

## Dhaka stocks continue downward trend

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange ended trading lower yesterday, extending its losses for the third consecutive day, while turnover also plunged.

The DSEX, the main index of the bourse, decreased slightly by 4.44 points, or 0.08 percent, to settle at 5,374.96.

The other indices, however, rose to end the day on a positive note. The Shariah-compliant DSES increased by 0.22 percent to 1,180.33, while the DS30, comprising blue-chip shares, went up 0.15 percent to close at 2,089.43.

The drop in the main index resulted in negative market breadth, with 117 stocks advancing, 208 declining, and 72 remaining unchanged.

Turnover, a key gauge of investor participation, hit Tk 766.78 crore, down

significantly from Tk 953.79 crore in the previous session.

A total of 236,307 trades were executed, while block transactions amounted to Tk 12.68 crore across 32 scrips.

Among A category scrips, 59 gained, 118 lost, and 42 remained unchanged.

In the B-category, 31 stocks rose and 42 fell, while there was no trading activity in the N-category.

Segment-wise performance was mixed. In mutual funds, three issues advanced and 10 declined.

Corporate bonds saw two issues decline, while the government bond market saw one issue advance and two issues decline.

Among individual performers, Information Services Network topped the gainers' list with a 10 percent surge, while Central Insurance Company was the worst performer, dropping 5 percent.



Farmers collect fries of Rui, Katla, Mrigal, Pangas and other native fish species in Khulna's Shalua area. The fries are later sold in local markets or to fish farmers at Tk 120 to Tk 350 per kilogramme.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Govt keen to finalise free trade zone

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Dialogue (CPD), welcomed the FTZ initiative, calling it timely for accelerating industrial growth, attracting investment, and improving trade logistics.

She said Chattogram, with its established port and industrial base, stands out as the most viable location.

"An FTZ can help boost exports, create employment opportunities, and eventually position Chattogram as a regional trade gateway," she said.

Khatun added that global experience shows FTZs succeed when backed by strong policies and infrastructure. Chattogram's proximity to Southeast Asian trade routes and its transport facilities give it a clear advantage, especially given the country's limited airport space and storage capacity.

She said implementation must take environmental and social safeguards

into account, especially regarding land acquisition.

If designed and executed properly, the FTZ can serve as a powerful catalyst for export diversification, employment generation, and deeper integration into the global economy. It represents a key opportunity for Bangladesh, particularly as it approaches graduation from LDC status in a rapidly evolving global trade environment," added the economist.

### GLOBAL FTZ EXPERIENCE VARIES

Local businesses have broadly welcomed the FTZ move, though outcomes vary internationally.

Asif Ibrahim, former chairperson of Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD), said China's zones, such as Shenzhen, were highly successful, while many in Africa and Latin America struggled.

He noted that FTZs can

boost growth by attracting foreign investment, streamlining trade, and improving infrastructure. They often drive exports, create jobs, support technology transfer, and enhance skills, while also strengthening port and road networks.

However, Ibrahim warned of potential setbacks, including weak links with local industries, lost tax revenue, and poor labour and environmental standards.

Zaved Akhter, president of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), called the FTZ decision positive for foreign investment.

"Establishing a free trade zone creates a more favourable investment climate by offering facilities such as duty exemptions and tax incentives," he said. "However, for this to be truly effective, a clear and specific policy framework must be put in place to guide its implementation."

He added that location is crucial. Sites near seaports are more attractive to investors, reducing logistics costs and enhancing export competitiveness.

Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, chairman of Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), said that Bangladesh faces challenges as the global trade order shifts.

"As major economies roll out subsidies and restructure supply chains, Bangladesh finds itself constrained," said Razzaque. "Our trade regime remains highly protectionist, and unlike advanced economies, we lack the fiscal space to support industries through large-scale incentive packages."

He stressed the urgency as Bangladesh nears graduation from least developed country status. "If we keep delaying reforms, Bangladesh could fall behind as global trade becomes more divided."

## Investors suffer

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In 2022, a Chattogram court issued a rule barring the managing director of RSRM from leaving the country in connection with a case filed for defaulting on a loan.

Several other cases were filed against RSRM on grounds of cheque dishonour and loan collection worth Tk 1,500 crore from different banks.

RSRM took all these loans between 2010 and 2015 from banks and other financial institutions.

However, the cases were filed between 2017 and 2019 as it did not repay any of the loans.

Due to the production shutdown, it is incurring losses year after year. The company hasn't published any financial reports in recent years.

Its share price stood at Tk 9.90 yesterday, which was above Tk 20 one year earlier.

It provided a 10 percent cash dividend to its shareholders five years ago, in 2020.

However, speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, RSRM's Company Secretary Mohammad Moin Uddin said the factory is open but without production. "The electric line is okay now; the only problem is it has no working capital to run the factory."

But the company's

defaulter loan situation remains the same, and it hasn't been able to pay any installments, he noted. "As a result, the company is not getting a bank loan to meet the demand for working capital."

If funds can be collected, it can purchase raw materials and restart the factory, he added.

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission already restructured the board of RSRM to revive its production.

But the prolonged closure has left investors frustrated. Many have left the company.

Al Mahmud Shujon, a stock investor, said he had investments in RSRM until last year. "Seeing no sign of rebound, I sold my shares, incurring a loss of Tk 20,000."

Meanwhile, Aramit started to incur losses after the political changeover last August. The company's Chairman, Rukhmila Zaman, is the wife of former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, who has been embroiled in embezzlement, land grabbing, and corruption cases.

The mobile number of the Company Secretary of Aramit Cement was not found or was switched off. The company's share price stood at Tk 12.90 yesterday.

Investors have called on the government to take steps to help the companies rebound, restore jobs, and protect shareholder investments.

If good governance existed in areas like financial reporting and auditing, investors could anticipate when a company is heading into trouble. The real problem is that no warning signs are visible until it is too late," Shujon said.

Investors suffer suddenly when a company collapses, as share prices fall and dividends stop," he added, urging the stock exchange to actively monitor whether struggling listed firms show any signs of recovery.

"A company may incur losses at any time, but when there is no prospect of a rebound, that is what truly distresses investors," Arman echoed.

Bangladesh, Pakistan to form commission on trade

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may finalise some memorandums of understanding on trade and investment over the next three days during the stay of the Pakistani commerce minister in Dhaka.

Khan arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a four-day visit to discuss bilateral trade and investment between the two countries.

Meanwhile, in a separate development, Khan met with Taskeen Ahmed, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI), at the chamber's office in Dhaka yesterday.

During the meeting, the Pakistani minister said the two countries have significant potential to work together in diversifying their export baskets to capture major markets in Europe, Canada, and the United States.

He noted that both countries currently rely heavily on the apparel and textile sectors for exports.

He pointed out that in Europe, Canada, and even in the United States, demand for reused clothing has recently surged and is gaining popularity.

Entrepreneurs from both Pakistan and Bangladesh, he suggested, could collaborate to tap into this growing market.

He also announced that a "Single Country Exhibition" of Pakistani products will soon be organised in Bangladesh to strengthen private-sector ties between the two nations.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

### Office of the Upazila Health & Family Planning officer Upazila Health Complex Bancharampur, Brahmanbaria.

E-mail: bancharampur@uhfpd.dghs.gov.bd

Memo No. UHC/BANCHA/MSR/NOTICE/2025-26/656

Date: 20-Aug-2025

### e-Tender Notice (NCT)

e-Tender is in the e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procuring of following goods.

TenderID	Name of Tender	Package No	Publicati on date and time	Online tender closing & opening date and time	Remarks
1139486	Procurement Of Non -- EDCL Medicine .	UHC/Bancha/MSR/ Non-EDCL Medicine/2025-2026/01	20-Aug-2025 23:50:00	04-Sep-2025 12:30:00	OTM
1139487	Procurement Of Equipment	UHC/Bancha/MSR/Equipment/2025-2026/02	20-Aug-2025 23:50:00	04-Sep-2025 12:30:00	OTM
1139488	Procurement Of Guz Bandaz Cotton	UHC/Bancha/MSR/GuzBandazCotton/2025-2026/03	20-Aug-2025 23:50:00	04-Sep-2025 12:30:00	OTM
1139489	Procurement Of Lilen	UHC/Bancha/MSR/Lilen/2025-2026/04	20-Aug-2025 23:50:00	04-Sep-2025 12:30:00	OTM
1139490	Procurement Of Chemical Re-Agent	UHC/Bancha/MSR/Chemical Re-Agent/2025-2026/05	20-Aug-2025 23:50:00	04-Sep-2025 12:30:00	OTM
1139491	Procurement Of Furniture	UHC/Bancha/MSR/Furniture/2025-2026/06	20-Aug-2025 23:50:00	04-Sep-2025 12:30:00	OTM

- This is online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- Detail about the Tender have shown in e-Tender notice and e-Tender document. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP help Desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Dr. Ranjan Barman  
UH&FPO  
Upazila Health Complex  
Bancharampur, Brahmanbaria.

## West Zone Power Distribution Co. Ltd. (WZPDCL)

Bidyut Bhaban, 35 Boyra Main Road, WZPDCL HQ, Khulna

### Invitation for Tenders

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/ Power Division.			
2. Agency	West Zone Power Distribution Co. Ltd. (WZPDCL), Khulna.			
3. Procuring Entity Name	Superintending Engineer (Procurement and Store), WZPDCL, Khulna.			
4. Procuring Entity District	Khulna.			
5. Invitation for	National Competitive Tender (NCT).			
6. Invitation Ref No	27.22.4785.007.74.003.25.2228			
7. Date	21-08-2025			
KEY INFORMATION				
8. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (One Stage-Two Envelope).			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
9. Budget and Source of Funds	WZPDCL's own fund.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION:				
10. Tender Package No.	SR-1, Lot-c.			
11. Tender Package Name	Procurement of gardening and cleaning service (09 gardeners and 57 cleaners) through Outsourcing for 02 (two) years in WZPDCL.			
12. Tender Publication Date	21-08-2025			
13. Tender Last Selling Date	14-09-2025, Time- 4:00 PM			
14. Tender Closing Date and Time	15-09-2025, Time- 10:30 AM			
15. Tender Opening Date and Time	15-09-2025, Time- 11:30 AM			
Name & Address of the office(s)				
16. - Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Superintending Engineer, Procurement & Store, Bidyut Bhaban, 35 Boyra Main Road, WZPDCL, Khulna.			
17. - Selling Tender Document (Others)	a) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Khulna. b) WZPDCL Liaison office, Bidyut bhaban (4th Floor), 1 no Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.			
18. - Receiving and Opening Tender Document	Superintending Engineer, Procurement & Store, Bidyut Bhaban, 35 Boyra Main Road, WZPDCL, Khulna.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER:				
19. Eligibility of Tenderer	Please check the section-2 (TDS) and section-7 of tender document for details.			
20. Brief Description of Services	For Cleaning service: 1. Maintaining cleanliness in office, substation, store and other installation of WZPDCL to ensure hygienic working environment. 2. Assisting WZPDCL officials as needed. For Gardening service: 1. Removing unwanted weeds from the yards of offices, substations, store and other establishments of WZPDCL and planting and maintaining plants to enhance beauty. 2. Necessary care must be taken of trees located in the premises of WZPDCL's offices, substations, store, and other establishments. 3. Assisting WZPDCL officials as needed. For details, please check the tender document.			
21. Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Tender Document for Tk. 10,000.00 (Ten thousand) as non-refundable Demand Draft (For other district)/ Pay order in favor of Superintending Engineer (Procurement and Store), WZPDCL, Khulna.			
Package No	Identification of Package	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Weeks / Months
SR-1, Lot-b	Procurement of gardening and cleaning service (09 gardeners and 57 cleaners) through Outsourcing for 02 (two) years in WZPDCL.	Different S&DE/SU or HQ of WZPDCL.	Tk. = 9,00,000.00 (Nine Lakh) only.	24 (twenty-four) months from the contract signing.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS:				
22. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Shafiqul Islam.			
23. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Superintending Engineer (Procurement and Store), WZPDCL, Khulna.			
24. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Bidyut Bhaban, 35 Boyra main road, WZPDCL HQ, Khulna.			
25. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Mob: 01766690770 Email:			