investors can apply for financing from Chinese institutions.

Moazzem also highlighted some risks and challenges for foreign investors.

"There are some key risks that persist, including currency risks due to local currency volatility, permit risks from bureaucratic hurdles and financing risks related to securing affordable funding," he said.

"Additional challenges include land acquisition issues, social acceptance, grid limitations and off-taker credit risks, all of which impact project feasibility."

A major concern for Chinese investors is the Bangladesh government's insistence on resolving disputes domestically, which contradicts international norms that favour neutral, third-party arbitration, he said.

Moazzem also praised the government's decision to make public the data and documents on power plants.

"This is very important for us. The previous regime's culture was highly non-transparent and we could not access contract documents. It was biased towards the political party's interests and was conducted in a very unconsolidated and uncompetitive manner," he

FROM PAGE B1

Revenue (NBR), assured those present that the government would not change its policies unless it was "very necessary".

"I can give you a commitment that we will try our best to maintain this consistency," he said.

Khan also encouraged businesses to report any harassment or hurdles through the online Grievance Redressal System (GRS).

Regarding tax exemptions, he said the revenue board needs to reduce tax expenditure to balance the tax-GDP ratio, which has been recommended for years by think tanks, economists and civil society.

"This does not mean that we will eliminate all existing tax benefits. Definitely not. We have to set our priorities," he said.

Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the CPD, moderated the event.

At the event, Gan Peng, chairman of Chint Solar (Bangladesh) Co Ltd, expressed concern about higher tariffs compared to neighbouring countries and the political climate in Bangladesh.

"As a foreign investor, how can we feel secure after hearing of the political instability?" he questioned.

Echoing similar sentiments, Shafiqul Alam, lead energy analyst at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, called on the interim government to reduce import duties to encourage foreign investors.

Md Ariful Hoque, director general of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, said that they have a 24/7 virtual service portal for investors, including a dedicated desk for Chinese investors.

Regarding renewable energy projects, he expressed concern over land availability.

"Nearly three acres of land is required to generate one megawatt of power. In that context, as a land-scarce country, we have challenges in agriculture and other areas," Hoque said.

He suggested utilising unused land in economic zones and gardens.

Md Abdur Rahman Khan, chairman of the National Board of

High production

FROM PAGE B1

Producers were also not getting reasonable prices due to the presence of intermediaries, he added.

Sometimes, indirect costs also contribute to an increase in prices, he added.

"If we can reduce the input costs in the storage, transportation and processing stages, prices may come down," he said.

He also underscored the importance of proper supply and demand data collection and data analytics and assessment to get a perfect policy guideline.

The DCCI president also requested a "tariff calendar" so that importers can bring products at low rates during off seasons.

Sayera Younus, executive director (research) of Bangladesh Bank, said reining in inflation was the central bank's top priority.

She added that inflation had not cooled despite tweaks to the policy rate in recent times, as it was caused by non-economic factors.

A few other factors like international market dynamics, exchange rate volatility, and an increase in import costs are also responsible for inflation, she added.

Younus opined that strong monitoring was needed to control price fluctuations.

Saifuddin Ahmed, joint secretary to the trade support measures wing at the Ministry of Commerce, said accurate market data analysis was crucial for formulating appropriate policy guidelines.

"We have to conduct research to find out the actual demand, supply, production capacity, seasonal demand, variation, etc.," he said.

Govt makes major moves

FROM PAGE B1

Prices of unpackaged soybean oil increased by 2.67 percent to as much as Tk 156 per litre in Dhaka. Prices of bottled soybean oil edged up too. Meanwhile, prices of unpackaged palm oil rose roughly 10 percent to about Tk 146 per litre, according to market data compiled by the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).

Specific duty on sugar reduced by 25%

The NBR reduced the specific duty for imports of refined sugar by 25 percent to Tk 4,500 per tonne from Tk 6,000 per tonne in a bid to cut prices of the sweetener.

The reduced duty took effect immediately.

The fresh cut for refined sugar imports came a week after the regulatory duty on sugar imports was slashed from 30 percent to 15 percent.

At the time, the NBR said the reduced regulatory duty for raw and refined sugar

would reduce the import cost of raw sugar by Tk 11.18 per kilogramme (kg), and the cost of refined sugar by Tk 14.26 per kg.

However, retail sugar prices in Dhaka did not decline. Rather, they rose nearly one percent to Tk 127-Tk 135 per kg over the past week.

Yesterday, prices of sugar, 99 percent of the demand for which is met through imports, were 2.75 percent higher than a month ago, according to TCB data.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়
২৫০-শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নোয়াখালী।
ফোন নং-০৩২১-৬১৩৩৩
Email: -noakhali@hospi.dghs.gov.bd
তারিখ-১৭/১০/২০২৪খ্রিঃ

:- দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি:-

০১	মন্ত্রনালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রনালয়/স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ
০২	সম্প্রদায়িক/স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল নোয়াখালী।
০৩	অর্থায়নের উৎস	রাজস্ব/জিওবি/স্বাক/অতিরিক্ত/ বিশেষ বরাদ্দ।
০৪	আবহানকৃত দরপত্রের তারিখ	জেনারেল হাসপাতাল/এমএসআর-দরপত্র/শা-১/২৪-২৫/৮২০২ তারিখ- ১৭/১০/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ
০৫	দরপত্রের নাম / কাজের বিবরণ	২০২৪-২০২৫ খ্রিঃ অর্থবছরে ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতালে এম.এস. আর সামগ্রী সরবরাহের দরপত্র (গ্রেপ নং- "ক" ষষ্ঠপত্র, "খ" সার্জিক্যাল যন্ত্রপাতি ও মেসামত, "গ"-লিনেন সামগ্রী, "ঘ"- গজ, ব্যাজেজ, কটন, "ঙ-(১)"- কেমিক্যাল রি-এজেন্ট সামগ্রী, "চ"- আসবাবপত্র ও ক্রিনেন সামগ্রী।
০৬	সম্প্রদায়িক/স্বত্বাধিকারী জেলা	নোয়াখালী।
০৭	ক্রম প্রক্রিয়া	পিপিআর ২০০৬, ২০০৮, ২০০৯ ও সংশোধিত ২০১২ মোতাবেক উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।
০৮	দরপত্র দাখিলের যোগ্যতা	যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন সকল এম.এস.আর সরবরাহকারী/বাজারজাতকারী/ আমদানীকারক/ উৎপাদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/এজেন্ট/টিকাদার।
০৯	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য (অফারতথ্যে)	প্রতিটি সিডিউলের মূল্য বারদ ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা মাত্র চালানোর মাধ্যমে কোড নং-১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ এ বাংলাদেশ/সোনালী ব্যাংক, নোয়াখালী শাখার জমাদান পূর্বক জেলা হিসাবরক্ষন অফিস কর্তৃক চালানোর সি.টি.আর সহ মূল কপি কাশিয়ার এর নিকট জমা করে দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।
১০	দরপত্র জামানত/বায়না	গ্রেপের নাম "ক" ষষ্ঠপত্র সামগ্রী ৫,০০,০০০/- "খ" সার্জিক্যাল যন্ত্রপাতি ও মেসামত ৩,০০,০০০/- "গ" লিনেন সামগ্রী ২,০০,০০০/- "ঘ", গজ, ব্যাজেজ, কটন ২,০০,০০০/- "ঙ", কেমিক্যাল রি-এজেন্ট সামগ্রী ৩,০০,০০০/- "চ", আসবাবপত্র ও ক্রিনেন সামগ্রী ১,০০,০০০/-
১১	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয় দর প্রস্তাব গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক এর কার্যালয়, ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল নোয়াখালী (দরপত্র পুস্তিকা কাশিয়ারের নিকট হতে সংগ্রহ করতে হবে)
১২	দরপত্র সংগ্রহের স্থান	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক এর কার্যালয়, ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নোয়াখালী।
১৩	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৪/১১/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় (০৮-০২.৩০ মিনিট)
১৪	দরপত্র তফসিল দাখিলের স্থান	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক এর কার্যালয়, ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নোয়াখালী।
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১৬	দরপত্র বাজ্ঞ খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৭/১১/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা

ডাঃ হেলাল উদ্দিন
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক
২৫০- শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নোয়াখালী।

North-West Power Generation Company Ltd
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-2)
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.201.07.001.21.234 **Date: 17/10/2024**

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	1020558	Procurement of Spare Parts for GT Over-speed Protection System, Flame Monitoring System and Others	08-Oct-2024	10-Nov-2024 10:00 AM	10-Nov-2024
2	1024420	Procurement of tools and consumables for GT System and Auxiliaries	09-Oct-2024	03-Nov-2024 15:30 PM	04-Nov-2024

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Md. Asad Halim
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW CCPP (Unit-2)
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.