

*Following is a summary of important business news published in the leading daily newspapers of Bangladesh. For the complete news, please follow the online link given below each news. Please note that the news summary doesn't reflect the opinion of BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited.*

### **Bangladesh new frontier of investment in Asia: Japanese envoy**

- Bangladesh is becoming the new frontier of investment in Asia, said Ito Naoki, Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh. "As per Japanese investment prospects from the investors' point of view, Bangladesh will establish itself as a destination of China Plus One investment. Companies are now looking for investment destinations beyond China," he told a discussion organised by the Diplomatic Correspondent Association of Bangladesh.
- The ambassador said the Araihaazar special economic zone would be ready and expecting FDI by the end of next year. "Our plan is to have 100 companies and the investment would be USD 1 billion." Once Araihaazar becomes a success story, another economic zone will be developed by Japan, maybe in Mirsarai, and if that venture becomes successful, then there will be another – in Moheshkhali.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-becoming-new-frontier-investment-asia-japan-envoy-315757>

### **Italian fashion brand Benetton wants to increase apparel sourcing from Bangladesh**

- Italian fashion brand United Colors of Benetton has expressed its willingness to increase its apparel sourcing from Bangladesh. Monica Joshi, head of operations of Benetton Asia Pacific Limited, apprised Faruque Hassan, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), of Benetton's plans when she called on him at BGMEA's office in Gulshan today.
- During their discussions, Hassan highlighted the RMG industry's increased focus on diversification of products, especially non-cotton and high-end segments. He requested Benetton to support and collaborate with their suppliers in Bangladesh to build their capacities in manufacturing apparel products having higher market demand.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/investments/news/italian-fashion-brand-benetton-wants-increase-apparel-sourcing-bangladesh-2198401>

### **E-transfers, equal incentives can trigger FDI inflow**

- Deeper deregulations and structural reforms can bring desired foreign direct investment in Bangladesh from Japan and elsewhere, says the Japanese envoy in Dhaka, naming two major triggers for FDI inflow. The Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh, Ito Naoki, at a press talk Thursday made mention of the bar on telegraphic transfers and disparity in cash incentives for export industries as deterrents to investment.
- Noting that cash incentives against exports are not given to 100-percent foreign-owned companies, the ambassador said such disparity should be removed to attract foreign investors. He praised the government here for attaining impressive economic development and for handling the Covid pandemic. He views that the Japanese Special Economic Zone in Araihaazar can lure one billion dollars in foreign investment if there be coordinated and concerted effort.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/e-transfers-equal-incentives-can-trigger-fdi-inflow-1634234282>

### **Banks, share market to remain closed on 20 October**

- All banks, financial institutions, and the share market of the country will be closed on the occasion of the holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi on next Wednesday, 20 October. The Bangladesh Bank issued a circular in this regard on Thursday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/eid-e-miladunnabi-banks-nbfs-stock-market-remain-closed-wednesday-315913>

**Lack of quality labs hampering export of processed agricultural products: FBCCI**

- The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) President Md Jashim Uddin has called upon the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) to set up an international standard testing lab to harness the potential of agro-processed food products sector and its export.
- Mentioning that Bangladesh is ahead of many countries in the world in terms of standardisation, the FBCCI boss said, "Bangladesh will be able to achieve SDGs within the stipulated time if it can ensure international standards in every good and service." However, he added that it is necessary to implement standard practice based on UN prescribed 5P - People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/dropped/industry/lack-quality-labs-hampering-export-processed-agricultural-products-fbcci-315892>

**Traders in a tight spot as BJMC sits on jute bills**

- Jute traders who used to buy raw jute from grassroots farmers and supply the cash crop to state-owned mills are in the soup as their BDT227 crore payments are stuck with the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC).
- In the face of recurring losses, 26 state-run jute mills permanently shut production last year with an estimated BDT227.41 crore in dues to jute suppliers. The traders subsequently took to the streets seeking payment. The BJMC assured them of clearing the arrears as soon as possible. However, the traders are yet to get the money. At a media briefing, leaders of the jute trading community said their arrears amounted to BDT265 crore.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/traders-tight-spot-bjmc-sits-jute-bills-315724>

**Fresh gas price hike on the cards**

- The government is considering a fresh gas-tariff hike to "offset losses" being incurred through the purchase of expensive LNG from the volatile international market, now on the cusp of global reopening. State-run Petrobangla is now readying a comprehensive proposal to seek formally an upward adjustment of gas tariffs from the energy regulator, a senior energy official told the FE Thursday.
- The BERC last raised the gas tariffs by 32.8% on average with effect from July 1, 2019, marking the biggest-ever hike so far. The gas-tariff hike over two years back was the first hike after the initiation of LNG import by the government from the international market.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/fresh-gas-price-hike-on-the-cards-1634233864>

**Farm loan release rises by 29% in July-Aug**

- Farm loan disbursement by banks increased by 29.21% or BDT 781.4 crore year-on-year in the July-August period of the current fiscal year. Though the year-on-year disbursement increased, banks' lending to the agriculture sector was lower than the required monthly average disbursement to achieve the annual target of BDT 28,391 crore.
- The farm loan disbursement by banks was BDT 25,511.35 crore against BDT 26,292 crore in disbursement target for FY21. Banks for the first time missed annual farm loan disbursement target in FY20 when banks' disbursement was BDT 22,749.03 crore against their target of BDT 24,124 crore.
- The BB data also showed that banks' recovery from the farmers increased by 19.06% or BDT 642.22 crore to BDT 4,011.64 crore in the July-August period against their recovery of BDT 3,369.42 crore in the same period of the previous year.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/151789/farm-loan-release-rises-by-29pc-in-july-aug>

**Individual investors can now buy govt bond through DSE debt board**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange today launched debt securities board, which will allow everyone, including individual investors, to buy government bond from the capital market. Earlier, only institutional investors could buy the bonds through bank and maintain a depository participant account. Now, any investors can trade the bonds through their beneficiary owners (BO) account.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/individual-investors-can-now-buy-govt-bond-through-dse-debt-board-2198231>

**Investors maintain cautious stance**

- Dhaka bourse closed the Thursday's session marginally lower amid mixed performance of major sectors as investors adopted cautious stance seeing corrections observed in previous three consecutive sessions. On the day, turnover value on Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) declined moderately as many investors were on the sideline and remained reluctant to inject fresh funds.
- At the end of the session, the DSEX settled at 7243.26 points with a loss of 0.07% or 5.17 points. Of 376 issues traded, 114 advanced, 219 declined and 43 were unchanged on the premier bourse DSE on Thursday. The DSE featured a turnover of BDT 14.33 billion which was 26.58% less than the turnover of the previous session.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/investors-maintain-cautious-stance-1634225823>

**City Bank wins ADB's 'Leading partner bank' award in Bangladesh for the second time**

- City Bank has won the Leading Partner Bank Award in Bangladesh for the second consecutive time in Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program (TSCFP) Awards 2021 by Asian Development Bank (ADB). City Bank first has won this prestigious award in 2020. Over 200 partner bank representatives attended the ceremony where 27 banks were recognized in 21 categories, according to a press release.
- City Bank first has won this prestigious award in 2020. Over 200 partner bank representatives attended the ceremony where 27 banks were recognized in 21 categories, according to a press release. City Bank has won the award for being the most active partner bank of ADB in Bangladesh during the 12 month period of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. In this period, City Bank has collaborated with ADB for coverage of trade transactions of small and large deals for corporate and SME clients. The award was achieved due to City Bank's continual efforts to increase its trade financing capacity, operational efficiency, financial health and risk management.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/10/14/city-bank-wins-adb-s-leading-partner-bank-award-in-bangladesh-for-the-second-time>

**LafargeHolcim Bangladesh reports 26% rise in net sales in Q3**

- Net sales of LargeHolcim Bangladesh in the third quarter of 2021 increased to BDT 4,602 million from BDT 3,655 million while operating EBIT increased to BDT 1,215 million from BDT 844 million compared with the 2020 Q3, said a press release. In the first nine months, the company achieved an EPS growth of 106%, supported by cost optimisation and digital initiatives.
- Profit after tax jumped to BDT 937 million from BDT 654 million with a growth of 43%. The company was also successful in compensating a significant portion of the increased input cost through commercial action.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/151791/lafargeholcim-bangladesh-reports-26pc-rise-in-net-sales-in-q3>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 81.37	USD 32.85	67.70%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 84.13	USD 32.33	62.41%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,797.01	(USD 98.09)	-5.18%
DSEX	7,243.27	1,841.20	34.08%
S&P 500	4,438.50	682.43	18.17%
FTSE 100	7,207.71	747.19	11.57%
BSE SENSEX	61,305.95	13,554.62	28.39%
KSE-100	44,333.68	578.30	1.32%
CSEALL	9,621.65	2,847.43	42.03%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 85.60 BDT****1 GBP = 117.02 BDT****1 Euro = 99.27 BDT****1 INR = 1.14 BDT**

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