

Nuzhat Anwar appointed MD of Dhaka bourse

STAR BUSINESS DESK



Nuzhat Anwar

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.

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

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 Bangalink 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

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.

Panel formed to review draft

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

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.

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.

He said high prices

Later, to finalise the draft, Nazma Mobarok 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

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."

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

"The Honorable 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 45.6 percent of the mobile market, according to BTRC data. Robi Axiata followed with

Robi aims to boost digital banking, financial inclusion



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.

Bilateral trade curbs

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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 heading 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

Half of Bangladeshis

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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.

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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)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and source of funds	BPC own fund
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11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project / programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable
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13	Project / programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable
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14	Tender Package No.	BPC SPM O&M 02/2025
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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".
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Date

16	Tender publication date	19-12-2025
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17	Tender last selling date	29-01-2026
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Date

Time

18	Tender closing date and time	01-02-2026	12:00pm
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19	Tender opening date and time (within one hour of tender closing at primary place)	01-02-2026	12:15pm
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20	Name & address of the office(s)

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