



**CQK Mustaq Ahmed, chairman of Financial Reporting Council, and AF Nesaruddin, president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, attend a workshop on "Audit Quality and Fees Schedule Implementation" jointly organised by the council and the institute at CA Haban in Dhaka yesterday.**

# Britain hopes for trade deal with Australia within months of Brexit

REUTERS, Sydney

Britain's Trade Minister Liz Truss said on Wednesday she expects to complete a wide-ranging trade deal with Australia within months of exiting the European Union.

In efforts to reduce the economic impact of Brexit, Britain is looking to line-up a series of trade deals with smaller, non-EU countries.

Truss - who is in the middle of a three-nation tour that includes Australia, New Zealand and Japan - said she expects a quick conclusion to trade talks that will begin when Britain leaves the EU.

"The reason that I have chosen to make Australia one of the first countries I have visited as trade secretary is because it is an absolute



Liz Truss

priority to get on with this trade deal," Truss told reporters in Canberra. "I would say months rather than

years for it to be completed." British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said he will take the country out of the EU on Oct. 31 with or without a deal with Brussels.

But the British parliament this month passed a law that requires Johnson to ask the EU for a three-month delay to Brexit if a deal is not approved by Oct. 19.

Two-way trade between Australia and Britain is worth A\$26.6 billion (\$18.22 billion), Australian data shows.

Britain is Australia's seventh-largest trading partner, the data shows.

Australia's Minister for Trade Simon Birmingham said a trade deal with Britain will particularly benefit the country's agricultural sector, worth around A\$60 billion.

# Oil prices sink as quick Saudi output recovery seen

AFP, New York

Oil prices sank more than five percent on Tuesday, reversing some of the previous day's gains as analysts predicted Saudi output would recover sooner than expected after weekend drone attacks.

At the same time, global stocks were in a holding pattern while investors awaited the US Federal Reserve's latest decision on monetary policy due on Wednesday.

Economists widely expect the Fed to cut interest rates.

In the space of several minutes during afternoon European trading, North Sea Brent crude oil for delivery in November tumbled from \$67.75 to \$65.00. It fell as low as \$64.24, before recovering a little.

The market was already trading in negative territory after the previous day's record gains fueled by attacks on Saudi facilities which wiped out half the kingdom's crude output.

"The markets were once again wrong-footed by the Saudi news," said Forex.com analyst Fawad Razaqzada in reaction to Tuesday's price drop.

"This time prices slumped on reports of sooner-than-expected return for oil production after the attacks.

"Although little details have emerged, speculators are evidently happy to sell now and ask



REUTERS/FILE

**A service truck drives past an oil well on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota.**

questions later. And who would blame them after that big (price) gap?" The spike in the oil price had stoked fears that costlier energy and geopolitical instability could weigh on an already slowing global economy, but a quick recovery in Saudi exports and a return to earlier price levels would alleviate those concerns.

"Arguably Monday's spike in oil was unsustainable, since oversupply concerns have been the much more dominant theme this year, but

the sudden drop came earlier and quicker than expected," said Chris Beauchamp, chief market analyst at online trading firm IG.

Traders were nervously awaiting a further response from the United States after it said Iran was likely to blame.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was due to fly to Saudi Arabia to discuss possible retaliation after US officials claimed they had proof the weekend attacks had originated in Iran.

The crisis revived fears of a conflict in the tinderbox Gulf region and raised questions about the security of crude fields in the world's top exporter Saudi Arabia as well as other producers.

US President Donald Trump has said he is ready to help Riyadh following the strikes but would await a "definitive" determination on who was responsible.

Iran-backed Huthi rebels in Yemen claimed responsibility but Washington and Riyadh have accused Tehran, which denies the accusations.

Iran's supreme leader on Tuesday ruled out negotiations with the US "at any level," as tensions mounted between the arch-foes.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the United States had adopted a policy of "maximum pressure" on Iran because it believes it cannot bring the Islamic Republic to its knees through other means.

The attack on Saudi oil facilities also took attention away from the upcoming trade talks between China and the US, as well as a much-anticipated policy meeting of the Federal Reserve, which is expected to cut interest rates Wednesday.

Europe's leading stock markets finished the day mixed, while Wall Street popped into positive territory late Tuesday after a largely flat trading day ahead of the Fed's decision on interest rates.



CARE BANGLADESH

**MD Muniruzzaman, executive director for Pran Dairy, and Zia Choudhury, country director of Care Bangladesh, attend the signing of a memorandum of understanding in Dhaka yesterday for strengthening market access for rural dairy farmers.**

# Euro zone inflation confirmed at low of 1pc in August

REUTERS, Brussels

Euro zone inflation was stable in August at its lowest level in nearly three years, the European Union's statistics agency said on Wednesday, confirming its earlier estimates.

Eurostat said inflation in the 19 countries sharing the euro was at 1 percent on the year in August, unchanged from the July reading and in line with expectations in a Reuters poll.

On the month, inflation went up 0.1 percent, below market expectations of a 0.2 percent rise, new monthly data released by Eurostat showed.

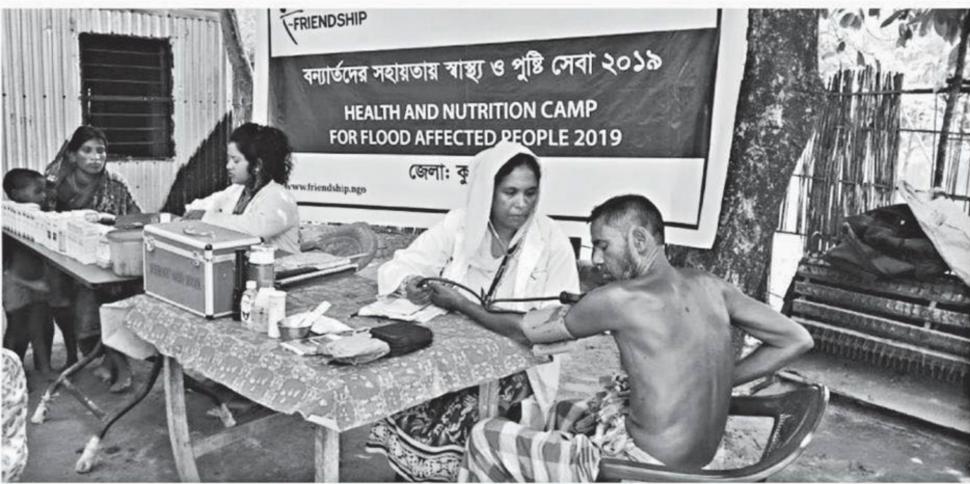
The rates of yearly price increases in July and August are the lowest since November

2016, well below the ECB's inflation target of below but close to 2 percent despite years of unprecedented monetary stimulus through rate cuts and trillions of euros of bond purchases.

Core inflation, which strips out volatile unprocessed food and energy and which the ECB scrutinises in policy decisions, was also confirmed at 1.1 percent in August on the year, the same rate recorded in July.

The narrower measure also excluding alcohol and tobacco prices, at which many market economists look, was unchanged at 0.9 percent.

Last week, European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi pledged indefinite monetary stimulus to revive an ailing euro zone economy and push up inflation.



STANCHART

**People are seen receiving medical services at a "post-flood health camp" in Kurigram recently. Standard Chartered Bangladesh in a partnership with non-profit organisation Friendship organised such camps in Kurigram, Bogura, Sirajganj and Gaibandha as part of its corporate social responsibility.**

# US industry gains on surge in manufacturing, mining

AFP, Washington

US industry posted its biggest output gain in a year in August, pushed by big rebounds in manufacturing and mining, the Federal Reserve reported Tuesday.

Manufacturing was a major driver of the recovery, with solid gains across many sectors -- with the notable exception of autos -- but output is still down compared to the same period of last year, according to the data.

American industry has been hurt by the trade war with China, which has created uncertainty that has put the brakes on business investment. Key private manufacturing surveys have reflected the slowdown.

However, analysts cautioned that the upbeat figures -- which come as the Fed's policy board is meeting to decide whether to cut lending rates again to boost the economy -- are inflated and will not last long.

The Fed's industrial production index jumped 0.6 percent compared to July, the largest increase since August 2018, the report said. That



REUTERS/FILE

**Workers box jars of pasta sauce at a plant run by Chelton House Products in Bridgeport, New Jersey.**

far exceeded the consensus forecast among economists.

"Factory output has increased 0.2 percent per month over the past four months after having decreased 0.5 percent during the first four months of the year," the Fed said.

Mining, including oil production

surged 1.4 percent, erasing the decline in July when oil extraction in the Gulf of Mexico was hit by Hurricane Barry.

Manufacturing jumped 0.5 percent, after declining nearly the same amount in July, but is still 0.4 percent below production in the first eight months of 2018.

# Huawei expects to see revenue uplift from 5G roll-out next year

REUTERS, Shanghai

Huawei Technologies expects the roll-out of next-generation 5G wireless networks to start contributing to the firm's revenue from next year when China launches services, the company's deputy chairman said on Wednesday.

The Chinese telecoms equipment giant has said that it has secured more than 50 5G commercial contracts even as it fights accusations from the United States and its allies that its networks are vehicles for Chinese espionage.

Ken Hu said that while the roll-out was accelerating, especially in Asia, the company believed that it would still need to "wait for a while before 5G contributes a sizeable share to revenue."

"We will have a clearer picture by mid-next year because by then the first batch of 5G commercial roll-outs in China will reach a certain phase," he told reporters on the sidelines of a

company conference, estimating that Huawei had now signed about 60 contracts.

China's big three state telcos are racing to roll out 5G services in more than 50 cities this year, following countries like South Korea and the United States which have already started the service that promises to support new technologies such as autonomous driving.

Huawei's home market has become more crucial to the company since Washington in May banned US firms trading with it due to national security concerns, hitting the company's international business.

The company denies the allegations and says Washington is trying to curb its industry leadership to benefit US companies.

Huawei founder and CEO Ren Zhengfei last week told The Economist magazine that in order to resolve US concerns, he is open to selling his firm's 5G technology - including

patents, code, blueprints, production know-how - to Western firms for a one-off fee.

Hu said that Ren's suggestion was not complex and that a new player could help alleviate security concerns.

"If the proposal gets implemented it will on one hand support more competition in 5G across the global supply chain, and such competition is beneficial to consumers and users and also contributes to the industry itself," he said.

The company also on Wednesday launched what it described as "the world's fastest artificial intelligence training cluster", dubbed Atlas 900, and pledged to invest \$1.5 billion in its developer program.

Huawei, which is also the world's No.2 smartphone maker, is scheduled to launch a new high-end smartphone on Thursday, despite uncertainty about whether the new handset will be able to run Google's Android operating system and apps.



BRAC DAIRY AND FOOD

**Mohammad Anisur Rahman, director for dairy and food at Brac Social Enterprises, attends a press meet at Brac's head office in Dhaka to launch Brac Artificial Insemination Enterprise's countrywide mobile health camp for livestock.**