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NBR officials call off shutdown as govt softens stance

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Officials of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) called off their planned shutdown yesterday evening, following a government pledge to transform the board into a "specialised and autonomous agency" rather than dissolving it.

The officials, protesting under the banner of the "NBR Reform Unity Council", had earlier threatened a complete suspension of operations from today unless their four-point demand was met.

In a statement yesterday evening, they welcomed the government's latest commitment, which came after more than a week of demonstrations that paralysed revenue activities across the country.

With the withdrawal of the shutdown, now revenue officials will return to work. In the media statement, the officials mentioned that they would do work outside the scheduled office hours to clear the pending activities accumulated during their demonstration since May 14.

Faced with mounting pressure, the finance ministry yesterday announced that the government would move to establish a specialised

NBR strike: latest developments

NBR officials withdraw complete shutdown programme	But they will continue non-cooperation with NBR chairman	Finance ministry to make NBR a specialised and separate agency
Revenue ordinance to be amended by July 31, 2025	Ordinance won't be enforced until amendments are finalised	Reform plan to be shaped through talks with NBR, advisory body, and stakeholders

STRIKE DISRUPTED



Import activities



Tax-related work



Revenue collection

revenue agency while protecting the interests of officials from the customs, excise, and taxation departments.

The move marks a further shift in the government's stance, coming just days after the ministry first indicated willingness to amend the Revenue Policy and Revenue Management Ordinance.

The protesters, who began their demonstrations on May 14, have been arguing that the ordinance enacted on May 12 would effectively dissolve the NBR and compromise their job security.

Their dissatisfaction had already led to major service disruptions, including customs clearance delays

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