

Futures inch lower ahead of unemployment, retail sales data

REUTERS, New York

US stock index futures fell slightly on Thursday after a strong rally in the previous session, with investor focus shifting to upcoming data on jobless claims and retail sales for a better reading on the ongoing economic recovery.

Wall Street indexes marked strong gains on Wednesday, with economically sensitive cyclical stocks benefiting the most from a rally in oil prices and data suggesting that factory activity growth remained steady in the country.

Data also showed a dip in import prices, which coupled with a recent reading that showed consumer prices were slowing, implied that inflation had likely peaked and would fall to more manageable levels eventually.

But the stock market has struggled to hold on to record highs hit earlier this month due to seasonally weaker trends in September, as well as concerns that an economic recovery could lose steam towards the end of the year.

Focus is now on weekly jobless claims and August retail sales data,



A street sign for Wall Street is seen outside the New York Stock Exchange in New York City on July 19. REUTERS/FILE

both of which are due at 8:30 AM ET (12:30 GMT). S&P 500 E-minis were down 5.75 points, or 0.13 per cent at 06:22 am ET. Dow E-minis were down 28 points, or 0.08 per cent, while Nasdaq 100 E-minis were down 32.75 points, or 0.21 per cent.

US-listed Chinese stocks extended losses in premarket trading, with

Beijing's regulatory overhaul of gambling in Macau coming as the latest source of consternation for a sector already hurt by crackdowns on technology and education services.

US-based casino operators Las Vegas Sands Corp, Wynn Resorts Ltd and MGM Resorts International also fell before the opening bell.

Plan ahead for your children's marriage

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The Marriage Endowment Policy Plan is a bit different from others: there is no scope to receive the entire insurance amount with the bonus before maturity.

"In case of the untimely death of the policyholder before the maturity, all premiums are waived, and the original insured money is available with the full bonus at the maturity," said Sheikh Khairuzzaman, assistant general manager of Jiban Bima Corporation.

In case of the death of the child insured, all premiums paid except for the first year are refunded along with the bonus. The insurance may also be continued for another child.

"The policyholder will be able to meet the expenditures of future emergencies if they purchase the policy for a sufficient period of time,"

said Khairuzzaman.

Sheikh Rakibul Karim, acting chief executive officer of Guardian Life Insurance, says Guardian Life has a very robust policy, Child Protection Plan (CPP), which helps customers plan a beautiful future for their children.

At the end of the term, the policyholder can get an attractive maturity value along with accrued bonuses. The amount can help the child pursue higher education or attain other major milestone events like marriage, entrepreneurship, or settlement abroad.

The level of support to the child multiplies significantly if the policyholder expires while paying the premium. Some 15 per cent of the sum assured is immediately paid to the legal guardian to mitigate the initial shock and make sure that the

education of the child doesn't stop.

After that, 1 per cent of the sum is provided every month to the child as a stipend until the end of the term so that the beneficiary can continue studies smoothly. By the end of the term, the full maturity value along with accrued bonuses are paid to the child.

"This is a highly effective policy that can be of great benefit for policyholders, their families and their children," Karim said.

Md Jalalul Azim, managing director of Pragati Life Insurance, said all insurers should introduce this type of policy considering the context of Bangladesh where parents usually provide for the expenses of marriage.

"A lot of money is spent on marriage, which many families struggle to afford. So, opening a marriage insurance policy could be a good support for them."

No solution yet to gas crisis

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As a result, the \$10 billion sector, which is mainly supplying yarn and fabrics to the local and export-oriented garment factories, is in a deep crisis, he added.

The reduction of production in the textile mills will also affect garment exports as the millers will not be able to supply yarn and fabrics, he said.

Khokon also said the crisis of yarn in the garment sector would be deepened further if the spinning mills cannot operate smoothly due to a lack of gas. The Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited (TGTDC) only gave him verbal assurances of supplying gas at adequate pressures but it was yet to materialise.

The BTMA, a platform of the primary textile sector comprising spinning, weaving and dyeing establishments, has sent a letter to Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, energy adviser to the prime minister, on Wednesday.

It sought a solution for gas to be supplied at a higher pressure to run their industrial units.

On Wednesday, Ali Iqbal Md Nurullah, managing director of the TGTDC, said any improvement in gas supply was dependent on the availability of gas in the pipelines.

"However, it is expected that the situation of gas supply will improve soon as we are working on the issue," he said.

The sufferers should also contact officials of Petrobangla so that the state-owned gas exploration and production company can also be aware about the gas crisis in the country, he said.

Currently, some 450 spinning mills have been catering to 80 per cent of the demand for yarn of the local knitwear factories. They are the main consumers of the gas.

Khokon, in the letter, said the local garment exporters may lose work orders from international retailers and brands if the spinners and weavers cannot

supply yarn and fabrics on time.

Moreover, investments worth \$10 billion in the primary textile sector will fall in trouble if the gas supply cannot be improved as soon as possible, said the industry people.

Cap on mobile phone imports for personal use

FROM PAGE B1

The regulator has sent a letter to the customs authorities to this effect.

About 1.5 crore mobile phones are imported every year to Bangladesh. Besides, two crore handsets are assembled locally.

At present, air travelers can carry eight handsets while arriving from abroad. Of them, two phones can be brought in free of charge and the rest by paying duties. Currently, there are 17.41 crore mobile phone subscribers in the country.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Nilphamari
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.7300.000.14.003.21-1363; Dated: 15-09-2021

e-Tender Notice: 03/2021-22 (LTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of the Scheme with Package No.	Official cost Estimate (Tk.)	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
01	609131	Improvement of Polashbari UP-Hazigonj hat Road (Ch. 3751-5451m), ID No-173643043 [Nilphamari Sadar] Package No: RDRIIP-2W-UNR-201	1,40,75,831.19	06-Oct-2021 Up to 17.00 hrs.	07-Oct-2021 Time: 12.30 hrs.	07-Oct-2021 Time: 12.30 hrs.
02.	609132	Improvement of Tupamari UP-Ramnagar GC & UP via Kacharipara Road (Ch. 00-1000m), ID No- 173643066 [Nilphamari Sadar] Package No: RDRIIP-2W-UNR-202	98,99,014.71	06-Oct-2021 Up to 17.00 hrs.	07-Oct-2021 Time: 12.30 hrs.	07-Oct-2021 Time: 12.30 hrs.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://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 banks branches up to 06-Oct-2021, time 17.00 hrs.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and also from E-mail: xen.nilphamari@lged.gov.bd or call to 0551-61485. Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

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GD-1664

Honey farming a new hope for small entrepreneurs

FROM PAGE B4

The industry is also helping to alleviate unemployment in the region to a great extent, said Ahmed Siraj, president of Kamalganj Small Cottage Industrialists Development Council.

Experts' Comments
Md Makhdom Elahi Mashrabi Shams, deputy general manager of the BSCIC office in Moulvibazar, told this correspondent that honeybees produce various commodities, such as honey, beeswax, pollen, and jelly.

By selling these items at local markets, beekeepers get good economic returns, which ultimately helps enrich the local economy, he said.

Abdul Momin, agriculture officer of Moulvibazar's Kultura upazila, said the production of bee-friendly crops was very low in this area.

Prof Chandra Kanta Dash, chairman of the entomology department of Sylhet Agricultural University, told this correspondent that honey farmers need technological support, financial assistance and a sound marketing system.

It is possible to make honey farming a million-dollar business for the country, creating a huge number of jobs in the process. Many unemployed people can be involved in honey bee farming and the marketing process, which will ultimately help reduce poverty apart from giving a boost to the country's export earnings.

Therefore, research is needed on the problems and possibilities of honey cultivation in Sylhet.

"I submitted a project to the University Grants Commission to analyse it for research. Then the details can be known easily," he added.

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Memo No 35.01.7587.190.17.017.21-1655 Date : 16. 09. 2021

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Superintending Engineer, RHD, Noakhali Circle, Noakhali for the procurement of following works :-

Sl No	Tender ID No	Package No	Description of Works	Tender Last Selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing (Date & Time)	Tender Opening (Date & Time)
01.	611355	SE/Noakhali/FRD/PMP-Road/2021-2022/03	Construction of Rigid Pavement from CH: 8+575 To 09+450 = 875.00 m of Feni (Mohammad ali bazar)-Chhagalnaiya Korerhat Road (Z-1031) (Dhaka-Chottogram old Highway) under Feni Road Division, during the year 2021-2022 Under PMP (Road-Major) Program.	17/10/2021 at 17:00	18/10/2021 at 12:00	18/10/2021 at 12:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@www.eprocure.gov.bd).

(Anapriya Barua)
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GD-1668

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Magura
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.0055.000.07.059.21.2171 Date: 15/09/2021

Invitation for Tender (Works)
Tender Notice No. 06/2021-22

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for Rural Roads & Culvert Maintenance 10 Nos. under District: Magura District.

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time	Procurement method
01	609352	e-Tender/LGED/Mag/GOBM/21-22/CW-24 Rehabilitation of 1 No. single vent 3.00mx3.00m RCC Box Culvert on Moghi U.P Office-Jagdal U.P Office via Jagla Charabottola Road at Ch. 2700m under Sadar upazila, Dist: Magura, Road ID: 255573002 (Culvert Re-hab.)	07/10/2021 12:30pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	(LTM)
02	609353	e-Tender/LGED/Mag/GOBM/21-22/CW-25 Rehabilitation of 1 No. single vent 3.00mx3.00m RCC Box Culvert on Moghi U.P Office-Jagdal U.P Office via Jagla Charabottola Road at Ch. 3150m under Sadar upazila, Dist: Magura, Road ID: 255573002 (Culvert Re-hab.)	07/10/2021 12:30pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	(LTM)
03	609354	e-Tender/LGED/Mag/GOBM/21-22/CW-26 Rehabilitation of 1 No. single vent 2.60mx2.60m RCC Box Culvert on Moghi U.P Office-Jagdal U.P Office via Jagla Charabottola Road at Ch. 3550m under Sadar upazila, Dist: Magura, Road ID: 255573002 (Culvert Re-hab.)	07/10/2021 12:30pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	(LTM)
04	609355	e-Tender/LGED/Mag/GOBM/21-22/CW-27 Rehabilitation of 1 No. single vent 2.60mx2.60m RCC Box Culvert on Moghi U.P Office-Jagdal U.P Office via Jagla Charabottola Road at Ch. 4550m under Sadar upazila, Dist: Magura, Road ID: 255573002 (Culvert Re-hab.)	07/10/2021 12:30pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	(LTM)
05	609357	e-Tender/LGED/Mag/GOBM/21-22/CW-29 i) Rehabilitation of 2 No. single vent 2.00mx2.00m RCC Box Culvert on Sreekhola UP office (Khamarpara)-Khalia Hat via Tupipara & Doshatina Road at Ch. 2700m under Sreepur upazila, Dist: Magura, Road ID: 255953004 (Culvert Re-hab.) ii) Rehabilitation of 1 No. 0.600mx0.625m U-drain on Barishat Village Road at Ch. 855m under Sreepur upazila, Dist: Magura, Road ID: 255955157 (Culvert Re-hab.)	07/10/2021 12:30pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	(LTM)
06	609358	e-Tender/LGED/Mag/GOBM/21-22/CW-30 Rehabilitation of 2 Nos. single vent 2.00mx2.00m RCC Box Culvert on Dariapur UP office (Chawgachi) to Tikerbela bazar via Rajapur Bazar Road at Ch. 3890m & Ch. 4320m Ch. 3890m under Sreepur upazila, Dist: Magura, Road ID: 255953010 (Culvert Re-hab.)	07/10/2021 12:30pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	(LTM)
07	609359	e-Tender/LGED/Mag/GOBM/21-22/CW-31 Rehabilitation of 2 Nos. single vent 1.60mx1.60m RCC Box Culvert on Bunagati-Maizpara via Gorerhat Road (Salikha Portion) at ch. 1912m & 5365m under Salikha upazila, Dist: Magura, Road, ID: 255852007 (Culvert Re-hab.)	07/10/2021 12:30pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	(LTM)
08	609361	e-Tender/LGED/Mag/GOBM/21-22/CW-32 Rehabilitation of 1 No. single vent 1.60mx1.60m RCC Box Culvert on Kumarkota-Junary Road at Ch. 351m under Salikha upazila, Dist: Magura, Road, ID: 255855021 (Culvert Re-hab.)	07/10/2021 12:30pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	(LTM)
09	609362	e-Tender/LGED/Mag/GOBM/21-22/CW-33 Rehabilitation of 1 No. single vent 0.750mx0.750m RCC Box Culvert Road at Ch. 2440m under Mohammadpur upazila, Dist: Magura, Road, ID: 255664067 (Culvert Re-hab.)	07/10/2021 12:30pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	(LTM)
10	609363	e-Tender/LGED/Mag/GOBM/21-22/CW-34 Emergency Maintenance of 1 No. single vent 1.00mx1.00m on Katakali GC-Ichakhada R&H via Raghobdair UP Office Road at Ch. 10720m under Sadar upazila, Dist: Magura, Road, ID: 255572010 EM (Culvert)	07/10/2021 12:30pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	07/10/2021 1:00pm	(LTM)

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GD-1663