



Hog plums arrive by boat at Atghar Bazar in Pirojpur's Nesarabad upazila. Farmers around the district commercially cultivate the fruit, which is collected by wholesalers for sale around the country, including capital Dhaka. Workers engaged in the process can earn Tk 800 to Tk 1,000 per day. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

# Stocks rebound after falling to four-year low

## STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Indices of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) bounced back strongly yesterday on plummeting to a four-year low on the previous day as investors cautiously traded select shares to pocket short-term gains amidst price movements.

A Dhaka-based investor said a section of investors went on to buy select stocks following a sharp decline of 343 points in the last four days as share prices came down to lucrative levels.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the DSE, went up by 118.80 points, or 2.42 percent, from that on the day prior to close at 5,017.

The DSES index that represents the Shariah-based companies grew by 26.20 points, or 2.41 points, to 1,113.

The DS30 index for the blue-chip firms

edged up by 52.38 points, or 2.90 percent, to 1,858.

At Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), the CSE All-share Price Index (CASPI), the key index of the port city bourse, plunged by 196.19 points, or 1.42 percent, to settle at 14,017.

Shares of big companies, including banks, drugmakers and mobile operators, showcased a good performance.

Islami Bank Bangladesh alone accounted for a 14.22-point rise of the DSEX. BRAC Bank and British American Tobacco Bangladesh jointly enabled a rise of 16.50 points.

Robi Axiata, Grameenphone, Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Square Pharmaceuticals, Beacon Pharmaceuticals, Pubali Bank and Olympic Industries also performed well, according to the daily market update by

Lankabangla Financial Portal.

Of the issues that changed hands on the DSE trading floor, 312 saw a hike in prices, while those of 57 closed lower and the remaining 25 did not witness any price fluctuations.

Turnover, which indicates the total value of shares traded on the day, decreased by 2.98 percent to Tk 347 crore.

The banking sector dominated the turnover chart, accounting for 19.99 percent of the total.

Block trades, which refer to high-volume transactions in securities that are privately negotiated and executed outside the open market, contributed another 4.3 percent.

BRAC Bank emerged as the most traded share, with a turnover of Tk 13.5 crore.

Most of the sectors that account for

large amounts in market capitalisation, which refers to the value of a company's outstanding shares, posted a positive performance, according to BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage.

Non-bank financial institutions experienced the highest gain of 4.30 percent, followed by telecommunication (3.64 percent), food and allied (3.23 percent), pharmaceuticals (2.42 percent), engineering (2.31 percent) and banking sector (1.90 percent).

However, fuel and power logged a 0.72 percent loss.

Sector-wise, service and real estate, general insurance, and NBFIL were the top three sectors that closed in the positive, as per UCB Stock Brokerage.

Textile and fuel and power closed in the negative.

## Unilever's business competition BizMaestros-UFLP begins on Nov 3

### STAR BUSINESS DESK

The 15th edition of BizMaestros UFLP, the flagship business competition of Unilever Bangladesh, embodying the "Thrill of Real Business", is all set to begin on November 3.

The registration for the competition will commence from the same date. The initial round of the event consists of an online assessment, followed by in-person sessions at Unilever's Dhaka corporate office for successful candidates.

Interested participants can register through the official website, with links and instructions available on the Unilever Careers (BD) Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/UnileverCareersBangladesh>), said a press release.

As a leading player in the fast-moving consumer goods sector, Unilever Bangladesh has been at the forefront of skill development initiatives for over six decades, establishing BizMaestros as one of the first business competitions in the country designed for university students to enhance their professional skills.

Commenting on the competition, Syeda Durdana Kabir, human resources director at Unilever Bangladesh Limited, said, "Our initiatives collaborate with campuses for learning sessions, allowing students nationwide to experience a day in the life at our workplace. We also offer practical experiences through freelancing and internships."

This year's competition has been redesigned to align with the evolving preferences of today's youth in both their professional and personal lives.

New eligibility criteria now include fresh graduates and individuals with up to two years of professional experience.

The 2024 campaign theme, "Power of U", aims to empower participants to work with a global company and its brands, consumers, and talents.

The multinational company facilitates engagement in cutting-edge digital and technology-enabled operations, empowering talents with sustainable expertise and opportunities to work with iconic brands that impact 9 out of 10 households daily.

This year, BizMaestros is offering the core features, including training bootcamps, mentorship opportunities, real-life business case exposure and fast-tracked internships.

Winners will represent Bangladesh in the international round of Unilever's Future Leaders on the global stage.

Participants in BizMaestros will be integrated into the selection process for the management trainee programme, advancing based on performance assessments. This competition presents a unique opportunity for direct job assessments and career placements and allows candidates to experience Unilever's culture and responsibilities, empowering them to make informed career decisions.

## Door may open for Starlink

### FROM PAGE B1

1 percent of the gross revenue must be paid as part of the "contribution to space industry development and management".

The licensee must establish at least one gateway system within Bangladesh before commencing services. However, the BTRC encouraged the licensee to establish additional gateways.

Any user terminal placed within Bangladesh's geographical boundary must be authenticated and served through this local gateway. All traffic from these terminals must be routed through this local gateway for services within Bangladesh, according to the draft.

The NGS0 gateway shall

connect to international internet gateways to handle international internet data traffic.

The licensee must preserve internet protocol detail records, transaction detail records, call detail records (CDR), system logs or audit trails related to CDR changes and network traffic data for a period of one year for scrutiny or as directed by the commission or as required by the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre under the law.

NGSO satellites are not stationary relative to the Earth's surface; they orbit the Earth at a lower altitude and faster than geostationary satellites.

Among the biggest companies vying for the market is SpaceX,

which provides satellite internet coverage to more than 60 countries, with approximately 4,519 Starlink satellites currently in orbit.

The British company OneWeb has also launched a few hundred satellites into space. Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, is also expanding into such ventures, with plans to launch over 3,200 satellites in the coming years to provide global internet coverage.

However, the cost of the technology is prohibitively high in the context of Bangladesh.

For example, Starlink's services are priced at approximately \$120 per month for home users, with initial hardware costs ranging from \$350 to \$599, according to its website.

In contrast, local internet service providers in Bangladesh offer 5 Mbps broadband for about Tk 500 per month while mobile internet costs between Tk 400 and Tk 500 (\$4 to \$5) for 30GB of data.

Mustafa Mahmud Hussain, a telecom policy analyst, said Bangladesh will soon experience a transformative shift with the introduction of NGSO satellite internet.

"Expanding connectivity in remote, underserved areas can empower students, drive business growth, and strengthen community bonds," he said. "Achieving this vision calls for fewer bureaucratic hurdles and affordable pricing, with the BTRC's support as a catalyst for change."

## BGMEA

### FROM PAGE B1

factories had been experiencing non-payment issues with Mosaic Brands Ltd in September, reporting that approximately \$14.9 million was outstanding at the time.

"We regret to inform you that an additional seven BGMEA member factories are now facing similar issues, with Mosaic Brands Ltd withholding export payments totalling approximately \$4.9 million," according to the letter.

"We respectfully seek your kind support in securing the outstanding payments to the affected factories."

Ensuring these payments will not only safeguard the operations of these factories but also protect the livelihoods of the workers who depend on them, the administrator said.

Non-payment is adversely impacting the regular business activities of the factories in their dealings with the line banks.

Mosaic Brands Ltd, formerly Noni B Limited, grew into one of the largest speciality fashion retailers in Australia, with over 1,000 stores nationally, according to its website. The brands under its umbrella include Millers, Rockmans, Noni B, Rivers, Katies, Autograph, W Lane, Crossroads and Beme.

However, the company has run into financial trouble after cycling in and out of profitability in recent years.

On Monday, Mosaic Brands announced that it had entered voluntary administration, putting almost 3,000 jobs at risk.

Voluntary administration is a process where an insolvent company is placed in the hands of an independent person who can assess all the options available and generate the best outcome for a business owner and its creditors.

## Security a must

### FROM PAGE B1

yet. Rather, inflation remains high with every passing month."

The trade body said lukewarm global demand, economic turmoil, geopolitical crises and inflationary pressures impacted overall export earnings in FY24.

It said imports declined in the last fiscal year compared to the previous one, due mainly to a number of initiatives undertaken by the central

bank and the government since April 2022 to restrict foreign currency expenditure.

The country also witnessed a decrease in private investment as a percentage of GDP to 23.51 percent in FY24 from 24.18 percent a year ago.

The chamber attributed the low level of private investment, both domestic and foreign, to underdeveloped infrastructure, inadequate energy supply, inconsistent

policy and regulatory frameworks, scarcity of industrial land, corruption, and non-transparent and uneven application of rules and regulations.

"The government needs to address these impediments to attract more foreign direct investment to the country in order to ensure speedy development."

Net foreign investment increased by nearly 3 percent year-on-year to \$1.6 billion in FY24.

## GP profit up marginally

### FROM PAGE B1

financial and operational trends while maintaining its investment in strategic growth areas, he added.

Political unrest had a significant impact on data usage, with average revenue per user declining 7.5 percent year-on-year.

During the quarter, Grameenphone secured 5.9 GB of average data usage per user, which was 17 percent lower from the same period last year.

The company's operational costs increased 4.5 percent to Tk 1,380 crore year-on-year.

It was mainly due to an increase in business costs during the unrest period and extraordinary costs from re-establishing network in the flood affected regions, the company said in its financial highlights.

"As the industry leader, we must collaborate closely with government institutions and policymakers," he said. "...to foster a more

sustainable, pro-investment environment that encourages innovation, addresses customer needs, and ensure we can compete fairly and effectively in the rapidly evolving digital landscape," he added.

The listed telecom company reported a total subscriber base of 8.46 crore at the end of the third quarter, which was 3.1 percent higher than that in the same quarter of the previous year.

Of that, 4.93 crore, or 58 percent of the subscribers, use internet services.

The subscriber growth was offset by the drop in average revenue per user of 7.5 percent from unrest and harsh weather conditions.

GP's earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk 5.59 in the third quarter, whereas it was Tk 5.53 in the same quarter of 2023.

In the nine-month period of 2024, the EPS was Tk 21.88, whereas Tk 20.15 in the first three quarters of the previous year.

## NBR offers

### FROM PAGE B1

A tax official said this is the first time the tax administration offered tax benefits exclusively for renewable energy projects.

Earlier, the NBR offered tax breaks for privately-run power plants, except for coal-fired ones. The tax authority in June 2023 extended a tax holiday by 12 years on the income

of privately run power plants, except for coal-fired ones, that would start generation of electricity anytime before June 30, 2024.

On August 27, the interim government cancelled 42 power-plant projects, including 37 renewable facilities, with a combined capacity of around 3,102 megawatts.

## From profit

### FROM PAGE B1

acquired stakes in Sanofi Bangladesh for over Tk 400 crore to expand its product portfolio and diversify into new areas.

Despite the overall loss, Beximco Ltd declared a 5 percent stock dividend for its shareholders.

The company's earnings per share (EPS) stood at a negative Tk 0.41, compared to Tk 7.92 in the previous year.

Meanwhile, earnings per share of Beximco

Pharmaceuticals increased to Tk 13.07 from Tk 10.34 in the previous year.

This 30 percent year-on-year rise in profit led the board of directors to declare a 40 percent cash dividend for shareholders.

The drug maker credited this strong performance to double-digit sales growth, lower finance costs, Synovia Pharma's turnaround and a reduced effective tax rate for its subsidiary companies.

# Bangladesh Shipping Corporation

## "BSC Bhaban", Saltgola Road, Chittagong

REF: 18.16.0000.373.02.229/230/231.24

Date: 28.10.2024

### Invitation of Tender

S.L No.	Tender ID	Name of the Tender	Publishing & closing date
1.	COMC-12102024 Dated: 28.10.2024 Ref: 18.16.0000.37 3.02.229.24	BADC-229// INTERNATIONAL LIMITED TENDER FOR TRANSPORTATION OF 8TH LOT OF 30,000 MT (+/- 10%) TSP FERTILIZER IN BULK FROM SAFI MOROCCO AND DELIVERY IN 50 KG NET BAG TO TRANSPORT AGENT LOCATED AT CHATTOGRAM AND SHIROMONI GHAT (KHULNA) VIA OUTER ANCHORAGE OF CHATTOGRAM PORT (A/B/C ANCHORAGE), BANGLADESH AND/OR HARBARIA, MONGLA PORT, BANGLADESH AS PACKAGE BASIS (RATIO: CTG & MONGLA: 40%:60%) LAY CAN 16-18 NOVEMBER, 2024 A/C OF BADC.	28-10-2024 & 03-11-2024 12:15pm
2.	COMC-002 Dated: 28.10.2024 Ref: 18.16.0000.37 3.02.230.24	BADC-230// INTERNATIONAL LIMITED TENDER FOR TRANSPORTATION OF 9TH LOT OF 30,000 MT (+/- 10%) TSP FERTILIZER IN BULK FROM JORF LASFAR, MOROCCO AND DELIVERY IN 50 KG NET BAG TO TRANSPORT AGENT LOCATED AT CHATTOGRAM AND SHIROMONI GHAT (KHULNA) VIA OUTER ANCHORAGE OF CHATTOGRAM PORT (A/B/C ANCHORAGE), BANGLADESH AND/OR HARBARIA, MONGLA PORT, BANGLADESH AS PACKAGE BASIS (RATIO: CTG & MONGLA: 40%:60%) LAY CAN 22-24 NOVEMBER, 2024 A/C OF BADC.	28-10-2024 & 07-11-2024 12:15pm
3.	COMC-13102024 Dated: 28.10.2024 Ref: 18.16.0000.37 3.02.231.24	BADC-231// INTERNATIONAL LIMITED TENDER FOR TRANSPORTATION OF 10TH LOT OF 30,000 MT (+/- 10%) TSP FERTILIZER IN BULK FROM SAFI/JORF LASFAR, MOROCCO AND DELIVERY IN 50 KG NET BAG TO TRANSPORT AGENT LOCATED AT CHATTOGRAM AND SHIROMONI GHAT (KHULNA) VIA OUTER ANCHORAGE OF CHATTOGRAM PORT (A/B/C ANCHORAGE), BANGLADESH AND/OR HARBARIA, MONGLA PORT, BANGLADESH AS PACKAGE BASIS (RATIO: CTG & MONGLA: 40%:60%) LAY CAN 28-30 NOVEMBER, 2024 A/C OF BADC.	28-10-2024 & 10-11-2024 12:15pm

**Capt. Md. Mozibur Rahaman**  
General Manager (Chartering)

Phone: 031-728269

E-mail: gm-cti@bsc.gov.bd

GD-825