

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.

Talks on Japan trade pact get fresh push

- Bangladesh moves to hold talks with Japan on the spadework for striking a much-envisaged free-trade agreement (FTA) or a preferential-trade agreement (PTA) with the developed Asian nation.
- Presently, all but a few Bangladeshi products enter the Japanese market with duty-and quota-free facility, but that would not last long after Bangladesh's graduation from the least-developed-country status by 2026.
- In 2018-19, Bangladesh imported goods worth US\$1.8 billion from Japan while its exports to the other side amounted to \$1.3 billion, which is over 3.0% of the country's total external trade.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/talks-on-japan-trade-pact-get-fresh-push-1632505440>

BD seeks duty-free access to US mkt

- Bangladesh has urged the United States (US) to grant duty-free access of Bangladeshi products to its market and sought more US investments in Bangladesh, reports BSS.
- The call was made by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam while he participated in a meeting with the US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman along with other Ministers and senior officials from Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka on Wednesday in New York, a foreign ministry statement said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bd-seeks-duty-free-access-to-us-mkt-1632500768>

Foreign investors urged to invest in heavy industry

- Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury urged foreign investors to invest in high-tech industry and heavy industries in Bangladesh saying that the country offers immense opportunities, reports BSS.
- He was addressing the second investment summit on 'Bangladesh Capital Market' at a road show on Wednesday at a hotel in Geneva, Switzerland. This road show with the theme being 'The Rise of Bengal Tiger: Potentials of Trade and Investment in Bangladesh' was organised by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to showcase investment opportunities in the capital market of Bangladesh for the expatriate Bangladeshis and foreigners, especially Swiss investors.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/foreign-investors-urged-to-invest-in-heavy-industry-1632500890>

Banks' lending thru agent banking stands at 15.63% of deposits in June-end quarter

- Banks' loan disbursement through their agent banking wings stood at 15.63% of the deposits they collected through the channel in the April-June quarter of 2021 as only 10 banks disbursed loans through the channel.
- Though the lending against the deposits improved by 1.6 percentage points in the period from 14.03% three months ago, banks are mostly using the scope for banking as a source of deposit mobilisation, said a Bangladesh Bank quarterly report on agent banking.
- So far banks have mobilised BDT 20,379.28 crore in deposits through their agent banking wings against the disbursement of only BDT 3,186.29 crore through the channel. The increased investment ratio against deposit

indicates that investment through agent outlets has gradually been getting momentum, the BB report said.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/150035/banks-lending-thru-agent-banking-stands-at-1563pc-of-deposits-in-june-end-quarter>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 73.93	USD 25.41	52.37%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 77.98	USD 26.18	50.54%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,746.78	(USD 148.32)	-7.83%
DSEX	7,250.60	1,848.53	34.22%
S&P 500	4,451.37	695.30	18.51%
FTSE 100	7,051.48	590.96	9.15%
BSE SENSEX	60,048.47	12,297.14	25.75%
KSE-100	45,073.52	1,318.14	3.01%
CSEALL	8,940.11	2,165.89	31.97%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 85.24 BDT****1 GBP = 116.49 BDT****1 Euro = 99.86 BDT****1 INR = 1.16 BDT**

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