

Stocks fall for second day

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bangladesh's stock market extended its decline for the second consecutive session amid cautious investor sentiment, stock volatility, and post-dividend adjustments in banking shares.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, fell 18.86 points, or 0.36 percent, to close at 5,248. The other two indices – the DSES and DS30 – also ended lower.

The shariah-based DSES index declined 1.9 points, or 0.18 percent, to 1,058, while the blue-chip DS30 index dropped 8.07 points, or 0.40 percent, to 2,009.

According to a market update by BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited, all large-cap sectors posted negative performance.

Non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) recorded the highest loss of 1.44 percent, followed by fuel & power (0.70 percent), banking (0.52 percent), pharmaceuticals (0.29 percent), food & allied (0.20 percent), engineering (0.18 percent), and telecommunications

(0.10 percent).

Turnover stood at Tk 767.7 crore, a 7.8 percent decrease from the previous day's trading.

Block trades accounted for 4.1 percent of total turnover.

Monno Ceramic Industries Ltd, which gained 9.7 percent, was the most traded stock with a turnover of Tk 39.0 crore.

Yeakin Polymer Limited and Mozaffar Hossain Spinning Mills Limited followed, gaining 9.66 percent and 9.63 percent respectively.

Premier Leasing & Finance Limited, Fareast Finance & Investment Limited, and International Leasing & Financial Services Limited were the worst performers, each losing 8.69 percent.

Textiles, ceramics, and miscellaneous sectors closed in the positive, according to a daily market observation by UCB Stock Brokerage. The textile sector led turnover, accounting for 14.8 percent of total trade.

At the Chittagong Stock Exchange, the CSE All Share Price Index (CASPI) edged down 14 points, or 0.09 percent, to close at 14,801.

Gold jumps over 2%

REUTERS

Gold prices climbed more than 2 percent on Wednesday after US President Donald Trump indicated a possible peace deal may be reached with Iran, sending the dollar and crude lower as inflation concerns ebbed somewhat.

Spot gold jumped 2.7 percent to \$4,680.91 per ounce, as of 0811 GMT, having hit its highest since April 28. US gold futures for June delivery rose 2.7 percent to \$4,693.20.

US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he would briefly pause an operation to help escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz, citing progress toward a comprehensive agreement with Iran.

Iran will only accept "a fair and comprehensive agreement" in its negotiations with the US on ending the war in the Middle East, its foreign minister said on Wednesday.

Gold gained as "oil prices retreated on reduction in geopolitical risk premium, after the US confirmed that the ongoing fragile ceasefire between Iran is still intact, despite the skirmish that was seen at the start of this week," Kelvin Wong, a senior market analyst at OANDA, said.

"Any signs of re-escalation of tension between the two of them, you will see gold prices seeing some form of profit-

taking, or for short-term speculators to unwind their near-term net long position in gold," Wong added.

A weaker US currency makes dollar-priced metals cheaper for holders of other currencies.



Elevated crude oil prices can stoke inflation, increasing the likelihood of higher interest rates. While gold is considered an inflation hedge, high interest rates make yield-bearing assets more attractive, weighing on its appeal.

Investors await US non-farm payrolls later this week which will test whether the economy remains resilient enough to keep the Federal Reserve's monetary policy on hold.

"Factors such as economic growth risks, worsening geopolitical relations, currency volatility and downside risks to equity markets will continue to support gold's role as a portfolio diversifier," ANZ said in a note.

India offers \$27b to businesses to cushion war impact

AFP, New Delhi

The Indian government approved a \$27.3 billion credit guarantee scheme on Tuesday to help businesses survive short-term cash problems caused by the Middle East war, including airlines hit by surging fuel prices.

The scheme is intended to help businesses get access to loans until March next year so they can ride out the crisis, prevent layoffs and avoid an economic slowdown.

"The proposed credit guarantee scheme is a major step to help businesses... and the airline sector, to ensure their additional working capital needs," a government statement said.

"It will also promote uninterrupted domestic production and maintain the resilience of the ecosystem," it said.

The proposal was approved by a meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet on Tuesday. The credit line will operate for five years for most businesses and seven years for airlines, the statement said.

The war has piled pressure on the Indian economy, which is heavily dependent on oil and liquefied petroleum gas from the Middle East, and has clouded India's economic growth outlook.

Most of the credit guarantee, \$26.79 billion, is intended for a wide range of businesses.

Another \$525 million is also set aside for airlines, many of which have cut domestic and international flights in recent weeks because of rising aviation fuel prices.

Oil to average \$96

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The Manila-based agency now projects a 5.7 percent growth in South Asia in 2026, down from an earlier forecast of 6.3 percent. Inflation in the subregion is projected to rise to 7.6 percent, up 2.6 percentage points from the previous estimate.

"Markets price in persistently tighter conditions, not a quick reversal."

The ADB said supply disruptions have exerted upward pressure on the prices of non-oil commodities, particularly fertilisers.

"Prices are surging," Park said, adding that urea marked the largest non-energy price shock and that it has a direct impact on food costs.

South Asia sources 35 percent of its fertiliser from the Middle East.

Bangladesh is a major importer of fertiliser from the Gulf nations.

"Food prices typically follow within one quarter," he added.

Responding to a question on Bangladesh's economic growth, he said the country-specific numbers for Bangladesh based on the reduced growth forecast will be released by the end of this month.

"So, the regional one is an indicator; I think Bangladesh's growth will probably be a bit lower. They would have more headwinds, in effect, than the rest of the South Asia average," he said.

"But I think you should wait; our next Asian Development Outlook will have a much more thorough assessment of Bangladesh, and that report will be coming out in July or early

August," he said.

To tackle the challenges, the ADB suggested avoiding blanket fuel subsidies and excise tax cuts.

High-income households consume more energy, and subsidies are fiscally very costly if prices stay elevated, he said.

"Policymakers should target support to vulnerable households, maintain monetary credibility, and accelerate investment in energy resilience," he said.

Park suggested targeted cash transfers to protect vulnerable households and ensure fiscal space. A data dependent monetary policy is needed.

"This is a supply shock, not a demand shock. Monitor inflation expectations and second-round effects before tightening; avoid choking growth unnecessarily," he added.

Inflation

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On policy, he said conventional monetary tools have a limited effect when inflation is driven by external factors.

"Lowering the policy rate is unlikely to reduce inflation, because this is not demand driven inflation," he said, adding that barriers to investment lie in structural challenges and supply disruptions, not interest rates.

In October 2024, the Bangladesh Bank, in its fight against price pressures, raised the policy rate to 10 percent and has kept it unchanged since.

Mujeri called for targeted support for vulnerable groups and steps to revive domestic production.

"Reopening idle industrial units could be effective – they can be brought back into operation relatively quickly and at lower cost, while also creating employment," he said.



Depositors of six distressed non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) gather in front of the Bangladesh Bank, urging action to facilitate the return of their funds. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: MD MEHEDI HASAN

NBFI depositors

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actionable roadmap in line with the previously declared July 2026 deadline for returning depositors' money.

The other two demands are the introduction of an effective mechanism to prioritise repayments for individual depositors

and the arrangement of a meeting between the governor and three to four representatives of the depositors to formally present their demands.

The depositors expressed hope that the central bank would take swift, effective, and humane measures to address the crisis and

ensure the protection of public savings.

They also called upon the government, the central bank, and all relevant authorities to take urgent and effective steps to restore confidence in the financial sector and ensure justice for affected depositors.

In January this year, BB decided to liquidate six of the country's 35 non-bank financial institutions due to poor financial health.

The current BB governor, Md Mostaqur Rahman, appointed by the BNP-led government, has said reforms will continue, including those liquidations.

Bangladesh should move

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Participation in GVCs, especially in the apparel sector, has been central to Bangladesh's export-led growth. It has also supported inclusive development by creating jobs – particularly for women – and reducing poverty.

The sector now accounts for most export earnings and employs around 4.5 million people, more than half of them women. Despite this progress, concerns remain about continued reliance on low wages and poor working conditions.

Efforts have been made to improve safety and sustainability in the

industry, including the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh and the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety.

These were introduced after the Rana Plaza collapse in 2013, which killed more than 1,100 people in a building housing five garment factories. However, the report said these efforts are still not complete.

"Bangladesh has done very well in garments, but that is a very labour-intensive activity with little upgrading to higher value-added work," said ADB Chief Economist Albert Park, speaking at a media briefing on the sidelines of the 59th

Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of ADB in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, which concluded yesterday.

He added that Bangladesh should look for opportunities to move up within GVCs.

"And also, for Bangladesh, there is such a concentration in this one export sector that it is very risky for the economy if something unexpected occurs that really affects that sector, as we have seen in the past," Park said.

He added that Bangladesh should diversify into other sectors and allow easier import of inputs without tariffs.

"The same kind of

treatment that readymade garments get should be extended to other sectors to expand opportunities," he said. "And meanwhile, really think about opportunities to upgrade."

Neil Foster-McGregor, principal economist at ADB, presenting the main findings of the report, said production processes are becoming increasingly capital-intensive.

He added that geopolitics and rising sustainability demands will reshape GVCs.

He said future competitiveness will depend on resilience, sustainability and firm capabilities, not just low labour costs.

BGMEA offers to help

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After a separate meeting with the USTR team yesterday, Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, the prime minister's finance and planning adviser, said Bangladesh's priority is expanding its market share in the US and developing new export categories beyond garments.

He noted Bangladesh wants further consultation meetings with the US on the agreement.

Stating that currently, Bangladeshi garment items are dominating in the US market, he said, "Commercial, health, education and humanitarian issues may also be discussed with the US when the bilateral discussions take place between the two countries."

Bangladesh also wants expansion of strategic assistance from the US in agricultural cooperation

and scientific research, he added.

Earlier on Tuesday, speaking after a meeting with the USTR team, Commerce Minister Khandaker Abdul Muktedir said the government intends to make full use of the agreement.

"It is a reality, and we want to make the best use of it to expand the country's trade and investment," he said.

US goods trade with Bangladesh totalled an estimated \$11.8 billion in 2025.

American imports from Bangladesh reached \$9.5 billion – up 13.3 percent from 2024 – while US exports to Bangladesh were \$2.3 billion.

The resulting trade deficit stood at \$7.1 billion, a 17.9 percent increase from the previous year. Garments account for 86 percent of Bangladesh's exports to the US.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Civil Surgeon cum Superintendent
Pirojpur District Hospital, Pirojpur

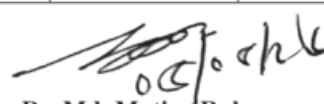
Ref No. PDH/MANPOWER/TENDER/2025-2026/360 Date: 05/05/2026

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 an 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 the e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Dr. Md. Matiur Rahaman, Civil Surgeon cum Superintendent, Pirojpur District Hospital, Pirojpur for the procurement of following physical services:

Tender Id	Name of goods	Tender/proposal last selling date & time	Tender/proposal closing/opening date & time
1270254	Supply various type of outsourcing manpower (non consultant physical service) as per Outsourcing service receive rule 2025 at Pirojpur District Hospital, Pirojpur.	24/05/2026 16:00	25/05/2026 12:00


Dr. Md. Matiur Rahaman
Civil Surgeon cum Superintendent
Pirojpur District Hospital, Pirojpur

GD-1037

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Rapid Action Battalion-7
Patenga, Chattogram
www.rab.gov.bd

Memo No. 7453/Q/RAB/680 Dt: 05 May 2026

Invitation for e-Tender

For financial year 2026-2027, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:


Sl	Tender ID No. & Reference No.	Description of goods	Last selling date & time	Closing/opening date & time
1	1270540, 7453/Q/RAB/Part-1/699/1	Fresh Ration	21 May 2026 09:00	21 May 2026 12:00
2	1270555, 7453/Q/RAB/Part-1/699/2	Supply of Fire Wood	21 May 2026 09:00	21 May 2026 12:00
3	1270557, 7453/Q/RAB/Part-1/699/3	Wheat Crushing	21 May 2026 09:00	21 May 2026 12:00
4	1270561, 7453/Q/RAB/Part-1/699/4	Dry Ration Load/Unload	21 May 2026 09:00	21 May 2026 12:00

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To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Tenderer having clarity requirements are requested to contact at 01777-710705 (Assistant Director, Quartermaster).


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GD-1040