

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.

Japanese companies in Bangladesh top export ratio list, says JETRO

- Country representative of the Japan External Trade Organization Yuji Ando on Friday has said that the export ratio of Japanese companies operating in Bangladesh is on the top among Asia and the Oceania countries as the ratio of exports to total sales by Japanese companies currently stands at 65.4%.
- Ando added that most of the Japanese companies operating in Bangladesh have expansion plans for 2022 and 2023. 'Bangladesh has the most competitive wage among the Asia and the Oceania countries. This is the time for Japanese companies to expand in Bangladesh and procure from local sources', Ando said.
- Around 65% Japanese companies operating in Bangladesh thought that they would be able to make a profit in 2022 as the Covid pandemic situation has improved.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/168152/japanese-companies-in-bangladesh-top-export-ratio-list-says-jetro>

Thailand favours increased connectivity, trade with Bangladesh: Envoy

- Thailand has said Bangladesh's economy would be more resilient provided it diversifies its sources of income rather than relying heavily on readymade industry. The Southeast Asian nation is also keen on promoting economic cooperation with Bangladesh through increased connectivity and bilateral trade.
- Both countries have set the goal to increase the bilateral trade volume to USD2 billion. During the past five decades, Bangladesh has progressively built the nation with growing per capita income.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/thailand-favours-increased-connectivity-trade-bangladesh-envoy-403618>

Neighbouring nations, blocs with trade potential get priority

- Next-door neighbours and blocs having trade potential, good connectivity, bilateral cooperation and strategic partnership will get priority in Bangladesh's journey towards free-trade agreements (FTAs), the government decides. A draft of the Regional Trade Agreement (RTA) policy also puts on priority list the countries which can be gateway for market access to other nations and countries to which Bangladesh may lose preferential trading facility shortly.
- The RTAs should be beyond conventional trade pacts, covering all the trade aspects like trade in goods and services and investment, intellectual property and labour issues, the draft reads. The ministry of commerce has drafted the policy, which is now nearly at the final stage with recently held inter-ministerial and stakeholder consultations.
- Trade officials say after graduation from the least-developed country (LDC) group in 2026, Bangladesh will lose preferential access to some of the global markets.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/neighbouring-nations-blocs-with-trade-potential-get-priority-1650045638>

VAT on BTCL profit sharing pay to foreign cos waived

- The National Board of Revenue has exempted the foreign companies listed under the Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited from paying value-added tax on profit sharing payments by the BTCL to avoid double taxation on consumers. The value-added tax wing of the NBR issued a special order offering the tax benefit on April 12.

- The BTCL brings different services, including internet bandwidth, Google and Facebook peering, Inmarsat, and international outgoing telephone call service, for consumers from foreign companies. Industry insiders said availing services from Google, Facebook, Netflix and others are subject to 32.5% VAT, while the highest VAT rate is 15% in Bangladesh.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/168164/vat-on-btcl-profit-sharing-pay-to-foreign-cos-waived>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 106.95	USD 31.74	42.20%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 111.70	USD 33.92	43.61%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,978.25	USD 149.05	8.15%
DSEX	6,584.97	-171.68	-2.54%
S&P 500	4,392.59	-373.59	-7.84%
FTSE 100	7,616.38	231.84	3.14%
BSE SENSEX	58,338.93	85.11	0.15%
KSE-100	46,601.54	2,005.47	4.50%
CSEALL	8,135.25	-4,090.76	-33.46%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 86.30 BDT****1 GBP = 112.71 BDT****1 Euro = 93.31 BDT****1 INR = 1.13 BDT**

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