Stocks extend losing streak

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks dropped for the fourth straight session yesterday amid declining investor participation and falling turnover at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the bourse, initially gained 20.71 points, or 0.40 percent, to reach 5,126.40 in the first hour of trading.

However, the early momentum faded as the index slipped 8.36 points, or 0.16 percent, to close the day at 5,097.32.

The Shariah-based DSES index lost 0.41 percent to end at 1,143.70, while the DS30, comprising blue-chip stocks, fell 0.14 percent to 1,875.39.

Turnover, a key measure of market activity, dropped 14 percent to Tk 339.29 crore.

Out of 395 issues traded, 124 advanced, 190 declined, and 81 remained unchanged.

Midland Bank posted the highest gain of 8 percent, whereas Union Capital declined the most, falling 9 percent.

One Pharma plans to export drugs to Algeria

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

One Pharma Ltd, a Bangladeshi company which already exports medicine for illnesses associated with cancer to neighbouring Myanmar and Afghanistan, is now planning to grab a slice of the growing market in Algeria.

Exporting drugs to a highly controlled market like Algeria requires overcoming several challenges, Chief Technical Officer Ishtiaq Ahmad told journalists invited on a visit to its factory in Bogura.

The company is going to embark on the process of getting approvals from the authorities concerned, and its managing director has already met Algerian Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdelouahab Saidani, he said.

"We produce different therapeutic classes of medicines, including biosimilar and anticancer drugs," he added.

The products, numbering around 130, include those used to treat cardiovascular disease, antibiotics, antidepressants, antiulcerants, vitamins and minerals, cough and cold remedies, antihistamines, and antifungals.

Regarding the potential of the company, which was established in 2015, he said it produces seven anticancer drugs, of which those for lung cancer and breast cancer are already available in Bangladesh.

Exporting drugs to a highly controlled market like Algeria requires overcoming several challenges, says Chief Technical Officer Ishtiaq Ahmad

In 2024, the company generated revenues of around Tk 200 crore. Its exports to Afghanistan amount to $2 million and to Myanmar $50,000.

Drugs used to treat cancer and those related to biotechnology sell the most, for which the company is focusing on these types of products, he said.

Nazmun Naher, chairman of One Pharma, was present.

National AI Art-A-Thon blends technology with culture

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh hosted the final round of its first-ever AI-driven art competition — the National AI Art-A-Thon — at the ICT Tower in Agargaon yesterday.

Designed to make artificial intelligence more reflective of the country's diverse culture and society, the event brought together creative minds and tech enthusiasts from across the nation.

Organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) under the ICT Division, this initiative was part of the "Partnerships for a More Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh" project, supported by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka.

Held over two days, the competition gathered students, professionals, artists, designers, architects, content creators, and technologists to produce AI-generated artworks that represent Bangladesh's rich cultural heritage.

The event was supported by key international partners, including Microsoft, the University of Toronto, the University of Cambridge, BacBon Limited, and Peace Maker Studio.

Speaking at the event, Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, special assistant to the chief adviser for the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, emphasised the importance of crafting inclusive AI policies.

"Our team is advancing key reforms — from data protection to cybersecurity — while proactively shaping a comprehensive AI policy to ensure its ethical, inclusive, and safe integration in Bangladesh," he said.

"As AI increasingly intersects with the creative sector, preserving the voices of our ethnic communities and cultural narratives becomes a vital ethical obligation. Creatives hold a profound influence over social harmony, making their role in guiding AI's values even more critical."

UNDP Resident Representative Stefan Liller and Secretary of the ICT Division Shish Haider Chowdhury also spoke.

Bangladesh's exports

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"The new estimate for 2025 is nearly three percentage points lower than it would have been without recent policy shifts, and marks a significant reversal from the start of the year, when WTO economists expected to see continued trade expansion supported by improving macroeconomic conditions."

It said risks to the forecast include the implementation of the currently suspended reciprocal tariffs by the United States, as well as a broader spillover of trade policy uncertainty beyond US-linked trade relationships.

If enacted, reciprocal tariffs would reduce world merchandise trade growth by an additional 0.6 percentage points, posing particular risks for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), while a spreading of uncertainty related to trade policy would shave off a further 0.8 percentage points.

Taken together, the reciprocal tariffs and spreading trade policy uncertainty would lead to a 1.5 percent decline in world merchandise trade volume in 2025.

It said US imports from China are expected to fall sharply in sectors such as textiles, apparel and electrical equipment, creating new export opportunities for other suppliers able to fill the gap.

"This could open the door for some Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to increase their exports to the US market."

Gold prices retreat

REUTERS

Gold prices retreated on Thursday as investors booked profits after bullion hit an all-time high, with traders assessing tariff negotiations between the US and Japan.

Spot gold was down 0.8 percent to $3,317.63 an ounce, as of 0717 GMT. Bullion has gained over 2 percent so far this week. US gold futures shed 0.5 percent to $3,330.60. Bullion hit a record high of $3,357.40 earlier in the session and has risen more than 27 percent so far this year.

"The retreat is largely driven by short-term profit-taking following the sharp rally over the past week. A temporary stabilization in US bond yields and a modest recovery in the US dollar have also added to the pressure," said Alexander Zumpfe, a precious metals trader at Heraeus Metals Germany.

It's time to go for more

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"It revealed the legacy problem of NPLs [non-performing loans]. NPLs did not appear because of the classification; they were simply revealed as a legacy issue."

Turning to the issue of recovering stolen assets, the IMF official said that while progress was being made, Bangladesh needed to balance effective policy objectives with minimal disruption to asset recovery efforts.

"At this point, we would just say that the authorities are making progress in the right direction in coordinating domestic and global efforts to freeze, confiscate, and recover stolen assets," said Krznar.

On revenue generation, IMF economist SeokHyun Yoon said the fund remained in close consultation with the government on targets.

"For example, to give you a sense of how we assess the needs of the country, we have something called the financing gap. Based on this financing gap, we make an assessment of these targets, and we are in continuous discussions during every review regarding these targets."

"Our immediate focus is to remove the expensive tax exemptions," he said. "Our immediate focus on the VAT and income tax side is that extensive exemptions should be eliminated."

NBR to collect travel tax directly

FROM PAGE B1

will calculate VAT based on the total value. The customer doesn't need to know how much VAT they've paid — the same system already works in superstores," he said.

At the discussion, representatives from various trade associations put forward a range of proposals aimed at easing business operations.

The Aviation Operators Association of Bangladesh called on the government to exempt jet fuel from import duties and VAT, as well as to lower taxes on various aircraft components.

In his closing remarks, the NBR chairman assured business leaders that the revenue authority is committed to streamlining regulations and making processes more business-friendly.

"Our key focus in this year's budget is to facilitate trade, plug loopholes, and reduce inequality," he said.

ADP spending in July-March

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It was also found that performances of the 15 ministries, state divisions, and departments scrutinised for their progress in implementing ADP funds varied greatly.

The Energy and Mineral Resources Division secured the top position, utilising 79.71 percent of its allocation, followed by the Power Division with 56.27 percent.

On the other hand, health-related sectors lagged behind significantly, with the Health Services Division reporting an implementation rate of merely 14.41 percent.

This highlights severe challenges in executing projects that are essential for public health.

Shop rent Tk 3 lakh

FROM PAGE B1

government revenue remained unchanged, said the report.

Revenue records have also raised questions.

The report found mismatches between submitted pay orders, income and expenditure statements, and the balances of bank accounts related to the markets.

NSC staff were unable to provide satisfactory explanations when questioned by the committee.

Moreover, 31 shops at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium (SBNCS) were allocated temporarily, bypassing the mandatory tender process required for new or vacant premises.

OTHER ANOMALIES

The report also flagged the NSC Officials and Staffers Cooperative Society, which owns four or more shops across various stadiums -- apparently in violation of the NSC's own policies.

Apart from financial issues, the probe revealed serious misuse of public infrastructure.

In Mirpur's SBNCS, stairways have been rented out, water is being used to wash vehicles and electricity is being supplied illegally to unauthorised users.

At Kamalapur, 16 to 17 families of NSC staff are living illegally on the second floor of Mohammad Mustafa Kamal Stadium.

Besides, the Shop Owners' Association is running an office without formal allocation and is involved in other business activities.

'IRREGULARITY IS THE NORM HERE'

On April 13, these reporters visited 13 shops at Bangabandhu National Stadium, Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium and Volleyball Stadium.

None of the shopkeepers said they had leased their spaces directly from the NSC through proper channels.

Instead, they admitted to obtaining them from second, third or even fourth parties.

Shafiqul Islam, owner of Mobile Space in Bangabandhu National Stadium, said they took the shop on lease from a second party 20 years ago.

He said they now pay around Tk 30,000 monthly to that party, but he does not know how much the original lessee pays to the NSC.

"There's no system here. Irregularity is the norm," Islam commented.

Rafiqul Islam Uzzal, owner of Niloy Corporation in the same market, said he took over his shop 18 years ago from a third party and currently pays Tk 50,000 per month in rent.

He claimed the original leaseholder pays only Tk 2,600 per month to the NSC.

Nazrul Islam, proprietor of Nahar Enterprise at Maulana Bhasani Stadium, made similar remarks.

SM Abbas, president of the Dhaka Stadium Shop Owners' Association, defended the practice.

He said, "If someone fails to run a shop after leasing it and transfers it to a second or third party, how is that a crime?"

NO SHOP ALLOCATION CANCELLED YET

Following the investigation, five committees have been formed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports to look into the irregularities further.

Md Aminul Islam, secretary of the NSC, told The Daily Star they are working to implement the 13 recommendations in the report, which include automating the allocation process, conducting regular audits and reviewing existing policies.

However, he said no shop leases have been cancelled so far.

"If the recommendations are fully implemented, we believe it will curb the government's revenue losses," he told The Daily Star, adding that the total loss could be calculated after further assessment.

Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), welcomed the report but said it only scratched the surface.

Political interference and collusion among NSC officials had allowed the system to persist for years, said Iftekharuzzaman.

"The ministry must now act decisively, not just against frontliners, but also those who enabled and benefited from the irregularities over the years," he said, urging the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to get involved.

The Daily Star approached Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain and Secretary Rezaul Maksud Jahedi for comments, but to no avail.

Debate heats up

FROM PAGE B4

allowed to lock all SIM slots in devices sold through instalment plans, provided they completely remove these locks once customers complete making all payments.

The proposals also sought to prohibit operators from directly importing or manufacturing handsets and instead ensure that devices are sourced through BTRC-approved manufacturers and importers.

However, the BTRC's top decision-making body has directed the Systems and Services Division to conduct a thorough assessment of the potential market impacts if the all-SIM-locking policy is approved.

Abu Nazam M Tanveer Hossain, a telecom policy expert, said for unbanked populations and people who lack access to formal credit, the network locking model provides a viable financing alternative, driving digital inclusion.

"Introducing such a policy could stimulate competition, expand consumer choice, and rejuvenate the telecom sector. Balancing operator viability with consumer benefits is key to fostering sustainable growth in emerging markets," he said.

It might be a concern for the smaller operators with lower network coverage but smart implementation of this can be utilised to their benefit too, Hossain added.

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স্মারক নং-০৫.৩০.৭২০০.০০৬.২০.০০৪৯.১৭.১৮৯

তারিখ : ০৩ বৈশাখ, ১৪৩২ / ১৬ এপ্রিল, ২০২৫

নেত্রকোণা কালেক্টরেট ও সার্কিট হাউসের ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বৎসরের (১নং গ্রুপ) অফিস স্টেশনারি, আসবাবপত্র (মেরামত) ও আনুষঙ্গিক দ্রব্য সামগ্রি এবং (২নং গ্রুপ) কম্পিউটার সামগ্রি, ফটোকপিয়ার মেশিন, ফ্যাক্স মেশিন, প্রজেক্টর মেশিন, ইন্টারনেট লাইন (যন্ত্রাংশসহ সার্ভিসিং), বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জাম, ইলেকট্রনিকস সামগ্রি সরবরাহের নিমিত্ত পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়	জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়
২.	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা।
৩.	দরপত্র সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার নাম	জেলা প্রশাসক, নেত্রকোণা।
৪.	দরপত্র সংগ্রহকারী জেলা	নেত্রকোণা।
৫.	ক্রয় পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৬.	বাজেট ও ক্রয় অর্থের উৎস	২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরের রাজস্ব বাজেট
৭.	ডকুমেন্ট মূল্য	১০০০/-(এক হাজার) টাকা ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে কোড নং ১-০৭৪২-০০০১-২৩৬৬ এ জমা দিতে হবে (অফেরতৎ যোগ্য) এবং দরপত্রের সাথে চালানের ফটোকপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। (উপরে বর্ণিত ১ ও ২ নং গ্রুপের জন্য পৃথক পৃথকভাবে চালান জমা প্রদান করতে হবে এবং সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে হবে)।
৮.	বিস্তারিত তথ্য জানা যাবে	নেজারত শাখা, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা (কক্ষ নং-২২৭)।
৯.	দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট ও সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	নেজারত শাখা, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা (কক্ষ নং-২২৭)।
১০.	দরপত্র সিডিউল/বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রাপ্তির স্থান	নেজারত শাখা, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা (কক্ষ নং-২২৭)।
১১.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ এবং সময়	৩০ এপ্রিল ২০২৫ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালিন সময় পর্যন্ত। (ট্রেজারী চালানের মূল কপি, সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ও কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী দরপত্র ক্রয়ের ক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার সমিতির সদস্যের সনদপত্র দরপত্র ক্রয়ের সময় দাখিল করতে হবে)
১২.	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	০৪ মে ২০২৫ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্স।
১৩.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৪ মে ২০২৫ তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৪.	দরপত্র খোলার অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	অতিরিক্ত জেলা প্রশাসক (সার্বিক), নেত্রকোণা অফিস কক্ষ।
১৫.	মালামাল সংগ্রহ অথবা কাজের বিস্তারিত বর্ণনা	দরপত্র সংগ্রহকারী সত্তা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিল করার বিধিগত ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত তথ্য জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নেজারত শাখা (কক্ষ নং-২২৭), জেলা প্রশাসকের ওয়েবসাইট, নোটিশ বোর্ড হতে জানা যাবে।

কোনরূপ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই কর্তৃপক্ষ সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের সর্বসয় ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

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(বনানী বিশ্বাস)
জেলা প্রশাসক
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GD-909

Dhaka South City Corporation
Office of the Chief Store & Purchase Officer
Store & Purchase Department, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka.

Memo: 46.207.007.17.02.2025-287 Date: 15-Apr-2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of under mention work:

Sl No.	Method of tender & Tender ID, Ref No	Procurement Item Descriptions.	Publishing Date & Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1.	OTM (NCT) Tender ID. 1095403 Ref.46.207.007.17.01.20 25-112	Supply of aprons and hand gloves for mosquito workers of DSCC in the financial year 2024-2025.	16-Apr- 2025 17.00.00	04-May- 2025 17.00.00	05-May- 2025 14.00.00
2.	OTM (NCT) Tender ID. 1098246 Ref.46.207.007.17.01.20 25-115	Supply of Anti-infective Disinfectant (Hospital Concentrate) for use in waste management work of Dhaka South City Corporation on the occasion of upcoming Holy Eid-ul-Azha in 2024-2025.	16-Apr- 2025 17.00.00	04-May- 2025 17.00.00	05-May- 2025 14.00.00
3.	OTM (NCT) Tender ID. 1098325 Ref.46.207.007.17.01.20 24-88	Supply of bleaching powder for use in waste management work of DSCC in 2024-2025.	16-Apr- 2025 17.00.00	04-May- 2025 17.00.00	05-May- 2025 14.00.00

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. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal.

15.4.25
Md. Joynul Abedin
(Deputy Secretary)
Chief Store & Purchase Officer
Store & Purchase Department,
Dhaka South City Corporation
E-mail: cspodscc20@gmail.com

(6 X 4)
ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/২৭৪/২০২৪-২০২৫