

Stocks rise for third day

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Indices of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) closed higher yesterday, extending their gains for a third consecutive day.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the premier bourse, gained 82.09 points, or 1.67 percent, to close at 4,976.

The Shariah-compliant DSES index rose 1.48 percent to 1,081, while the DS30, which represents blue-chip stocks, gained 2 percent to reach 1,873.

Turnover, a key indicator of market activity, amounted to Tk 573.46 crore, up from Tk 506.18 crore on the previous trading day.

A total of 169,260 trades were executed during yesterday's session, with block transactions, which encompassed 23 scrips, amounting to Tk 9.07 crore.

Market breadth was mixed, with 278 issues advancing, 73 declining, and 45 remaining unchanged.

Among A category shares, 172 advanced, 27 declined, and 17 remained unchanged.

In the B category, 49 scrips gained and 25 declined, while the N category had no trading activity.

Performance across other segments was mixed. In mutual funds, 30 issues advanced and 2 declined.

The corporate bond segment saw two trades: one gain and one loss, while no activity was recorded in government securities.

Rupali Bank PLC posted the highest gain of the day, surging 10 percent, while Prime Islami Life Insurance Limited was the worst performer, shedding 4 percent.

Inflation falls

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"The move towards a more liberalised import regime has played a key role in smoothing out price dynamics," said the economist.

According to him, these developments point to a broader shift in economic management from a control-driven approach to a more market-based strategy.

This change, he said, has not only helped cool inflation but has also contributed to stabilising foreign currency reserves, strengthening the country's overall macroeconomic resilience.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam wrote in a Facebook post yesterday, "Due to the well-considered policy strategies of the interim government, inflation is decreasing

rapidly."

"Food inflation has declined significantly to 7.39 percent, the lowest in two years. Non-food inflation has also begun to decrease, and it is expected to fall further in the coming days," he added.

Despite the recent easing, the government missed its target for the fiscal year 2024-25, which had aimed for average inflation of 6.5 percent.

BBS figures show that average inflation over the year, from July 2024 to June 2025, stood at 10.03 percent.

Montgomery moving average inflation has remained at or above 10 percent for nine consecutive months, though it has been on a gradual decline since February.

In a recent interview with The Daily Star, Bangladesh

Economy grew 4.86%

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percent, up from 4.55 percent a year ago.

The services sector, which accounts for more than half of the economy, posted growth of 5.88 percent, compared to 4.31 percent in the same period last year.

Agriculture, however, saw a slowdown. Growth in the farming sector stood at 2.42 percent, down from the figure recorded a year earlier.

The statistics bureau projected that overall GDP growth for the full 2024-25 fiscal year will be 3.97 percent, the weakest rate since the pandemic.

The provisional estimate was published on May 27.

This figure closely matches forecasts by international lenders. The

International Monetary Fund (IMF) has estimated growth at 3.8 percent, while the Asian Development Bank expects a 3.9 percent expansion in FY25. The latest January-March GDP estimate by the statistical agency surprised economists.

Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the local think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said the source of this sudden uptick remains unclear. "It is not evident where the growth has come from," she said.

"During this period, inflation was high and economic activity was slow, so the calculation does not add up."

She said the data did not reflect the economic reality on the ground and expressed

Bank (BB) Governor Ahsan H Mansur said the central bank is unlikely to cut the policy or repo rate in the second half of the year, as inflation remains stubbornly high.

The BB raised the rate to 10 percent in October 2024, the 11th hike since May 2022, in a bid to tame inflation by making borrowing more expensive.

It left the rate unchanged in its monetary policy statement for the January-June period of this year.

"There is no such reason for reducing the interest rate," Mansur said.

"But there will be indications of whether it is possible for the rate to be brought down soon, when we can expect the policy rate to fall, or how many days we may have to wait for it to go down," said the governor.

doubt over the accuracy of the figure.

Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem), also said he was puzzled by the estimate, especially given the lack of major economic changes and much weaker growth in the other quarters.

Raihan questioned the claim of easing inflation, arguing that market conditions did not support it.

He also pointed to low private sector credit growth, weak investor sentiment and sluggish business activity.

Taken together, the economist said, these factors made such strong quarterly growth appear unlikely and potentially at odds with the broader state of the economy.

Ctg customs logged 9.71% revenue growth in FY25

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

Customs House, Chattogram, the country's highest revenue generating customs station for more than three decades, collected Tk 75,432 crore in the just-ended fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, according to provisional estimates.

This marks a 9.71 percent increase from the previous year's collection.

Official data shows revenue rose by Tk 6,657 crore compared with Tk 68,775 crore collected in FY 2023-24.

Despite the year-on-year growth, the collection fell short of the annual target of Tk 80,402 crore.

More than 5,000 types of goods were imported through Chattogram port during the year. Of those, just 20 items accounted for Tk 28,369 crore, or 38 percent, of the total revenue.

These included diesel, furnace oil, cement clinker, stone, crude oil, and liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Officials credited the growth to stricter monitoring, reforms

in customs procedures, and amendments to the Customs Act in June 2020.

The changes, they said, introduced minimum fines for false declarations and gave officials greater authority to step up surveillance along import routes.

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Over the past five years, annual revenue collected by Chattogram customs has consistently crossed the Tk 50,000 crore mark.

Among the top revenue-generating items in FY25, diesel alone contributed around Tk 5,566 crore.

Furnace oil followed with Tk 3,111 crore, cement clinker brought in Tk 3,089 crore, and palm oil added Tk 1,849 crore.

Crude fuel oil fetched Tk 1,760 crore, while apples accounted for Tk 1,272 crore, hot-rolled steel Tk 1,112 crore, oranges Tk 1,024 crore, crushed stone Tk 998 crore, and milk powder Tk 908 crore.

Although roughly 5,130 types of products are imported through the port each year, these items have consistently remained among the top earners for the past decade.

Mohammad Saidul Islam, deputy commissioner at Chattogram customs, attributed the revenue performance to improved oversight and a push for transparency.

"We have enhanced monitoring to curb irregularities in imports and ensured that tariffs are set based on accurate valuation," he said.

Islam added, "At the same time, we have expedited the assessment and clearance process to support uninterrupted trade throughout the year."

He said these steps have helped deter dishonest practices and encouraged greater compliance among importers.

Nepotism top

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Presenting the findings at a discussion at BRAC Centre Inn in Dhaka, Shafa Tasneem, a research associate at Sanem, said nearly 39 percent of the participants believed a lack of work experience was affecting their ability to find employment.

Meanwhile, 37.74 percent cited the absence of suitable training opportunities, and another 37.29 percent pointed to unsuitable vocational education, she added.

The findings also showed that the current education system is not adequately preparing young people for the demands of the job market.

A lack of technical skills, such as proficiency in IT and computing, was also noted by 26.11 percent of the respondents.

Other obstacles included language barriers, as cited by nearly one-fifth of the respondents. Other major barriers are low wages, followed by discriminatory prejudices related to disability, religion, or race.

Job search durations also paint a grim picture—28.66 percent have been looking for a job for over two years, while only 1.83 percent started their search in April.

The study found that 41.75 percent of female respondents favour public sector jobs, compared to 32.87 percent of the males.

Gender-related challenges were also highlighted.

About 10 percent of respondents cited childbirth, family obligations, and reluctance to recruit new mothers as key employment barriers, while 8.54 percent pointed to biases based on gender identity and being considered too young.

Selim Raihan said the study set out to assess the status of young people across the country and evaluate their perceptions

of job market preparedness, aiming to identify the gaps between education and employability.

Furthermore, it brings into careful consideration how the youths perceive the direction, inclusiveness, and effectiveness of political, social, and institutional reforms following last year's July movement to identify priority areas as pointed out by the youth, he said.

Ultimately, the research intends to amplify the demands and aspirations of the youth population so that policymakers and relevant authorities give it meaningful consideration, he added.

Bangladesh is currently in a crucial phase of demographic transition. Around 35 percent of the population falls within the age range of 15-34 years.

Farah Kabir, country director at ActionAid Bangladesh, questioned, "Did you imagine today's Bangladesh a year ago?"

Today's Bangladesh is the result of contributions from everyone—from youths to ordinary citizens, she said.

"We must not forget them. Those who gave their lives during this uprising must be remembered every July," she said.

The current interim government must act on the demand for justice against those involved in the killings, and the government that comes to power in the future must do even more, said Kabir.

"However, regarding the discrimination in government jobs that sparked this uprising, I cannot firmly say today that those who led it were truly committed to ending such inequality—or whether they still believe in that cause," she said.

"Because even now, we continue to witness discrimination at various levels," she said.

Bank supervision

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a strong and constructive role to the overall financial system.

This method prioritises

areas with the highest potential for causing instability, rather than applying a uniform supervisory model for all banks.

"Discussions have been held regarding the merger of five of these banks. Before proceeding with the merger, separate discussions will be held with each bank," he said.

"If any bank can present a valid reason against the merger, the matter will be reviewed. However, it seems unlikely that these banks will be able to do so," he added.

"We are also considering how much autonomy can be given to Bangladesh Bank, and discussions are ongoing with the government on this matter," Mansur said in response to a journalist's question.

"...because the autonomy of the central bank is an important issue that can help resist political influence and ensure discipline in the banking sector," he said.

"Of course, not all banks will be able to do this, nor is it possible for everyone.

He said their expectation was for an end to political interference that hindered the activities of the central bank.

"The central bank should be allowed to carry out its duties impartially in the future," said Mansur.

"To ensure this, certain legal measures and regulations must be upheld, and this must be established as a standard. It is the politicians who must take the lead in doing so," he said.

Regarding a lack of confidence among depositors in the banking sector, the BB governor said the central bank has provided liquidity support to protect small depositors.

"This was a significant form of assistance, and it has been used solely to safeguard the interests of small depositors," he said, adding that it enabled Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited to make a turnaround and return depositors' funds.

"Of course, not all banks will be able to do this, nor is it possible for everyone.

CPA

During a visit to the port on June 28, Shipping Adviser Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain informed senior CPA officials that the government was considering running the terminal under the Bangladesh Navy for six months with assistance from the CPA.

On July 2, the shipping adviser told journalists in Dhaka that the Bangladesh Navy would operate the terminal using the manpower already in place.

Navy starts running

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The terminal remained underutilised for eight years following its construction due to a lack of necessary equipment. By 2022, the CPA had completed purchasing and installing the key equipment—quayside gantry cranes.

The NCT handled around 12.61 lakh TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of containers out of a total of 32.75 lakh TEUs passing through the Chattogram port in 2024, according to

official data.

The latest development was in the wake of widespread opposition against a government move to lease out the terminal to a foreign operator, Dubai-based DP World, as well as to renew the contract with Saif Powertec Ltd.

The shipping ministry decided to refrain from renewing the contract with Saif Powertec Ltd. On June 18, the ministry took a decision in principle to run the terminal through the

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Rangpur

www.iged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.8500.000.07.12.25-1801 Date: 07/07/2025

Invitation for Re-Tender (Works)

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2025-2026

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal ([https://www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the procurement of following works, details are given below:

SI No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of work last selling (date & time)
1	1126075	e-Tender/ PEDP4 /RNP/ SAD/2024-25/ W11.1	Construction of 3 (three) Storied Multipurpose Auditorium at Rangpur PTI (Remaining Work) [OTM]