

## Stocks edge up for second day

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) ended on a positive note yesterday, with share prices rising for the second consecutive session.

Investor activity also picked up, as total trading turnover – the combined value of shares bought and sold – increased compared with the previous session.

According to DSE data, the bourse's benchmark index, DSE, gained 10.69 points, or 0.19 percent, to close at 5,631.61.

The other two indices also performed positively: the Shariah-based index, DSES, edged up 0.04 percent to 1,233.68, while the blue-chip index, DS30, rose 0.03 percent to 2,195.83.

Turnover stood at Tk 1,397.56 crore, up from Tk 1,278.06 crore in the previous session. The banking sector dominated the turnover chart, accounting for 16.4 percent of the total.

City Bank Ltd was the most-traded share, with a turnover of Tk 69.9 crore. Block trades – high-volume securities transactions privately negotiated and executed outside the open market – also accounted for a notable share, totaling Tk 40.04 crore across several scrips.

Market breadth was mixed, with 184 issues declining against 165 gainers, while 47 remained unchanged. A-category stocks saw more winners than losers, whereas B-category stocks recorded more declines.

By segment, mutual funds posted 28 gainers, corporate bonds saw just two issues advance, and the government bond market recorded two declining issues.

On the day's performance table, Intech surged 9 percent to top the gainers' list, while HR Textile fell 10 percent, making it the worst performer of the session.

Sector-wise, ceramics, mutual funds, and non-bank financial institutions (NBFI) were the top three sectors to close in positive territory, while travel & leisure, services & real estate, and engineering recorded the largest declines, according to UCB Stock Brokerage Ltd's market update.

Sectors with large market capitalizations – the total value of a company's outstanding shares – posted mixed performance, noted BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Ltd. NBFI experienced the highest gain of 1.85 percent, followed by the banking sector (0.60 percent) and the telecommunications sector (0.12 percent).



BGMEA called on retailers and brands to explore the possibility of reducing tariffs on Bangladeshi apparel.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

## BGMEA urges buyers to source more from Bangladesh

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The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has called on international clothing retailers and brands to place more orders in Bangladesh, citing the country's relative tariff advantages over competing nations in the United States.

The appeal came at a meeting with representatives of international

buyers who have business in Bangladesh, at the BGMEA office in Dhaka yesterday.

After the meeting, BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan said he urged the buyers to expand their sourcing from Bangladesh and to adopt a unified code of conduct for audits and compliance.

"Suppliers face significant difficulties as different companies follow different compliance standards. It would be better if all

sourcing firms adhered to a uniform code for social, compliance, and other key audits," Khan said.

He also called on US retailers and brands to explore the possibility of reducing tariffs on Bangladeshi apparel. The discussion also covered the diversification of products to attract more business.

Khan said around 42 representatives from European, American, and Asian companies attended the buyers' forum.

## Govt eyes 1.5 lakh jobs

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GDP impact of up to \$75 billion, with the overall contribution reaching \$150 billion, according to the report.

Mida expects to create about 1.5 lakh direct jobs and up to 25 lakh when indirect employment is included, spanning sectors such as infrastructure, port operations, manufacturing, logistics, fisheries, food processing, housing, transport, retail and healthcare.

As the port expands, jobs will also be created in customs, warehousing, shipbuilding and transport. Planned rail and highway links connecting Moheshkhali to Dhaka are expected to generate demand for thousands of trained and semi-skilled workers across the supply chain, says the Mida report.

It also says better connectivity is projected to help Moheshkhali emerge as a major manufacturing hub, contributing nearly 10 percent of national industrial output by 2055.

Priority sectors include steel and heavy engineering, agro and food processing, automobiles and auto parts, electronics and semiconductors, pharmaceuticals,

synthetic fibres and garments, and shipbuilding and repair.

The initiative is also expected to save \$6 billion annually on the balance of payments by cutting imports through domestic production.

To meet rising energy demand, which is growing at about 6.7 percent a year, Mida plans to set up a power and fuel import hub featuring LNG and LPG terminals.

These could supply up to 80 percent

and 60 percent of national demand, respectively. A proposed petroleum refinery would meet around 35 percent of the country's needs.

Together, these facilities are projected to save \$3.4 billion in logistics costs while creating jobs in operations, fuel handling, maintenance, construction, safety and environmental services.

In the marine sector, Bangladesh currently uses only a fraction of its Indian Ocean tuna quota.

With the Matarbari port enabling quicker seafood exports to the European Union, USA and Japan, and with approval of 28 new longliner vessels, the region is expected to capture a much larger share.

The scallop industry alone is

projected to generate \$500 million in exports. A strong cold-chain and seafood processing network could create thousands of jobs, especially for women and small-scale entrepreneurs.

To build a skilled workforce, Mida plans to set up training centres focused on marine trades, logistics, automation and industrial maintenance.

Supporting infrastructure such as housing, schools, hospitals, and vocational institutes will also be developed to make Moheshkhali both an industrial hub and a liveable community.

The plan further includes eco-tourism parks, conservation zones and green corridors to preserve the island's natural environment while creating sustainable jobs in tourism and conservation.

Tourism in Cox's Bazar is expected to grow by 1.5 times as new facilities are built, generating more employment in hospitality, food services, transport and tour guiding.

Mida's 120-day work plan is already underway, with the full masterplan scheduled for completion by the end of 2025.

## City Bank, bKash, TransUnion get

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The central bank in June of last year introduced guidelines for private credit bureaus.

According to the guidelines, the addition of credit bureaus would reduce information asymmetry about borrowers in the financial market.

It said making client information, which is often kept confidential, available to other lenders would increase competition in the credit market and benefit better credit applicants.

These bureaus will collect information from various sources, including the BB-maintained Credit Information Bureau (CIB), with the permission of borrowers, and share lenders' credit ratings with financial institutions, central bank officials said.

In time, credit bureaus will also help reduce default rates and average interest rates, facilitated by increased credit information, which will lead to higher quality lending.

Industry insiders welcomed the

initiative but urged caution.

Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank and a former chairman of the Association of Bankers Bangladesh, said, "Credit bureaus exist virtually all over the world. These bureaus will ease banks' assessment of loan eligibility."

However, he cautioned that the BB would have to be very careful in issuing licences for credit bureaus.

The proposed company must be a limited company. Investment from an individual or business entity incorporated outside Bangladesh is also allowed, according to the BB guidelines. The minimum paid-up capital of a credit bureau will be Tk 10 crore.

The central bank guidelines also state that the number of directors will not exceed 11.

They state that at least two directors must have 10 years of experience in the banking industry.

The BB guidelines add that at least two more directors must

have experience and an academic background in technology-related businesses.

A shareholder that owns more than two percent of the total shares of a credit bureau will be eligible to become a director, it said, adding that no individual could be a director at more than one credit bureau at any point in time.

Under the Payment and Settlement System Act, 2024 and related credit bureau guidelines, private credit bureaus will use CIB and other data to assess the creditworthiness of individuals and businesses, said Major General (retd) Sheikh Md Monirul Islam, chief external & corporate affairs officer of bKash.

By providing credit histories and payment information, the bureaus will help lenders evaluate risk, improving access to finance and making credit safer and easier for individuals and small businesses, he added.

which could result in a lower rate for India. In that case, it is unlikely that work orders will shift from India to bulk.

Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) said it was too early to quantify the potential windfall.

"There is no specific data on how much business may be diverted. The amount could be less than \$2 billion, or could be more, depending on how competing countries and markets behave," he said.

"The opportunity is there, but it is still at a primary stage," he said, adding, "Only after a few months will we see how the new tariff regime with the US plays out."

## Will Bangladesh benefit

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He, however, said that there is a good possibility for Bangladesh to benefit. "The amount of shifting orders can be even more than the estimated \$2 billion if the situation goes in our favour."

Shovon Islam, managing director of Sparrow Group, which supplies a large share of its output to the US, said orders have already begun to shift. "It is true that American retailers and brands are coming with work orders since the tariffs were finalised."

"But it is unrealistic to assume Bangladesh will bag all the work overnight," he opined.

Pointing to constraints at home, he said, "Currently, Bangladesh's capacity to produce in large volumes

remains limited. Many factories still lack the technical sophistication to cater for higher-value orders."

Besides, he noted that India's ability to produce value-added garments may shield it from losing business in that segment, which means only basic apparel orders are likely to shift from the country.

Industry leaders also point out that some Indian exporters are sharing the tariff burden with their US buyers to maintain competitiveness. In some cases, Indian exporters are absorbing around 20 percent of the tariff while US importers cover 30 percent, reducing the overall impact.

Furthermore, there is a possibility that India and the US might relaunch negotiations over the tariff issue soon,

## Gold adds to record rally

REUTERS

Gold surged to a fresh record high on Wednesday, consolidating gains above the key \$3,500 level, on growing expectations of a Federal Reserve rate cut this month and lingering political and economic risks.

Spot gold was up 0.1 percent at \$3,534.88 per ounce, as of 1006 GMT, after hitting an all-time high of \$3,546.99 earlier in the session. US gold futures for December delivery gained 0.3 percent to \$3,602.80.

Adding to market uncertainty and potential trade tensions, US President Donald Trump's administration said it will ask the Supreme Court for an expedited ruling on tariffs that a US appeals court found to be illegal last week.

"The tariff issues and roadblock provided by the Supreme Court will be a critical test for Trump, and irrespective of the outcome, gold provides a welcome respite from market turbulence for investors," said independent analyst Ross Norman.

## Union Bank

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Alam took Tk 28,000 crore from Union Bank. The borrowers in whose names the loans were taken cannot be traced. As a result, it has become difficult to return depositors' money.

Officials of the central bank said that in the BB-EXIM Bank meeting, EXIM Bank presented its

turnaround plan. However, they were asked to review and resubmit it with more specifics.

The central bank asked EXIM Bank officials to clearly outline how the bank will return depositors' money, present a concrete plan

for recovering defaulted loans, explain how they will repay the Tk 8,500 crore borrowed from the central bank, and address the large capital shortfall, according to meeting sources.

The bank will be considered further only if its revised plan appears realistic, BB officials said.

Officials of EXIM Bank said it would take at least two years to bring the bank back into good shape.

"The question is whether the central bank will give us that time. But this bank did not suddenly fall into trouble," one EXIM Bank official said on condition of anonymity.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Ref No. UHC/KAPA/GAZI/MSR/2025-26/689

Date: 03-09-2025

### e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contact support desk contract numbers.

e-Tender are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Dr. Md. Habibur Rahman, UH&FPO, Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur for the Procurement of;

Tender Id	Name of goods	Scheduled tender/proposal publication date & time	Tender/proposal last selling date & time	Tender/proposal closing/opening date & time
1142430	Procurement of Non-EDCL Medicine for F.Y 2025-26 at Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur	03-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 12:00
1142431	Procurement of Surgical Instrument for F.Y 2025-26 at Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur	03-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 12:00
1142432	Procurement of Gauze, Bandage & Cotton for F.Y 2025-26 at Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur	03-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 12:00
1142433	Procurement of Linen for F.Y 2025-26 at Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur	03-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 12:00
1142434	Procurement of Chemical Reagent for F.Y 2025-26 at Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur	03-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 12:00
1142435	Procurement of Furniture for F.Y 2025-26 at Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur	03-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 12:00
1142436	Procurement of Diet for F.Y 2025-26 at Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur	03-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 12:00
1142437	Procurement of Linen Washing for F.Y 2025-26 at Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur	03-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 10:00	18-Sep-2025 12:00