

## Stocks end six-day rally

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Dhaka Stock Exchange snapped its six-day winning streak yesterday, with turnover also experiencing a decline.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the bourse, inched down by 1.6 points, or 0.03 percent, to settle at 5,066.43. However, the Shariah-compliant DSES edged up 0.19 percent to 1,103.06.

On the other hand, the DS30, comprising blue chip shares, was almost unchanged, declining marginally by 0.02 percent to close at 1,908.57.

Turnover, a key gauge of investor participation, dropped to Tk 665.99 crore from Tk 679.02 crore in the previous session, reflecting a pullback in trading activity.

A total of 207,206 trades were executed, while block transactions amounted to Tk 33.80 crore across 33 scrips. Market breadth showed a mixed picture, with 177 stocks advancing, 170 declining, and 55 remaining unchanged.

Among A category scrips, 98 gained and 96 declined. The B-category saw 32 stocks rise and 42 fall, while there was a lone gainer in the N-category. Segment-wise performance mirrored the overall caution. Among mutual funds, 10 issues advanced and 13 declined.

Corporate bonds saw two issues advance and one decline, while the government bond market showed weakness, with three issues falling and only one gaining.

Among individual performers, Bangladesh Finance topped the gainers' list with a 10 percent rise, while Rupali Bank was the worst performer, dropping 6 percent.

## Container handling rises at New Mooring terminal after Navy takeover

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Container handling at the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) of Chattogram Port increased in the first week of operational management by Chittagong Dry Dock Limited (CDDL), Bangladesh's sole dry dock currently operating under the Bangladesh Navy.

The CDDL started running the NCT at the country's largest port from July 7.

Until yesterday, the terminal recorded an average of 3,181 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) handled per day, compared to 2,956 TEUs daily during the previous seven days when the terminal was managed by Saif Powertec Ltd, according to a statement issued by the Chief Adviser's office.

This marks an increase of 8 percent, or 225 TEUs per day, reflecting a positive improvement in efficiency and performance, it states.

The NCT terminal had long been operated by Saif Powertec. Upon the expiration of its contract with Chittagong Port on July 6 this year, the shipping ministry approved the handover of operational responsibility to CDDL, effective from July 7.

"Since the transition, the terminal has shown improved coordination and operational discipline."

Between July 7 and July 13, container loading and unloading of 10 vessels was successfully completed, and currently, four vessels are being handled simultaneously at the four berths of the NCT.

Saif Powertec had been running Chattogram Port's two terminals – Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT) and NCT – since their inception.

The NCT opened for operations in 2007. Saif Powertec initially operated two of the NCT's jetties on an ad hoc basis. In 2015, it was directly appointed by the CPA to operate four jetties.

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 38.5 percent of a total of 32.75 lakh TEUs of containers that passed through Chattogram Port in 2024, according to official data.

## Gold climbs over 1%

REUTERS

Gold prices rose more than 1 percent on Friday as investors sought safe-haven assets following US President Donald Trump's announcement of new tariffs, while silver reached its highest level in over 13 years.

Spot gold gained 1 percent to \$3,356.93 per ounce by 2:43 p.m. EDT (18:43 GMT), after touching its highest level since June 24 earlier in the session. US gold futures closed up 1.4 percent at \$3,371.20.

Global stocks fell after Trump ramped up his tariff assault on Canada, saying the US would impose a 35 percent tariff on imports next month and planned to impose blanket tariffs of 15 percent or 20 percent on most other trading partners.

Trump this week also announced a 50 percent tariff on US copper imports and the same levy on goods from Brazil.

"We are in an environment where the uncertainty premium is back in the market and gold is getting a safe-haven bid," said Aakash Doshi, global head of gold strategy at State Street Global Advisors.

## Govt to finalise

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process will apply to the 27 industrial units currently allotted plots in the park.

The gazette states that companies looking to transfer or acquire plots must submit their interest by June 30, 2025. However, officials familiar with the matter said the time could be extended if necessary.

All outstanding dues of both the transferring and acquiring parties must be cleared on the date of application, it adds. After a transfer, the original owner may pay any remaining installments as per the existing schedule or in a lump sum.

Entrepreneurs will have until December 30, 2025, to complete transfers, mergers, or exchanges, subject to applicable BSCIC fees.

The government allocated 200 acres of land in Bausia along the Dhaka-Chattogram highway in 2008 for establishing the API Industrial Park, aimed at boosting domestic production of pharmaceutical raw materials.

Currently, Bangladesh sources around 85 percent

of its required APIs from countries like China and India, costing about \$1.3 billion annually.

Local production, however, has been picking up pace. At least six companies, including Square Pharmaceuticals and Incepta Pharmaceuticals, now produce APIs worth more than Tk 2,000 crore annually.

So far, four manufacturers – ACME Laboratories, Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Ibn Sina Pharmaceutical, and UniMed-UnitHealth Fine Chemicals – have set up factories and begun API production in the park, said Abdul Mukhtar, managing director of Incepta Pharmaceuticals.

Mukhtar said the industry still needs to import roughly 1,200 varieties of APIs from China, India, and South Korea to produce generic medicines.

"Big pharmaceutical firms like Incepta have already established their own API facilities, which have significant potential to develop proprietary molecules," he said.

## NBR server glitch disrupts

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Board of Revenue (NBR) issued a directive keeping customs houses – including those in Chattogram, Benapole, Mongla, and Dhaka – in operation over the weekend on July 11 and July 12 to mitigate the backlog.

However, this had little benefit, as clearances could not proceed due to the system's limited functionality.

On the other hand, relevant entities, such as banks and offices of shipping agents, were closed over the weekend.

Clearance of export and import consignments did not go smoothly on those two days due to the server slowdowns, confirmed the clearing and forwarding (C&F) agents.

The slowdown's ripple effect has been felt at the Chattogram port and the private inland container depots (ICDs).

Import and export containers have started accumulating, and long queues are forming at the entrances of ICDs with trucks carrying export cargo, causing disruptions and delays in operations.

Stakeholders warn that continued delays may trigger widespread disruptions to supply chains.

The Chattogram port and the ICDs are yet to clear an acute backlog created during the long Eid-ul-Azha vacation and a two-day work abstention by demonstrating NBR officials last month.

The server slowdowns, which turned acute since

July 1, have worsened the situation.

Official data show that the port's yards had 44,246 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of containers as of yesterday morning, taking up nearly 83 percent of the space dedicated for the purpose.

Berth operators said they were finding it difficult to work amidst the space limitations.

A vessel named Maersk Jakarta set off from the port on Saturday leaving behind over 100 TEUs of export containers.

Another vessel, Maersk Nusantara, postponed its departure yesterday as the containers it was scheduled to pick up could not be sent from the private ICDs in time.

The ICD operators said they were facing delays in transporting export containers to the port as most of the 21 private ICDs were jam-packed.

The number of export containers at the ICDs reached 14,512 TEUs yesterday, while it usually hovers near 8,000 TEUs.

Two covered vans carrying export products from Far East Knitwear and Dyeing Industries Limited, a ready-made garment factory in Gazipur, reached outside a private ICD named Intrade Limited on Friday morning.

Kamruzzaman Sagar, proprietor of the C&F firm facilitating the trade, said yesterday that the vehicles were still waiting outside.

They had failed to submit export documents through the server over the past three

days to get the "bill of export" number, which is actually a 10-minute job, he said.

A bill of export, also known as a shipping bill in some contexts, is a crucial document in international trade that allows for the export of goods from a country.

"Facing the slow server in our office computers on Friday, our staff tried to get the job done using computers of the support section of the C&F Agents' Association till Saturday night but failed," he said.

"I personally went to Custom House, Chattogram today and sought help from the customs officials but nothing happened," said the frustrated C&F agent.

On Saturday, Custom House, Chattogram submitted a set of urgent proposals aimed at resolving the critical slowdown in the ASYCUDA World system.

In the report, it admitted that the server slowdown has hampered import export assessments since July 1.

The report also said the glitch has significantly delayed cargo clearance, raising concerns about potential congestion at the port and inland depots.

In the report, Custom House, Chattogram Acting Commissioner Shafi Uddin provided a three-point recommendation to the NBR's IT team.

They were: archiving data older than five years to reduce server load, enhancing server capacity based on the number of active users, and resolving the ongoing issues by seeking technical support

from the system's operator – the ASYCUDA team under the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Despite repeated attempts, Golam Sarwar, the programmer currently in charge of the server's management under the National Board of Revenue (NBR), could not be reached over the phone.

However, speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior member of the NBR's IT team said, "Technical support for the ASYCUDA server is provided by UNCTAD."

"The primary server is installed at the old NBR headquarters in Dhaka, while a backup server is located at the Dhaka Customs House," said the official.

He added that nearly 80 percent of total users of the ASYCUDA World system were officials and C&F agents operating under the Chattogram Customs House.

"Therefore, to ensure uninterrupted service, it would be prudent to consider setting up a dedicated server exclusively for the Chattogram Customs House," he said.

He said the NBR was considering multiple possible solutions and expressed hope that the issue would be resolved soon.

On average, the customs house handles around 3,500 to 4,000 bills of entry per day. When the system goes down, even the simplest clearance takes up to five times longer than usual, traders complain.

## Swiss investor

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It expressed concern that the Bangladesh Bank has not taken sufficient steps to resolve the pending legal issues.

It also alleged that the central bank has failed to approve the appointment of a new managing director or CEO proposed by the bank's board in February.

Instead, the BB dissolved the bank's board and appointed one of its own officials to run the operations, the letter said.

"This insecure and tentative environment deters any investor from injecting fresh capital into the bank," it added.

The ongoing court restriction on share transfers has further discouraged potential strategic partners from getting involved, the

group said.

The letter concluded with a strong warning that unless Bangladesh Bank takes immediate steps to resolve the legal disputes and protect the group's investment, the group would consider the 2008 agreement null and void.

In that case, the group would demand a full refund of its Tk 350 crore investment, along with damages. If that did not work, the group would have "no alternative but to go to the International Court to seek justice".

Copies of the letter were also sent to Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed and Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority.

### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (ট্রান্সপোর্ট) এর কার্যালয়  
চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ  
দামপাড়া, চট্টগ্রাম

### অকোজো গাড়ি নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ০১/২০২৫-২০২৬

তারিখ- ১৩/০৭/২০২৫ খ্রি.।


চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, চট্টগ্রাম এর অকোজো যোচিক (কেপ-০১) জীপ-০১ টি (ব্র্যান্ড-মিতসুবিশি) এবং সিলেব কেবিন পিকআপ-০২ টি (ব্র্যান্ড-মিতসুবিশি), (কেপ-০২) জীপ-০১ টি (ব্র্যান্ড-টয়োটা ল্যান্ডক্রুজার) এবং মাইক্রোবাস নোয়া-০৩ টি (ব্র্যান্ড-টয়োটা), (কেপ-০৩) সিলেব কেবিন পিকআপ-০১ টি (ব্র্যান্ড-ইসুজু) এবং সিলেব কেবিন পিকআপ-০২ টি (ব্র্যান্ড-কেয়া), (কেপ-০৪) ট্রাক-০২ টি (ব্র্যান্ড-টটা), (কেপ-০৫) ট্রাক-০৫ টি (ব্র্যান্ড-বরাজ মাজলা) যানবাহন 'যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে' সেই অবস্থায় নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিক, অসহীদ ক্রোডানের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত মুখবন্ধ বামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। সিডিউলে বর্ণিত একটি অথবা একাধিক অথবা সকল গাড়ি ক্রয়ের জন্য দরপ্রস্তাব দাখিল করা যাবে।

অকোজো যোচিক গাড়ির ক্রম নম্বর ও সংখ্যা	(কেপ-০১) জীপ-০১ টি (ব্র্যান্ড-মিতসুবিশি) এবং সিলেব কেবিন পিকআপ-০২ টি (ব্র্যান্ড-মিতসুবিশি)।
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	(কেপ-০৪) ট্রাক-০২ টি (ব্র্যান্ড-টটা)।
	(কেপ-০৫) ট্রাক-০৫ টি (ব্র্যান্ড-বরাজ মাজলা)।

অকোজো যোচিক গাড়ির দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়, দাখিলের শেষ সময়, দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার সময় ও স্থান নিম্নরূপঃ

ক্রম নং	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের ঠিকানা	অকোজো যোচিক গাড়ির টেডাকের বিবরণ	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করার তারিখ	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান
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- দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী নিম্নরূপঃ-
- দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় ব্যতীত কোন দরপত্র সিডিউলের ফটোকপি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
  - সিডিউল মূল্য ৫০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা অক্ষরতযোগ্য।
  - বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে।
  - বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বর্ণিত সকল অকোজো গাড়ি বিক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন না হওয়া পর্যন্ত টেন্ডার সূচী মোতাবেক টেন্ডার প্রক্রিয়া চলতে থাকবে।
  - প্রথম রাউন্ডের অবিক্রিত গাড়িসমূহ পর্যায়ক্রমে পরবর্তী রাউন্ডে বিক্রয় করা হবে।
  - প্রতিটি ক্রেতার সিডিউল মূল্য বাবদ আলাদা আলাদা টাকা প্রদান করতে হবে।
  - কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।



(মুহাম্মদ করিম আহমেদ)  
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(আইডিনিয়াল ডিআইজি)  
অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্বে  
উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (ট্রান্সপোর্ট)  
চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, চট্টগ্রাম।  
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ফ্যাক্স- +৮৮০২-৪১৩৬৬০  
E-mail: dcsupplymt@gmail.com

## 20 non-banks on BB red list

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He said Union Capital has been relying on instalment recoveries to repay clients. "We are not getting fresh deposits. Our entire operation now depends on what we can recover from past investments."

Admitting that the institution lacks full collateral coverage, he added, "Leasing companies once had a niche in lease financing. But now banks have entered that space with lower costs of funds. We had to borrow from banks to lend, which made it hard to compete."

Shah Md Ahsan Habib, professor at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), said most NBFs failed to assess the repayment ability of the borrowers, which should have been their primary consideration.

"They ignored the

importance of primary security. Collateral is only secondary," he said.

Habib added that NBFs were set up to provide long-term finance, but most have failed in that mission. "We need a strong NBF sector going forward. But the reality is that most of them are not performing well."

He called for urgent support to save the sector, including reforms in the bond and securities markets.

In a recent interview with The Daily Star, BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur said that the central bank had assessed the situation and found that at least 15 NBFs are no longer functioning.

"They have no capacity to run. Their NPLs may be as high as 80 percent or even 100 percent," he said. "We are now moving towards a resolution, whether through liquidation or merger, something must be done."

He said around Tk 9,000 crore would be needed to carry out such a resolution.

In the assessment, the BB marked 15 other NBFs as relatively healthy. As of last year, they disbursed Tk 49,643 crore in loans, with only 7.31 percent classified as non-performing.

Their collateral coverage stood at nearly 59 percent, still below the ideal benchmark but better than their distressed peers.

Kanti Kumar Saha, vice-chairman of the Bangladesh Leasing and Finance Companies Association and CEO of Alliance Finance PLC, said they were dismayed to learn through the media that show-cause notices had been sent to the 20 NBFs.

"That letter had a further negative impact on the sector," he said. "The Bangladesh Bank could have simply asked these firms to submit recovery plans."

He commented that although there had been ongoing discussions between the association and the central bank over the past five years, no meaningful steps were taken.

"Banks have been given generous liquidity support, and now there is a plan to merge weak banks and provide them with fresh capital, which is a positive move. Why not do the same for NBFs?"

Saha argued that the problems of NBFs are smaller in scale and could be resolved with small financial backing and intervention.

"These institutions are unable to return money to depositors. They need liquidity and support. We have been raising this alarm for the last three to four years. If action had been taken earlier, much of the current damage could have been prevented," he added.

## NBR split certain

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Khan said the government had since lost trust in those officials and that they must now prove their worth.

"They must regain that confidence through better revenue collection and improved trade facilitation, which would help ease container congestion at ports and speed up the clearance of goods," he said.

Business representatives, meanwhile, reported

significant economic losses during the recent protests by the NBR officials and alleged that harassment by customs and VAT authorities persists.

Khan added that many in the business community had questioned the government's delay in taking action. "The government has shown extraordinary patience because it wants to proceed democratically."

Asked whether the

government would offer NBR officials any assurance that no disciplinary measures would follow, the adviser replied, "There is nothing to reassure."

"The movement went on for two months, and the government did not intervene. These officials are not children. We tried to reassure them that their concerns would be taken into account," he said.

The strike, he added,

had harmed exporters and importers and caused a loss of state revenue. "This is not a private enterprise. There has to be accountability." "Such actions carry consequences. The economy has suffered. Exports have suffered," he said.

Industries Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan and Environment, Forest and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan were also present.