

Unilever Consumer Care's profit drops 38% amid rising costs

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Unilever Consumer Care saw its profit tumble in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2024-25 due to a surge in operating expenses.

The fast-moving consumer goods manufacturer posted a profit of Tk 13.79 crore for the January-March period, marking a 38 percent drop from the same quarter a year earlier, according to its financial statements.

However, the company's revenue inched up by over 1 percent year-on-year in the first quarter to Tk 95.40 crore.

Earnings per share (EPS) fell to Tk 7.16 from Tk 11.61 in the first quarter of 2024. The decline was attributed to the re-imposition of technology and trademark royalties by the parent company, which drove up operating costs.

Unlike the same period last year, the latest quarter also lacked any one-off gains from the reassessment of previous liabilities and obligations, the company said in a filing with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

"However, the magnitude of the adverse impact was partially mitigated through operating efficiency and efficient investment of cash, resulting in significantly higher net finance income," it added.

The company's net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) plunged to negative Tk 19.03, compared to a positive Tk 13.49 in the same period last year.

This fall stemmed from the settlement of a large volume of Usance Payable at Sight (UPAS) letters of credit, without taking on new UPAS facilities. As a result, cash outflows crossed the operating profits, said the company.

Despite the earnings decline, Unilever's net asset value per share rose, thanks to retained profits and the absence of any dividend payout during the quarter. Shares of Unilever Consumer Care closed 1.41 percent lower at Tk 2,335.5 at the DSE.

US tariff hike to put pressure

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transformative action within Bangladesh's banking sector.

He specifically advocated for the revitalisation of state-owned banks through strategic recapitalisation and aggressive NPL reduction.

Witt also proposed a framework that encourages bank mergers to create larger, more resilient banking groups.

He emphasised addressing the challenges faced by Islamic and troubled private sector banks and the necessity of thorough forensic audits to inform potential mergers, recapitalisation efforts, and the bolstering of Tier-1 capital.

Chowdhury said Bangladesh Bank has undertaken many reform activities recently, but the time has not come yet to evaluate the results of the reforms.

He said Bangladesh Bank always consults with stakeholders, the private sector, and development partners.

Abdul Hai Sarker, chairman of the Bangladesh Association of Banks and chairman of Dhaka Bank PLC, said if all the stakeholders work together, Bangladesh can cope with the changes that are coming about.

Selim RF Hussain, chairman of the Association of Bankers Bangladesh (ABB), said globalisation was going to be very different from what it was

earlier, as many geopolitical changes were coming about across the world.

There are things that cannot be influenced by small countries like Bangladesh—they can only try to respond to them, he said.

"It will be important for us to get together as a group with all the relevant stakeholders and respond to the various changes that are happening," he said.

Coordination among the various regulators and ministries needs to be far faster than it currently is, he added.

Enamul Huque, managing director of Standard Chartered Bangladesh, said Bangladesh should look for timely ways to cope with the challenges imposed by Trump's tariffs.

Bangladesh should focus more on high-value apparel items like manmade fibre (MMF), he said.

Md Mahbub Ur Rahman, chief executive officer of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd, said the global supply chain was going through changes, including notable growth in south-south trading.

"The global context is shifting, the market is shifting, and so is the supply chain," he said, adding that this trend was opening up new markets.

Regarding the opening of letters of credit (LCs) in the country, he

Dutch-Bangla Bank's profit slips on loan provisioning

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Dutch-Bangla Bank's annual profit declined in 2024, as the private commercial lender set aside provisions against loans and advances.

It posted a net profit of Tk 473.68 crore for the year ended 31 December 2024, lower than the previous year.

Consequently, earnings per share (EPS) fell to Tk 5.39, compared to a restated Tk 9.12 in 2023, according to a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday.

Shares of the bank dropped 11.36 percent on the day, closing at Tk 43.70.

"Net profit and EPS decreased mainly for maintaining provision against loans and advances, which will ultimately improve the health of the bank," the bank said in its filing.

Despite the fall in profit, the bank saw a rise in net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS), which jumped to Tk 41.91 in 2024 from Tk 11.08 (restated) a year earlier.

The improvement was driven by an increase in customer deposits and interest income, according to the bank. The board has recommended a 10 percent cash dividend alongside a 10 percent stock dividend for 2024.

The stock dividend is intended to strengthen the bank's paid-up capital and support future business growth, the private lender said.

In a price-sensitive disclosure (PSI) published yesterday, Dutch-Bangla Bank's profit dropped 30 percent year-on-year to Tk 88.50 crore in the first quarter of 2025.

Its EPS for the January-March period declined to Tk 1.01, from a restated Tk 1.46 in the same quarter the previous year, again due to higher provisioning.

However, NOCFPS rose to Tk 38.39 in Q1 of 2025, up from Tk 23.74 (restated) in the corresponding period of 2024, buoyed by a continued increase in customer deposits, the bank said.

'Soy Month' launched for protein awareness

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Poultry Industries Central Council (BPICC), in collaboration with the US Soybean Export Council (USSEC), has launched the first-ever "Soy Month" to raise public awareness on soybean's nutritional, agricultural, and economic significance.

The initiative was inaugurated at the BPICC headquarters in the capital's Bashundhara on Tuesday.

The event convened key players from the poultry, feed, and oilseed sectors to underscore soybean's critical role in food security and livestock development.

Shamsul Arefin Khaled, president of the BPICC, stated that soybean—particularly in the form of soybean meal—was a key feed ingredient, rich in digestible protein and essential amino acids.

He emphasised its importance for animal health, efficient livestock growth, and its viability as a cost-effective alternative to fishmeal.

Moshirul Rahman, president of the World's Poultry Science Association, Bangladesh branch, noted that the country requires approximately 2.5 to 2.6 million tonnes of soybean meal annually, of which a significant portion was imported.

"However, domestic crushing facilities currently meet 60 to 75 percent of the national demand," he added.

Md Nazrul Islam, general secretary of the Feed Industries Association Bangladesh (FIAB), observed that increasing poultry and egg consumption was expected to drive further demand for soy-based feed ingredients.

Md Hasan, managing director of City Group, referred to soy as a "miracle bean," noting its complete profile of nine essential amino acids. He added that City Group primarily sources soybeans from the United States for the production of both soybean oil and soymeal.

Tanzima Mostafa, director of the Meghna Group of Industries (MGI), stressed the vital role soy can play in addressing protein-energy malnutrition across Bangladesh.

She said in January alone, the MGI supplied 48,000 tonnes of soybean oil and 68,000 tonnes of soymeal, largely derived from US imported soybeans.

Khabibur Rahman Kanchan, Bangladesh Lead for the USSEC, shared that the United States produces over 110 million tonnes of soybeans annually—approximately 30 percent of global output.

said many businesses in Bangladesh import their merchandise through LCs, whereas exports are done based on contracts.

"How can we strike the balance?" he asked.

Shah Md Ahsan Habib, professor at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management, said the problems in Bangladesh's banking sector were unique, for which it was not possible to directly follow the practices of developed countries.

"Our level of financial literacy and our understanding of risk are relatively low," he said.

Despite this, many banks and businesses are doing fantastic jobs—even their activities are replicable, he said.

Bidyut Kumar Saha, lead investment officer of the Private Sector Operations Department, Bangladesh Resident Mission of the Asian Development Bank, said many of the vulnerabilities of the banking sector are rooted within the country.

"So, irrespective of any global development in the financial sector or anything else, the ongoing reform efforts by the government and the central bank need to be carried out in full force," he said.

The ADB is happy to be working with the government and other stakeholders to this effect, he added.

BSEC suspends 21 officials

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In a statement, the commission then said any official found guilty of such offences could face dismissal or other serious disciplinary measures.

The suspended staff will continue to receive subsistence allowances as per service regulations during their suspension.

In a separate development yesterday, a general meeting was held at the BSEC's multipurpose hall, attended by all officials, including the chairman and three commissioners.

According to a press release, BSEC Chairman Md Aslam urged staff to put past incidents behind them and work together with renewed purpose, discipline, and a focus on protecting investors' interests.

Officials pledged to support the commission's work with greater efficiency and accountability.

The chairman expressed hope that, with collective effort, the pace of BSEC's activities would accelerate.

Revenue officials protest proposal to split NBR

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The draft ordinance was prepared in response to a recommendation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is tied to its ongoing \$4.7 billion loan programme.

The IMF has advised separating tax policymaking from administration to enhance revenue generation and improve the country's tax-to-GDP ratio, which remains among the lowest worldwide.

The draft ordinance is likely to be made public through a gazette after it is vetted by the law ministry.

Earlier this week, both the BCS Taxation Association and the BCS (Customs and VAT) Association voiced their opposition to the draft, warning it could undermine the government's broader reform agenda.

"We should reflect on ourselves—how compliant we are," he said.

GD-1053

DCP : 48/2025-1091

Date : 30/04/2025

BANGLADESH BANK

Common Services Department-2

Head Office, Dhaka-1000.

Website : www.bangladeshbank.org.bd

Invitation for Tender Through Web

Tender no: CSD-2(I:LS) 24/BIBTA/LED Display/2025-59

Date: 29/04/2025

Tenders through electronic media (e-Tenders) are invited from the bonafide contractors/firms for "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Customized LED Monitor/Display for Bangladesh Bank Training Academy(BIBTA), Mirpur-2, Dhaka." Necessary information are given below:

01 Procuring Entity : Common Services Department-2, Bangladesh Bank, Head office, Dhaka.

02 Source of Funds : Bangladesh Bank's own fund.

03 Invitation for Tender No. : CSD-2(F:I:S) 24/BIBTA/LED Display/2025-59

04 Method of Procurement : Open Tendering Method (OTM); National.

05 Qualification of Tenderer : a) The Tenderer shall have minimum 10(Ten) years overall business experience in Electrical/Electronic Supply and Installation. b) Satisfactorily completed Supply and Installation of LED Display/Electronic/Electrical Equipment worth not less than Taka 40.00 Lac (Taka Forty Lac) only in a single contract in any Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous Organization during last 05(Five) years as main supplier. The Tenderer shall have to furnish work completion certificate in this respect from officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent; years counting backward from the date of publication of IIT in the newspaper. c) Liquid asset/Credit facility shall be Tk41.00 lac (Taka Forty one Lac) only. In case of credit facilities Bank shall ensure that above mentioned credit limits will be given as per form (PG3-8) if the said works is awarded to the contractor. d) Tenderer shall have valid ABC Contracting License. e) Tenderer shall have to fulfill the qualification criteria stipulated in the Tender Documents, failing which the Tender shall be rejected and considered as non-responsive.

06 Web address of Receiving Tender : <https://etender.bb.org.bd/>

07 Tender Document Price : TK 1,000.00(Taka One Thousand) only

08 Last Date and Time of Selling Tender Document : 14/05/2025 up to 6.00 P.M.

09 Name & Address of the Offices : Director(Engg.: Electromechanical), Common Services Department-2 (7th floor of 30-storied building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.

10 Last Date and Time for : 15/05/2025 up to 12.30 P.M Submission of Tender Document through web.

11 Last Date and Time for Receiving : 15/05/2025 up to 12.30 P.M. Original Tender security and Tender Submission Letter

12 Date, Time and Place for : All Tenders shall be opened at Common Services Department-2 (7th floor of 30-storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka on 15/05/2025 at 12:45 P.M (Intending Tenderer or their authorized representative are allowed to attend the Tender Opening)

13 Brief Description of the Goods and Related works : Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Customized LED Display up to 88sqft size(as per site requirement & Proper aspect ration) including Controller, Processor, Mounting Accessories and with all necessary equipment as per site requirement.

14 Time for completion of the work : 03(Three) Months from the date of issuing the Award of Contract.

15 Tender Security : TK 1,45,000.00 (Taka One Lac Forty Five Thousand) only

16 Special Instructions : i) The Tenderer shall submit tender and scanned copy of documentary evidences including PG3-3 property through Bangladesh Bank Web site (e-tendering) & shall have valid e-mail address for participating e-tendering. ii) Original PO/BID/Bank Guarantee as Tender Security along with Original Tender submission letter as per format PG3-1 shall reach at Director(I/M), Common Services Department-2, within the stipulated date and time mentioned in TDS. iii) Tenderer shall provide all documentary evidences (original or attested whichever necessary) as per tender document, failing which the Tender shall be considered as non-responsive. iv) PG3-1, PG3-2 and PG3-3 form shall be completed and signed by the Authorized Signatory on the Letter Head Pad attached by Scanning during submitting tender through Web and original shall be sent to the Director(I/M), Common Services Department-2 within scheduled time as per TDS. v) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents may result in rejection of tender and may lead to action under Rules 127 of PPR 2008. vi) All sorts of safety and security measures shall be carried out by the Contractor during execution of work vii) Bangladesh Bank reserves all right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. No claim will be entertained in this regard.

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ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিবু

কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।