

# Nuzhat Anwar appointed MD of Dhaka bourse

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Nuzhat Anwar has been appointed as the managing director (MD) of Dhaka Stock Exchange PLC (DSE). Prior to her new appointment, Nuzhat worked at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, according to a press release.

Her positions included resident representative for Liberia and Sierra Leone, senior country officer for Bangladesh covering Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal, and acting cluster manager during the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent transition period.

She also served as an IFC country officer in Botswana and Namibia, where she played a key role in establishing IFC's presence in Gaborone and advancing a sustainable investment programme, including IFC's first investment in Botswana.

Nuzhat brings over two decades of experience in financial markets, banking and development finance. She has deep expertise in capital management, treasury and liquidity, transaction services, portfolio optimisation and market advocacy.



Nuzhat Anwar

# Robi aims to boost digital banking, financial inclusion

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Robi Axiata Limited is taking major steps to expand Bangladesh's digital financial ecosystem, said Ziad Shatara, the company's newly appointed CEO, yesterday.

Shatara said Robi plans to leverage its partnership with Malaysian digital bank 'Boost' to offer accessible, low-cost, and tailored banking solutions to underserved communities.

"Our goal is to simplify banking while reaching different segments of the population, offering products that are both affordable and widely accessible," he told The Daily Star on the sidelines of his first press meeting since becoming CEO in November.

Robi has applied for a digital bank licence in Bangladesh under the name 'Boost-ROBI', joining other major players like bKash and Banglalink in the competition for one of the limited central bank licences.

Shatara said the company aims to serve citizens outside the formal banking system and promote broader financial inclusion.

"Digital banking is not just about technology; it's about strengthening relationships with our customers. By combining our extensive customer base with Boost's digital banking expertise, we aim to transform the banking industry in



Ziad Shatara

Bangladesh," he added.

He also reaffirmed Robi's commitment to compliance and responsible business practices.

"We operate in a balanced environment and will continue to conduct business according to the country's laws and regulations. This is fundamental to our operations, and we are dedicated to serving citizens to the best of our ability," Shatara said.

Highlighting Robi's environmental, social, and governance (ESG) initiatives, he said citizen well-being remains a central focus of the company's operations.

On competition in the telecom sector, Shatara acknowledged challenges but stressed collaboration over litigation.

# Benapole port revenue slips on lower passenger traffic

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

Passenger movement through the Benapole International Checkpost dropped by a sharp 66 percent year-on-year in the four months to October, causing significant revenue losses for the government.

Some 605,818 people travelled through the checkpost between July and October of the previous fiscal year, which came down to just 202,969 in the same period this fiscal year.

In the first four months of fiscal year 2024-25, some 358,952 people travelled to India from Bangladesh, while 296,866

came from India.

These figures fell to 114,734 and 88,235 respectively in the same period this fiscal year.

This decline has affected both countries, port officials said.

Due to reduced passenger movement, the Indian government lost around Tk 4.2 crore in visa fees, while Bangladesh missed the opportunity to earn around Tk 3.2 crore in travel tax revenue, they said.

Officials said that every year, around 28 lakh people travel between Bangladesh and India via Benapole for tourism, medical treatment, business, and higher education.

# Bilateral trade curbs

FROM PAGE B1

amid a series of retaliatory trade actions that disrupted long established supply routes.

## RESTRICTIONS AND RETALIATION

Exporters trace much of the slowdown to disruptions that began in April, when India revoked the transshipment facility for Bangladesh's export cargo to third countries, except Nepal and Bhutan, transiting through its territory.

Shortly after, Bangladesh halted the import of Indian yarn through land ports heeding to long-term calls from textile millers. Just weeks later, India also suspended the import of Bangladeshi goods via land routes, forcing exporters to reroute shipments through seaports.

Humayun Rashid, chairman of Energypac Fashions Ltd, said the changes significantly raised logistics costs.

His company exports about \$80 million worth of suits annually, including around \$6 million to India. This year, the firm's exports to the Indian market declined as buyers were compelled to shift shipments from land ports to the Chattogram seaport.

To offset the additional transport costs, the company reduced per-unit prices for Indian importers, squeezing margins.

"It is expected that after the general election, the bilateral trade relations with India will improve and the export will grow again," he said.

"India is a very promising market for Bangladesh, especially for the garment items because of the strong middle-income consumer

base and presence of multinational retailing companies in Indian markets," he added.

He also pointed to China and Asean (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries as other potential growth markets due to their large consumer bases.

Syed M Tanvir, managing director of Pacific Jeans, one of the largest denim exporters, also described a similar situation with exports from his factories to India declining this year.

BGMEA senior vice-president Inamul Haq Khan noted that exports to India had reached close to \$2 billion a few years ago, largely driven by garment shipments.

The recent suspension of border trade, he said, has disrupted that trajectory and weighed on bilateral commerce.

The local primary textile millers have long been complaining that the \$25 billion invested in spinning, dyeing, weaving, finishing and washing sectors is in trouble because of the invasion of cheap Indian yarn in Bangladesh.

Md Abdul Wahed, joint secretary general of the India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said Bangladesh's exports have faced headwinds in multiple markets due to both domestic and global challenges.

However, he said, "The decline in shipments to India was largely driven by specific terms and conditions imposed by both countries."

Like others in the trade community, he expressed hope that exports would rebound once bilateral relations stabilise under a new government.

# Panel formed to review draft

FROM PAGE B1

published the draft on its website and sought opinions from stakeholders within seven days.

Later, to finalise the draft, Nazma Mobarek chaired a meeting yesterday with representatives from the law ministry, Finance Division, Bangladesh Bank, National Board of Revenue, Microcredit Regulatory Authority, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, and other relevant government

and non-government institutions.

According to the draft, the proposed bank will operate as a social institution.

Dividend payments to investors will not exceed the amount they invest, indicating that profit will not be the main objective.

The bank is expected to have an authorised capital of Tk 300 crore.

This is the maximum sum a company may raise by issuing shares.

The initial paid-up

capital, which refers to money received from shareholders for shares issued, will be Tk 100 crore.

Borrower-shareholders will provide at least 60 percent of this amount, with the rest coming from other shareholders.

Both individuals and institutions will be able to become shareholders if they meet the conditions.

The authorised capital will be divided into three crore ordinary shares with a face value of Tk 100 each, according to the draft.

# Half of Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE B1

In India, more than 70 percent of the population is connected to the internet, while in Pakistan the figure exceeds 60 percent.

"This is extremely disappointing for Bangladesh," he said, adding that the primary reason behind the low internet usage is the high cost of data. "Internet prices in Bangladesh are significantly higher than

in many other countries, largely because of the heavy tax burden."

"Out of every Tk 100 spent on mobile data, around Tk 50 goes to the government," Mashroor said. "There is a 20 percent supplementary duty, along with VAT, revenue sharing, and spectrum-related costs. In total, more than half of the data price is absorbed by taxes and fees."

He said high prices

have made internet access unaffordable for large segments of the population. "Because data is so expensive, marginalised and low-income people are simply unable to use the internet, which keeps overall usage low."

"Internet usage will not improve significantly unless smartphone penetration increases and data prices come down," he added.

# Court stays SMP

FROM PAGE B1

Tanveer Mohammad, chief corporate affairs officer of Grameenphone, said the company had sent four letters to the regulator this year seeking a review of the SMP status. Without any response from the BTRC, it filed the writ.

"The Honourable High Court Division has stayed the operation of the SMP directives. We trust that all concerned parties will duly comply with the order," he told The Daily Star.

The regulator, however, signalled a legal response. Major General (Retd) Md Emdad ul Bari, chairman of the commission, said it would challenge the HC order.

Despite the SMP restrictions, Grameenphone continues to dominate the telecom market in profit, revenue and subscriber numbers.

As of October 2025, the operator held 45.56 percent of the mobile market, according to BTRC data. Robi Axiata followed with

30.69 percent, Banglalink with 20.17 percent and state-owned Teletalk with 3.58 percent.

Smaller operators have long complained that Grameenphone's market dominance keeps growing, arguing that the regulator has failed to enforce other provisions of the SMP rules.

"Grameenphone has engaged in a range of anti-competitive practices that undermine fair market competition and seek to create monopolistic dominance," said Shahed Alam, chief corporate and regulatory officer at Robi Axiata.

"As a responsible telecommunications operator, we remain fully committed to upholding a level playing field and ensuring strict compliance with all applicable laws and regulatory frameworks. In this regard, we are taking appropriate legal actions to protect and promote fair competition within the market," he told The Daily Star.

**Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)**  
BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100

**Invitation for International Tender**

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/ Energy and Mineral Resources Division		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)		
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)		
4	Procuring entity code	Not applicable		
5	Procuring entity district	Chattogram		
6	Invitation for	Tender for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Services and Marine Services for the BPC Installation "Single Point Mooring (SPM) with Double Pipeline System, Bangladesh".		
7	Invitation Ref No.	BPC SPM O&M 02/2025		
8	Date	19-11-2025		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement method	One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM)		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of funds	BPC own fund		
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project / programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable		
13	Project / programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable		
14	Tender Package No.	BPC SPM O&M 02/2025		
15	Tender package name	Tender for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Services and Marine Services for the BPC Installation "Single Point Mooring (SPM) with Double Pipeline System, Bangladesh".		
		Date		
16	Tender publication date	19-12-2025		
17	Tender last selling date	29-01-2026		
		Date	Time	
18	Tender closing date and time	01-02-2026		12:00pm
19	Tender opening date and time (within one hour of tender closing at primary place)	01-02-2026		12:15pm
20 Name & address of the office(s)				
- Selling tender document (principal)		Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh (Cash Section)		
- Downloading tender document (This is optional. If permitted by the Procuring Entity; mention the web address where the electronic version of TD will be available. Specify the detail procedures for payment of the cost of TD by the Tenderers)		The Tender Document (PW7A, Annexure 1, Annexure 2) will be sold as both hard copy & electronic copy subject to signing by the prospective bidder a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with BPC. Annexure 3 (Drawings & Specifications) shall be available only in an Electronic Data Room. The link and the password to the Electronic Data Room will be provided to the prospective bidder once the Tender Document is purchased.		
- Receiving tender document		Office of General Manager (Planning & Development), Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh		
- Opening tender document		Board Room, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh		
21	Place / date / time of	Place	Date	Time
	Pre-tender meeting (optional)	Board Room, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh	06-01-2026	11:00am
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22	Eligibility of tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The minimum number of years of general experience in Operation and Maintenance shall be: <b>7 (Seven) years</b> (years counting backward from the date of publication of Invitation for Tender in the newspaper and BPC's website).</li><li>The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor of at least 1 (One) contract of O&amp;M Services and Marine Services (as described in Annex 2) successfully completed within the last <b>7 (Seven) years</b> (years counting backward from the date of publication of Invitation for Tender in the newspaper and BPC's website) or ongoing contracts of which at least <b>3 years</b> have been completed, each with a value of at least <b>US Dollar 75 (Seventy-Five)</b> million.</li><li>The required average annual turnover shall be minimum <b>USD 35 (Thirty-Five) million</b> over the last <b>3 (Three) years</b>.</li><li>The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderers shall be <b>USD 14 (Fourteen) million</b> from an international bank of repute or scheduled bank in Bangladesh.</li><li>Maximum number of partners in the Joint Venture shall be <b>2 (Two)</b>.</li><li>Other required eligibility criteria and conditions are stated in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of the Tender Document.</li></ul>		
23	Brief description of works	Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Services and Marine Services for the BPC Installation – "Single Point Mooring (SPM) with Double Pipeline System complete with all its Auxiliaries and Ancillaries in both On-shore and Off-shore parts as defined and detailed in Annex 2".		
24	Brief description of physical services			
25	Price of tender document	BDT 35,000 (BDT Thirty-Five thousand only) will be given by Pay Order/Cash in favor of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation. The original money receipt of purchasing tender document must be submitted with the technical offer.		
26	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount
	1	BPC SPM O&M 02/2025	Kutubdia-Maheshkhali (Cox's Bazar district) & Anowara-North Patenga (Chattogram district), Bangladesh	USD 1 (One) million
Completion time in weeks/months				
				64 (Sixty-four) months
EMPLOYER DETAILS				
27	Name of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)		
28	Designation of official inviting tender	General Manager (Planning & Development)		
29	Address of official inviting tender	BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh		
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: +8801755-587626, Fax: +8802-320645 email: <a href="mailto:bpcplanning@gmail.com">bpcplanning@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:gm_planning@bpc.gov.bd">gm_planning@bpc.gov.bd</a>		
31	<p>(a) This Tender Notice will also be available at 1) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), website: <a href="http://www.bpc.gov.bd">www.bpc.gov.bd</a> and 2) BPPA website: <a href="https://bppa.gov.bd">https://bppa.gov.bd</a>.</p> <p>(b) If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue.</p> <p>(c) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.</p>			

GD-2785

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Cox's Bazar  
Phone: 02334462460  
E-mail: [eecox@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eecox@rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 35.01.2224.132.25/2083 Date: 17/12/2025

**RHD Invitation for e-GP Tenders**

This is to notify for all concerns that e-Tenders is invited and published on 17 December, 2025 in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works for the following Tenders. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

Sl.	Tender ID	Tender Reference No.	Name of work	Date & time
01.	1191226	E-GP/PMPMAJOR/06/ROAD/EECOXRD/2025-2026	Surfacing Work by DBS Wearing Course at Ch: 00+800 km to Ch: 16+000 km of Khuruskul-Chowfaldandi-Eidgaon Zila Road (Z-1132) under Cox's Bazar Road Division during the year 2025-2026.	Last selling: 13.01.2026, 16:00 Closing: 14.01.2026, 12:30

**Md Rafiq Bin Manjur**  
Assistant Engineer (A.C.), RHD  
Road Division, Cox's Bazar

**Rokan Uddin Khaled Chowdhury**  
ID No. 602345  
Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD  
Road Division, Cox's Bazar

GD-2777