

Unilever Consumer Care posts Tk 24cr profit in Q2

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Unilever Consumer Care Ltd's profit grew in the second quarter of 2025, driven by operating efficiency and higher finance income despite the reimposition of technology and trademark royalties.

The fast-moving consumer goods company reported a profit of Tk 24.33 crore in the April-June quarter, up 28 percent year-on-year.

According to the recently published financial statements, the company's earnings per share stood at Tk 12.62 for the quarter, compared to Tk 9.83 a year earlier.

The multinational said its improvement was driven by better operating efficiency, a one-time gain from reassessing past obligations for technology and trademark royalties, and smart cash investments that led to much higher net finance income.

However, its performance for the first half of the year weakened, as the company's EPS fell to Tk 19.78 in the January-June period from Tk 21.44 in the same period of the previous year.

Unilever's net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) was negative Tk 23.57 for the six-month period, compared to a positive Tk 5.83 a year earlier.

The company attributed the decline in NOCFPS to the settlement of all outstanding usance payable at sight (UPAS) letters of credit, which led to significant cash outflows without new UPAS facilities being availed.

First commodity exchange

FROM PAGE B1
These samples will have to be approved by the BSEC as they will be the main instruments traded on the exchange, according to Rahman.

The port city bourse took the initiative to launch the commodity exchange in 2022, with the aim of narrowing the gap between producer and consumer prices.

Saiful Islam, president of the DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA), said brokers are keen to support and join the new exchange.

"It should have been launched much earlier," he said.

However, the DBA president added that traders are still unfamiliar with such a market.

"A massive awareness campaign is necessary so that traders and investors properly understand both the risks and opportunities of commodity trading."

Islam, who is also a director of BRAC EPL Brokerage, a TREC holder of the CSE, sought dummy trading for at least three to six months.

"This market will be linked to international prices and involve various factors," he said.

In April 2022, the CSE appointed the Multi Commodity Exchange of India as a consultant to help develop rules and regulations. The CSE received its licence to operate the exchange in October 2023, but progress was somewhat stalled due to the absence of a

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Chinese investors expressed renewed interest in Bangladesh's key economic sectors during a series of high-level bilateral meetings held in Shanghai and Guangzhou last week.

They shared their thoughts when a Bangladesh delegation, led by Ashik Chowdhury, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority, visited the two Chinese cities from July 20 to 26.

A major highlight of the visit – during which they engaged directly with over 100 potential investors – was an investment seminar jointly organised by BIDA and the Embassy of Bangladesh in Shanghai on July 21.

Officials from Handa Industries

and New Tiger Energy were among the participants at the event, where they shared their experiences of operating in Bangladesh and praised the country's recent improvements in the investment climate.

Alongside the seminar, the delegation held more than 25 bilateral meetings with firms keen to explore new or expanded ventures in Bangladesh.

Sectors attracting the most attention included renewable energy, readymade garments, healthcare, and consumer electronics.

"We are encouraged by the positive engagement from Chinese companies," said Chowdhury.

"These interactions allowed us to highlight recent policy progress in Bangladesh – particularly regarding currency

stability and streamlined investment procedures. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive."

The Bangladesh delegation also included senior officials from Citibank NA, Eastern Bank, HSBC, and Standard Chartered Bangladesh, reflecting a coordinated public-private approach to investment promotion.

Beyond investor outreach, the team explored future collaboration with key Chinese business associations and members of the non-resident Bangladeshi community, according to a BIDA statement.

Discussions also began on establishing BIDA's first overseas office in East Asia, aimed at providing dedicated support for investor facilitation in the region, the statement read.

Stocks snap eight-day rally

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The benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange closed lower yesterday, breaking its eight-day rally.

The DSE50, the main index of the bourse, lost 37.21 points, or 0.69 percent, to settle at 5,354.82. The other indices also experienced drops before the end of the day's trading. The Shariah-compliant DSES declined 0.69 percent to 1,164.55. The DS30, comprising blue-chip shares, lost 1.51 percent to close at 2,058.14.

Turnover, a key gauge of investor participation, was Tk 865.04 crore, down from Tk 951.78 crore in the previous session.

A total of 237,521 trades were executed, while block transactions amounted to Tk 9.22 crore across 28 scrips.

Market breadth was negative, with 117 stocks advancing, 232 declining, and 50 remaining unchanged.

Among A category scrips, 82 gained, 107 lost, and 31 remained unchanged.

The B category saw 19 stocks rise and 62 fall, while there was no activity in the N-category.

Segment-wise performance was mixed. In mutual funds, 4 issues advanced and 14 declined.

Corporate bonds saw just one issue decline, while the government bond market also saw one issue fall.

Among individual performers, Provati Insurance Company topped the gainers' list with a 9 percent rise, while British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company was the worst performer, dropping 7 percent.

Ctg port introduces digital payment

FROM PAGE B1

He said the unified platform is secure and it offers multiple payment options, including card payments, electronic fund transfers from any bank, corporate transactions via EBLConnect, as well as traditional over-the-counter payments at EBL branches nationwide.



Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain, adviser to the Ministry of Shipping, inaugurates the digital payment system, jointly launched by the Chittagong Port Authority and Eastern Bank PLC, at the Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View in the port city on Saturday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Rooftop solar plan needs pilot run: CPD

FROM PAGE B1

The think tank called for urgent, multisectoral reforms to increase the generation of renewable energy and recommended exempting all sorts of customs and import duties, VAT and taxes on solar panels, batteries and inverters.

The CPD recommended updating the existing net metering guidelines to reflect current investment costs, grid capacity and demand.

Net metering is a billing system that allows individuals or businesses with on-site renewable energy generation, like solar panels, to receive credit on their electricity bills for any excess electricity they send back to the grid.

The policy allows the consumer to connect rooftop solar to the grid but caps the net metering limit at 70 percent of the load sanctioned for that facility.

The piloting must specify the roof being used, as such state buildings are present throughout all unions in the country, she said.

This will help generate specific data and subsequently determine the full potential for generating solar power in a region and, afterwards, throughout the country, she added.

They proposed introducing a feed-in tariff system, where renewable energy generators, like

those with solar panels, receive a set price for each unit of electricity they produce and send to the grid.

The briefing highlighted coordination failures among the state-run Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (Sreda), Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), and various electricity distribution companies.

These institutions often operate independently, with limited communication, collaboration, or information sharing, delaying approvals and creating unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles.

To overcome this, the CPD recommended a unified institutional framework that would align efforts among the key actors involved in rooftop solar panel deployment.

It also stressed the need for institutional capacity building and training programmes for utility service officials, engineers and inspectors to expedite project approvals and inspections.

The CPD stressed that financing remains one of

the most critical barriers to scaling rooftop solar power generation.

Many banks are reluctant to provide loans to residential or small-scale commercial consumers due to a perceived lack of repayment guarantees and absence of property documentation.

To address this, the CPD called for a financing framework that includes concessional loans, interest subsidies and credit guarantee schemes.

The government and Bangladesh Bank should play a more proactive role in facilitating affordable green financing, it said.

The CPD urged the government to support local manufacturing of key components such as solar panels and inverters, which could be done through tax holidays, import duty waivers on raw materials, and export incentives.

The think tank recommended establishing a centralised database to track rooftop solar installations, monitor real-time performance, and assess environmental and economic impacts.

The CPD also emphasised the importance of multi-stakeholder

engagement, including collaborations among private sector developers, financial institutions, local governments and civil society.

During the briefing, Md Nasir Uddin, a member of the Bangladesh Sustainable and Renewable Energy Association, a platform of businesses and NGOs, delivered another presentation.

In it, he suggested going for public-private partnerships (PPP) for the rooftop solar panel installation process.

There is only one such PPP project in the country, generating 1 MW since March 2024. Working with West Zone Power Distribution Company, the roof owner has been saving around Tk 1.5 lakh a month, he said.

"We can expand this financing process to engage more of the private sector in this sector," he said.

"It will require the government or Bangladesh Bank to approve a special loan scheme for the National Rooftop Solar Programme with no more than 3 percent interest rate for a 15-year tenure," said Uddin.

Probe high rice prices

FROM PAGE B1

Headline inflation has been on a downward trajectory since December 2024, bringing it closer to the Bangladesh Bank's target of 7.8 percent by June 2025, as outlined in the current monetary policy.

Food inflation, too, has fallen for seven consecutive months, standing at 7.39 percent in June.

Yet rice, the nation's most essential staple, appears immune to the broader trend.

Yesterday, the price of coarse rice, the benchmark used to monitor rice prices, was up 4.55 percent from the previous month, trading at Tk 55.70 per kilogramme, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

"The yield of Boro paddy did not impact overall rice prices at all," the GED pointed out, suggesting that despite improved supply, retail prices remained high.

The economic update, citing a US Department of Agriculture report

Advertisement



Universal Menswear Ltd. Launches Rooftop Solar Power Project, Reinforcing Its Leadership in Sustainable Manufacturing

Dhaka, July 26, 2025—Universal Menswear Ltd. (UML), the largest formalwear manufacturing plant in South East Asia, has commissioned an 814 kWp rooftop solar power system at its facility in Adamjee EPZ, further solidifying its commitment to sustainability and clean energy.

Fully operational since July 5, the solar system is expected to generate approximately 950 MWh of clean energy annually and reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 637 tons per year. The project follows UML's achievement of LEED Gold Certification in August 2023.

"This project reflects our long-term vision to operate responsibly while maintaining excellence in manufacturing," said Mr. Sharif Zahir, Managing Director of UML.

Established in 2010, UML produces up to 350,000 men's suits each month and employs over 6,000 people. With an annual turnover of USD 100 million, it is widely regarded as the premier high-quality formalwear manufacturer in the region, proudly serving global brands such as Moss Bros, Marks & Spencer, H&M, Calvin Klein, Ben Sherman, Kenneth Cole and Zara. UML's solar initiative sets a bold example for private sector leadership in sustainability and innovation.