

Govt to amend consumer rights act

Commerce adviser says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Necessary steps will be taken to amend the Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009 and strengthen administrative capacity, said Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin.

Once institutions are built and capacity is developed, wrongdoers will inevitably be held accountable, he said.

The adviser made the remarks at a programme titled “Strengthening Consumer Rights,” organised by the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) and the Directorate of National Consumers’ Rights Protection (DNCRP) in the capital yesterday.

“We all know that fascist Sheikh Hasina has destroyed many institutions, various forms of market syndication have taken place, and consumer rights have been severely harmed. Now it is our time to rebuild our institutions,” he added.

He also mentioned that a “good syndication” is now needed to counteract existing market syndicates and protect consumer rights.

“So, a syndication of consumers needs to be formed, which will deter injustice and the culture of weakening institutions,” he said.

42% of disaster-hit households forced to use up savings: study

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Nearly 42 percent of households affected by disasters across several districts in Bangladesh were compelled to use up their personal savings to cope with the impact of floods, cyclones, drought, and river erosion, according to a new study.

The findings were revealed yesterday in Dhaka at the launch of the “Bangladesh Poverty Watch Report 2024”, prepared jointly by the Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM) and the Centre for Inclusive Development Dialogue (CIDD).

The report reviews how climate change on a global scale is affecting Bangladesh, highlighting variations in climate vulnerability across the country. It focuses in particular on the link between poverty and climate change in regions most at risk.

Researchers studied seven vulnerable districts – Chuadanga, Naogaon, Bhola, Sunamganj, Kurigram, Satkhira, and Bagerhat.

In each district, 40 households were picked for the study, covering a range

of geographical and socio-economic contexts.

The study also found that only 7.9 percent of households received help from relatives, while fewer than 1 percent secured support from government or private institutions.

Many families turned to informal loans and microfinance, especially in Satkhira and Bhola, where microfinance organisations are more active.

Chuadanga reported the highest reliance on savings, with 57.5 percent of households dipping into their funds. This was followed by Naogaon, Satkhira, and Kurigram.

In contrast, only 27.5 percent of households in Bagerhat could afford to depend on savings, pointing to greater vulnerability in coastal areas that frequently suffer climate shocks.

The study also examined household income trends before, during, and after disasters.

It found that incomes fell sharply during the month a disaster struck, regardless of the type of event.

Cyclones caused the most severe immediate impact, slashing household

income by nearly 35 percent – from an average of Tk 16,971 to Tk 10,945.

Yet recovery was swift, with income rising to Tk 18,293 after the disaster, almost returning to pre-cyclone levels.

While presenting the findings, Farhana Nargis, research fellow at InM, said tackling poverty and climate change could not be done separately.

“The two can much more easily be achieved if they are addressed together in Bangladesh,” she said.

Bangladesh, she added, has a real chance to cut climate-driven poverty through inclusive, climate-smart development.

She called for urgent investment in areas such as urban transport, energy, and forest protection to avoid long-term carbon lock-in.

Among others who spoke at the event were Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, chairman of InM; Mustafa K Mujeri, executive director of InM; and A K Enamul Haque, director general of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

Stocks rebound

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Indices on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) closed higher yesterday, rebounding from the losses of the previous session.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the premier bourse, gained 37.13 points, or 0.78 percent, to close at 4,776.82.

The Shariah-compliant DSES index went up 0.85 percent to 1,042.64, while the DS30, which represents blue-chip stocks, gained 0.97 percent to 1,787.44.

Turnover, a key indicator of market activity, hit Tk 327.83 crore yesterday, up from Tk 313.62 crore in the previous session.

A total of 111,400 trades were executed during the session, with block transactions amounting to Tk 38.36 crore across 27 scrips.

Market breadth remained negative, with 202 issues advancing, 112 declining, and 82 remaining unchanged.

Among A-category shares, 132 advanced, 41 declined, and 43 remained unchanged. In the B category, 38 scrips gained and 30 declined, while there was no trading activity in N-category shares.

Performance across other segments was mixed. In mutual funds, 7 issues advanced and 10 declined. In corporate bonds, one issue gained and one declined.

Government securities saw two issues advance and one decline.

Central Insurance Company posted the highest gain of the day, surging 10 percent, while First Finance was the worst performer, shedding 5 percent.

Allocation for poverty reduction

FROM PAGE B1

According to the ministry, 98 percent of the food ministry’s allocation is considered poverty-reducing, with 94.5 percent directly contributing to poverty reduction.

Similarly, 94 percent of the Bridges Division’s budget and 90 percent of that of the Statistics and Informatics Division are directed toward poverty alleviation.

Over 80 percent of the allocations for the ministries of disaster management, railways, primary and mass education, agriculture, and road transport also contribute to reducing poverty.

Analysts said some expenditures impact poverty, while some are targeted expenditures for poverty alleviation. From this perspective, spending on sectors such as health and education helps cut poverty.

But targeted expenditure for measures such as subsidised food distribution under social protection schemes and job creation for the poor impacts poverty directly.

Selim Jahan, former director of the UNDP’s Human Development Report Office, said poverty-reducing expenditure has consistently declined as a share of GDP – always under one-tenth and now below 0.8 percent.

He noted that two-thirds of it were operating costs, and only one-third was for development.

Fahmida Khatun,

executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), raised a similar concern, pointing out that the ADP’s share of GDP has fallen in the revised FY25 budget.

“This is worrying, because the poor are struggling to survive due to prolonged high inflation and lack of employment opportunities,” she said.

“The government needs to enhance its allocation for the poor, particularly through allocations which are direct and have an immediate impact,” she said.

Currently, 18.7 percent of Bangladesh’s population lives in poverty, with 5.6 percent in extreme poverty. This could worsen due to inflation, political uncertainty, weak investment, and low industrial growth.

The World Bank’s Poverty and Equity Briefs for April warned that extreme poverty might rise to 9.3 percent, adding 30 lakh more to the poor.

“Inequality is also expected to widen, with the Gini index increasing by one point, potentially affecting the nation’s ability to achieve middle-income status by 2026,” the WB noted.

Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem), said two aspects must be reviewed for budgetary spending to truly reduce poverty – investment and social protection.

“Investment is essential

for job creation, improved earnings, and sustainable income growth – key elements in lifting people out of poverty,” he said.

“In Bangladesh, concerns are growing over sluggish investment trends and limited employment opportunities, which undermine the potential of the budget to drive inclusive growth,” he added.

Raihan, a professor of economics at the University of Dhaka, also stressed improving social protection. “While social safety nets are included under poverty-related spending, Bangladesh continues to face serious issues such as insufficient funding, poor targeting, leakages, and corruption,” he said.

“These problems hinder the ability of social protection initiatives to reach and support the poor meaningfully,” he said.

All three economists questioned the finance ministry’s poverty-reducing expenditure data.

Raihan said the numbers lack credibility without a clear methodology. Simply labelling budget parts as “poverty-reducing” doesn’t ensure impact.

Jahan agreed. “Poverty-reducing expenditure is misleading,” he said.

He distinguished between poverty-reducing and direct poverty expenditures – the latter being targeted.

“Poverty-reducing expenditure is an umbrella term. It implicitly assumes

that expenditures under this head would directly or indirectly impact poverty reduction, which may be true or not true,” he said.

“Therefore, poverty-reducing expenditures in reality may have insignificant effects on poverty reduction,” he added.

Jahan said what matters is the money spent directly on poverty reduction. In FY26, Tk 3,707 crore will be given under 39 social safety net programmes, which would directly impact poverty.

“There is little attention to link direct poverty reduction programmes to employment generation, which may serve the dual purpose of poverty reduction and job creation,” he said.

Fahmida added that the finance ministry’s figures lacked clarity.

“Expenditures of some ministries, such as the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief or the Ministry of Food, are well understood,” she said.

“But for most other ministries, it is difficult to decipher any message from the figures and any attempt to do so could be misleading,” she added.

“For example, roads, bridges, health services etc are used by both poor and non-poor. How the allocation is divided between the poor and non-poor, how this is categorised as poverty-reducing expenditure, and how they are actually spent should be transparent,” she explained.

Most listed firms saw profits fall

FROM PAGE B1

“This year, overall business was weak due to slower sales growth and higher costs,” said Md Kyser Hamid, an executive member of the Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies (BAPLC).

Manufacturers who deferred letters of credit (LC) payments were hit hard by the sharp depreciation of the local currency, while finance costs rose as bank interest rates climbed, he added.

Among individual firms, Grameenphone recorded the highest profit in the quarter at Tk 633 crore, followed by Square Pharmaceuticals at Tk 605

crore and United Power at Tk 417 crore.

However, Grameenphone’s profit fell by more than half as lower data prices, weaker consumer spending, and ongoing macroeconomic pressures took their toll.

Top profit-makers such as British American Tobacco (BAT) and Walton Hi-Tech Industries also saw earnings decline.

BAT was hit by lower sales, while Walton’s profits fell due to higher costs, including rising finance charges.

During the January-March period, some banks performed better, benefiting from higher yields on

government bonds.

BRAC Bank, Jamuna Bank, Pubali Bank, and Eastern Bank PLC all reported solid profit growth during the quarter.

Many banks, however, fared poorly. First Security Islami Bank reported the largest loss, at Tk 575 crore, followed by IFIC Bank at Tk 499 crore and AB Bank at Tk 255 crore.

The banking sector underwent a major shake-up since the political changeover on August 5 last year.

Politically influenced bank boards were dissolved and restructured, and tighter central bank

oversight exposed the poor state of many commercial lenders. Large volumes of bad loans, previously hidden, came to light.

“Many banks had to reclassify regular loans as non-performing,” said Hamid, who is also managing director and chief executive of Bangladesh Finance.

“This hurt profits in two ways. These loans stopped generating interest income, and the banks had to set aside provisions for the bad loans,” he said.

Hamid added that high deposit costs also put pressure on the bottom line of banks.

Iran-Israel conflict may hit fuel supply

FROM PAGE B1

Crude from Abu Dhabi could be diverted through Fujairah Port, avoiding Hormuz, but officials said this would push up freight costs.

Large vessels of around 200,000 tonnes usually operate through Fujairah. Bangladesh mainly uses smaller ships of 120,000 tonnes, which face difficulties loading there. Chartering larger vessels would further drive up costs.

During the fiscal year 2023-24, Bangladesh imported 67 lakh tonnes of fuel, including 15 lakh tonnes of crude from Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi and 52 lakh tonnes of refined oil from other Asian nations, according to BPC data.

Crude oil is shipped from Saudi Arabia’s Ras Tanura Port and the UAE’s Jebel Dhanna and Fujairah Ports. LNG comes from Qatar’s Ras Laffan Port.

“All fuel products used in Bangladesh are imported from the Middle East,” said Abdul Mannan Patwary, director for planning at

Petrobangla. “If the Iran-Israel conflict intensifies, it will definitely have negative impacts. Our fuel import costs will increase.”

Speaking on condition of anonymity, former senior BPC officials said global fuel prices have already started climbing, even though the conflict has not escalated into full-scale war.

On June 13, Israeli missiles struck Iran’s Tehran refinery, one of the largest in the world with a daily capacity of 225,000 barrels. The attack sent global oil prices soaring by nearly nine percent.

BPC, which had cleared its dues with foreign suppliers thanks to stable prices earlier this year, now faces fresh pressure as costs rise.

BPC officials said fuel is imported in line with national demand, and several letters of credit (LCs) have been opened for July shipments.

Every month, crude oil arrives through the Strait of Hormuz.

“We are in constant

communication with our fuel suppliers. Our main concern is keeping supplies flowing rather than the price hike,” said AKM Azadur Rahman, BPC’s director for commercial and operations.

“If ship movements through Hormuz stop, we will not be able to import fuel, even at higher costs,” he added.

Diesel prices stood at 78.90 dollars a barrel on June 9, according to London-based firm Platts. After the missile strike, the price rose to 85 dollars on June 13 and climbed further to 86.79 dollars by June 16.

Brent crude was 66.59 dollars a barrel on June 9. By June 13, it had risen to 70.50 dollars and reached 76.81 dollars on June 16. In May, Brent crude averaged 61.55 dollars a barrel, while diesel was 76.03 dollars.

MOUNTING CONCERNS AT BPC

BPC officials said they are increasingly worried about both rising prices and the growing risk of war in the Persian Gulf.


Saudi Aramco recently sent a shipment of crude oil to BPC. The tanker MT Nordic Freedom, carrying 100,000 tonnes, left Ras Tanura on June 16 and has since passed safely through Hormuz.

The BPC is now focused on the safe arrival of another shipment from Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, due to leave for Bangladesh on July 6-7 with 100,000 tonnes of crude.

Officials also recalled how a Bangladeshi commercial vessel was hit by a missile during the Russia-Ukraine war.

Despite the tension, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday said the government will not raise fuel prices immediately. “We bought at the previous price, so there will be no impact on fuel prices,” he told reporters at the Secretariat.

He said the government is keeping a close eye on the situation. “Although global prices have risen slightly, our current orders remain unaffected,” he added.



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Invitation for Tender
Open Tendering Method (OTM)

Invitation No : ICT/2025/35 Ref No: HO/Procurement/2025/1188 Dated: 18.06.2025

Name of work	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	Tender Price (Non-Refundable)	Tender Security (Refundable)	Tender Closing and Opening Date & Time
Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 17 set Monitors (21.5 inch), 01 set TV (43 inch), 173 set IP Cameras, 17 set NVRs (16 channel), 01 set NVR (32 channel), 03 set Hard Disk Drives (6TB), 72 set Hard Disk Drives (8TB), 19 set PoE Switches (16 Port), 01 set Offline UPS (650VA), 18 set Offline UPSs (1200VA), 6000 meter Network Cable (Cat-6) and other related equipments at 19 Branches of Rupali Bank PLC.	02.07.2025 Up to Time : 04:00 PM	BDT 1,500.00 (One Thousand and Five Hundred Only)	BDT 90,000.00 (Ninety Thousand Only)	03.07.2025 Time : 03:00 PM

Note: Details in Rupali Bank PLC Web Site: <https://www.rupalibank.com.bd>

(Signed)
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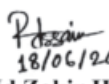
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Senior Assistant Director
Regional Duck Breeding Farm including Hatchery, Habiganj
Department of Livestock Services (DLS)
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
Phone: 01730555217

Date: 18/06/2025

Invitation for e-Tender

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no hard copies will be accepted. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Reference No	Name of Tender	Last Selling Date and Time	Opening and Closing Date & Time
01	1126771, 33.01.0000.300.07.064.15.2025-290	Procurement of Duck Starter Pellet Feed, Duck Grower Pellet Feed, Duck Breeder Pellet Feed and Rice husk under Regional Duck Breeding Farm, Shayestaganj, Habiganj	02-Jul-2025 13:00	02-Jul-2025 15:00


(Md Zakir Hossain)
Senior Assistant Director
Regional Duck Breeding Farm including Hatchery, Habiganj
Department of Livestock Services (DLS)
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

GD-1423