

Stocks rebound after six-day slump

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

dialogue and grievance mechanisms can foster harmonious worker-employer relations, contributing to stable industrial relations that benefit both the economy and worker well-being.

Better Work is a flagship programme of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

It collaborates with governments, employers, workers, and global brands to improve working conditions and competitiveness in the garment industry.

The programme was launched in Bangladesh in 2015.

Currently, around 490 factories are enrolled, impacting approximately 1.3 million workers – 51 percent of whom are women, said Syed Fazle Niaz, team leader of the BWB programme.

Nasrin Akter, a senior operator and president of the Babylon Garments Workers Union, said workers bring their demands to the union, which then negotiates with management.

The factory management announced

A 10-day Eid holiday for Eid-ul-Azha on May 12 in line with workers' demands – two weeks before the apparel apex body, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, advised its members to announce a maximum of 10 days for Eid holidays, she said.

Better Work Bangladesh is a flagship programme of the International Labour Organization and the International Finance Corporation

Rubaet also said they were committed to a fair workplace, supported by a strong governance system that promotes open workplace dialogue.

This system empowers their registered trade union, fostering growth and ownership, he said.

“Over time, it has become a vital bridge between our associates (workers) and leadership (management). When

associates see their ideas – often shared through the trade union – valued and turned into positive change, it builds a real sense of collective ownership.

“Our trade union’s impact, especially in tough situations, reflects this empowerment and our belief: when a team takes ownership of its problems, the problem gets solved.”

Through BWB’s capacity development programmes, their trade union leaders have developed stronger critical thinking, positive debating, and active listening skills, he added.

This has significantly boosted their ability to clearly represent workers’ voices, thereby improving communication across all levels at their company.

The BWB programme team leader Niaz said trade unions serve as a vital communication channel through which workers can express their grievances and concerns to employers in a democratic manner.

Thus, trade unions contribute to business sustainability, he added.

Indices of the Dhaka Stock Exchange gained yesterday, recovering from six consecutive days of losses.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the premier bourse, went up 22.51 points, or 0.48 percent, to close at 4,637.92.

The Shariah-compliant DSES index gained 0.31 percent to end at 1,011.35, while the DS30, which tracks blue-chip stocks, inched up 1.24 percent to 1,729.63. Turnover, a key indicator of market activity, declined 6 percent to Tk 247.42 crore compared to the previous session.

A total of 102,204 trades were executed during the session, with block transactions accounting for Tk 18.69 crore across 22 scrips. Market breadth was positive, with 222 issues advancing, 99 declining, and 77 remaining unchanged.

Among A category shares, 130 advanced, 53 declined, and 35 remained unchanged. In the B category, 47 scrips gained while 18 declined. The N category saw no trading activity.

Other segments mirrored the upward trend, with more advances than declines observed in mutual funds and corporate bonds.

Government securities, however, posted a contrasting performance, with one issue advancing and two declining.

Duty-free threshold

patients.

"Cancer treatment is both long term and extremely expensive. The government should pay closer attention to biologic raw materials, which are now at the core of cancer therapies," he said.

"Present treatments rely heavily on biological drugs, including monoclonal antibodies and immunotherapies," he added. "These are cutting-edge but costly medicines. If the government extends tax exemptions to these drugs, it will greatly help patients access the latest treatments."

Muhammad Halimuzzaman, treasurer of the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries, also welcomed the government's decision to include cancer drugs, general medicines, and chronic care treatments in the updated essential drug list.

"These additions will significantly reduce treatment costs as many of these drugs are now exempt from high taxes," he said.

"Patients with long-term conditions like cancer, kidney, and vascular diseases, who require regular medication, will benefit the most," said Halimuzzaman.

"As new molecules enter the list, accessibility expands, benefiting both patients and companies," he added, describing the initiative as a clear step in the public interest.

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For accounts with deposits exceeding Tk 5 lakh but not more than Tk 10 lakh, an excise duty of Tk 500 is charged annually.

If it ranges from Tk 10 lakh to Tk 50 lakh, the duty increases to Tk 3,000. For deposits from Tk 50 lakh to Tk 1 crore, the duty is Tk 5,000.

For deposits over Tk 1 crore but below Tk 2 crore, the excise duty stands at Tk 10,000. This rises to Tk 20,000 for accounts holding between Tk 2 crore and Tk 5 crore.

For deposits exceeding Tk 5 crore, the highest slab applies, with an annual excise duty of Tk 50,000.

Surcharge provisions for assets may be revised

Additionally, the government plans to revise the existing surcharge provisions for assets by linking them to actual tax liabilities rather than inflated or advance-assessed amounts to ensure tax justice and transparency.

Currently, any taxpayer with assets exceeding Tk 4 crore is required to pay a surcharge ranging from 10 percent to 35 percent, which is levied on top of basic income tax.

However, the present structure has drawn criticism for penalising individuals based on artificially inflated tax bases—particularly due to the advance income tax (AIT) mechanism at the import stage.

At present, importers are subject to AIT during the clearance of goods. If the deducted AIT ultimately exceeds the taxpayer's actual liability calculated at the year's end, the surcharge is imposed on the higher, pre-adjusted figure.

The proposed amendment primarily targets high income taxpayers.

“The objective of this move is to encourage taxpayers to disclose their actual wealth more transparently in their tax returns,” said another finance ministry official, preferring anonymity.

The government intends to halve the advance income tax on internet services from 10 percent to 5 percent.

Another proposal under consideration is raising the tax-free prerequisite limit, which covers benefits such as house rent, medical allowance, transport allowance, dearness allowance, and housing facilities.

“We are planning to increase the tax-free income threshold for individual taxpayers from Tk 450,000 to Tk 500,000,” finance ministry officials also said.

Budget

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the Press Information Department of the Bangladesh government.

Normally, the finance minister places the budget in a parliamentary session at 2:00pm on the first Thursday of June. This year, the date was changed due to a long Eid-ul-Azha vacation.

The national budget for fiscal year 2025-26 is set at Tk 790,000 crore—Tk 7,000 crore lower than the original outlay for the current year—marking the first time in recent memory that the overall budget will shrink.

The development budget is expected to be slashed by Tk 35,000 crore to Tk 230,000 crore, while the non-development or operating budget will rise to Tk 560,000 crore, an increase of Tk 28,000 crore.

69% overwhelmed

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the ground reality: Meals skipped amid soaring costs

The effects of declines in real incomes were also apparent during the survey, which found that 60 percent of respondents were skipping breakfast to save money and time in the morning.

About 17 percent of respondents reported skipping lunch, often because of limited financial resources to purchase nutritious meals during the day.

Similarly, 17 percent skipped afternoon snacks, which are seen as less essential, especially when incomes are stretched thin.

At a tea stall in Kazir Dewri in the port city of Chattogram, rickshaw puller Anwar Hossain explained how he navigates rising costs. A basic meal at a restaurant now costs at least Tk 150 to Tk 60.

"If I want fish or chicken, it's Tk 120 to Tk 150. So, I skip one meal and have tea with bread or biscuits instead," he told The Daily Star, dunking a piece of bread into a steaming cup.

"I used to buy a bun for Tk 5 just a few years ago. Now it's Tk 10 to Tk 12 and it's smaller, too. Before, one bun was enough to fill me up. Now, even two leave me hungry," he added.

He points out that tea, too, has become pricier. What once cost Tk 5 to Tk 7 now sells for Tk 10 to Tk 15.

Rahmat Mia, a security guard at a house in the capital's Mirpur, said he could cover breakfast with just Tk 10 to Tk 12 two to three years ago.

But now that daily expense has risen to more than Tk 20. And it's not enough to sate his hunger, he lamented.

Kayes Ali, a rickshaw puller in Rangpur district, echoed Anwar and Rahmat's sentiments, reflecting the struggles faced by many low-income people across the country.

Increase subsidies and assistance, expert says

According to the survey, about 200 respondents advocated an increase in subsidies and assistance in the upcoming budget to alleviate the burden on struggling households.

This would ease the financial burden on low-income groups, ensuring that basic nutrition remains accessible.

There was also a call for greater taxation on the wealthy, with 193 respondents supporting measures to ensure a fairer distribution of resources.

KM Enrul Hasan, head of research at the Youth Policy Network, told The Daily Star this survey was conducted to gauge what low-income people expect from the upcoming budget.

He added that VAT on essential items consumed by low-income groups should be reduced in some cases and completely withdrawn in others.

He further said the focus should shift from imposing VAT on essential items to targeting luxury goods, promoting a more equitable and fair economic system for all.

Bank Asia

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and acquisitions of banks, the acquiring bank must retain all employees of the acquired organisation for a minimum period of three years.

Bank Asia is poised to comply with that stipulation, according to the bank's officials.

The sale process began in April last year, the officials added. They also said legal formalities for the actual transfer of assets and liabilities from one bank to the other are pending, while core banking system migration must also be aligned.

The audit and valuation of Bank Alfalah's Bangladesh operations are being conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Bangladesh, a UK-based multinational tax, audit, and consulting firm.

Bank Asia began its journey

industry's importance in both public health and economic development.

"The inclusion is a sign that the government is aware of the sector's strategic importance, not just as a health safeguard but also as a driver of export growth," he told *The Daily Star*.

Alam added that some life-saving drugs, including cancer and respiratory medicines, still face high input duties, which affect affordability.

"Such a move would not only ease the cost burden on manufacturers but also make vital medicines more accessible to the public," he said.

Monjurul Alam, CEO of Beacon Medicare Limited, called the initiative a vital step forward in improving cancer care and easing the burden on

Government
Office

Memo No. 35.01.0918.404.34

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e-Tender is invited in t

Tender ID No
Name of Tender

Name of Tender
Tender Last Selling Date and Time
Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time

This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline /hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-tender, please register on e-GP system. (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details please contact e-gp help desk. (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

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GD-1321

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of The Divisional Forest Officer
Coastal Forest Division, Patuakhali
<https://forest.patuakhali.gov.bd>

Memo. No. 22.01.7800.535.01.001.2025.1450

Date: 29/05/2025

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2	Agency	Bangladesh Forest Department
3	Procuring Entity Name	Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Patuakhali
4	Procuring Entity Code	1450203124537
5	Procuring Entity District	Patuakhali
6	Invitation for	Supply of Manpower through Outsourcing
7	Invitation Ref Number	31/Revenue (Outsourcing) of 2024-2025
8	Date	29/05/2025
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS); National Competitive Tender (NCT)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	GoB
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
11	Tender Package No	Single
12	Tender Package Name	Supply of Manpower through Outsourcing
13	Tender Publication Date	29/05/2025
14	Tender Last Selling Date	22/06/2025 up to 5:00 PM
15	Tender Dropping & Closing Date and Time	23/06/2025, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	23/06/2025, 3:00 PM
17	Name & Address of the office (s)	
	- Selling Tender Document	Sadar Range Office, Patuakhali, Coastal Forest Division, Patuakhali
NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS		
	- Receiving Tender Document	i) Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Patuakhali
	- Opening Tender Document	ii) Office of the Conservator of Forests, Coastal Circle, Kashipur, Barishal
		Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Patuakhali
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
18	Eligibility of Tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenderers will be the firms having minimum 03 (three) years general experience of manpower supply through outsourcing Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contract under the Applicable Law Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organizations registered in Bangladesh Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay Taxes & VAT under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh Others Eligibility are mentioned in Tender Data Sheet
19	Brief Description of Services	Supply of Manpower for Coastal Forest Division, Patuakhali by a Firm through Outsourcing for the position of : Boatman-65 Nos, Mali-09 Nos, Deck Kesob-01 No., Greaser/Fire Greaser-02 Nos, Laskar/Khalashi-01 No (Total 78 Nos). All are under Category 5.
20	Price of Tender Document	Tk. 1,000.00 (One Thousand) Only. (Non Refundable)
21	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 15%;">Package No</div> <div style="width: 25%;">Identification of Package</div> <div style="width: 25%;">Location</div> <div style="width: 25%;">Tender Security Amount</div> <div style="width: 10%;">Completion Time</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div>Single</div> <div>Outsourcing Manpower</div> <div>Coastal Forest Division, Patuakhali.</div> <div>Tk. 5,50,000.00 (Taka Five Lakh Fifty Thousand) Only.</div> <div>30 June, 2026</div> </div>	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
22	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Shofiqul Islam
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Divisional Forest Officer
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Coastal Forest Division, Patuakhali.
25	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Ph.8802478835185 Cell-01999001541 E-mail: dfopatukhali@gmail.com
26	Work Order is subject to be issued upon approval from authority	
27	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the tender proceedings	

Md. Shofiqul Islam
 Divisional Forest Officer
 Coastal Forest Division, Patuakhali
 Phone : 8802478835185
 E-mail :dfopatukhali@gmail.com

GD-1324