



People are seen taking pictures amid a sea of gladiolus in Gadhali union under Jhikargacha upazila of Jashore. With festive occasions just around the corner, flower growers in the region are anticipating sales of about Tk 35 crore.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

Flower growers in Jashore eye Tk 35cr sales

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

Flower farmers in Gadhali union of Jashore are expected to rake in about Tk 35 crore in the upcoming sales season, which begins with new year celebrations followed by Pahela Falgun, Valentine's Day and International Mother Language Day. As such, they are currently busy planting different types of seedlings and hope to get better yields if the weather remains favourable. Many farmers in the Gadhali and Panisara unions under Jhikargacha upazila of Jashore have been cultivating flowers for a long time, making it one of the largest producing districts in Bangladesh. The region produces 11 types of flowers, including roses, gerbera and marigold, that have captivated the hearts of people all over the country for years now.

However, growers are mainly looking to recover the losses sustained amid the Covid-19 pandemic as the lack of festivities at the time severely hampered business. Recovery has been good so far though as they registered record sales on the occasion of Victory Day on December 16 this year. When travelling around Panisara and Gadhali, one can only see a vast sea of flowers on either side of the road as farmers have ramped up cultivation considering the favourable weather. "We could not profit from flower cultivation for two years amid the Covid-19 outbreak, due to which many farmers switched to growing vegetables and other crops in their fields," said Ismail Hossain, a flower farmer in Gadhali. However, the situation has since reversed as flower sales have grown

alongside the return to normalcy. "So, it is expected that flower sales will be considerably high this time," he added. During a visit to the flower market in Gadhali, it was found that a single rose is selling for Tk 3 while gladiolus and gerbera are both going for Tk 8-10 per piece. Meanwhile, 100-piece bunches of chrysanthemum are priced at Tk 150 while 1,000-piece bunches of marigold cost Tk 300. Aminur Rahman, a local florist, said the price of flowers has increased following Victory Day. However, he expects both the demand and price will increase again during the upcoming occasions. He then said that flowers have arrived in local markets comparatively earlier this year. Shahidur Rahman, a flower wholesaler from Dhaka's Jatrabari, said he has been staying in Gadhali for the past three days

to collect flowers for the upcoming events. Abdur Rahim, president of the Bangladesh Flower Society, said more flowers than expected have been cultivated in Gadhali this year. "We expect to sell flowers worth over Tk 30-35 crore this time," he added, citing how they already registered huge sales on the first big sales day of the year (Victory Day). Apart from the land used in Gadhali and Panisara, another 15,000 hectares across Jashore are used to cultivate various flowers, according to Masud Hossain Palash, agricultural officer of Jhikargacha upazila. "The local Department of Agricultural Extension [DAE] supports the farmers in various ways," he said. More than 2,200 hectares of land across the country were used to grow flowers in fiscal 2020-21, DAE data shows.

UCB to help treat needy kids with heart disease

STAR BUSINESS DESK

UCB Foundation, a non-profit organisation of United Commercial Bank, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases & Hospital for the treatment of underprivileged children with heart diseases.

Arif Quadri, managing director of the bank, and Professor Mir Jamal Uddin, director of the state-run hospital, signed the MoU at the latter's office on Monday, a press release said.

Under the deal, the foundation will bear the cost of required essential devices or accessories needed for the treatment of financially insolvent child patients with critical heart disease, while the hospital will provide the required treatment or surgery.

ATM Tahmiduzzaman, deputy managing director of the bank, and Abdullah Shahriar, professor and departmental head of pediatric cardiology department of the hospital, were present.

Mohiuddin one of Cumilla's top taxpayers

STAR BUSINESS DESK



ASM Mohiuddin Monem, additional managing director of Abdul Monem and chairman of ServisEngine, has been named as one of the highest income taxpayers under the Cumilla tax zone for fiscal year 2021-2022. This is the ninth consecutive time he has been named as one of the highest income taxpayers, said a press release. The youngest son of industrialist late Abdul Monem, Mohiuddin is also the honorary consul of the Czech Republic in Bangladesh.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (DEC 27, 2022)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 58-Tk 78	1.49 ↑	7.94 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 46-Tk 55	-1.94 ↓	8.6 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 60-Tk 62	-0.81 ↓	64.86 ↑
Lentil (kg)	Tk 100-Tk 105	-2.38 ↓	15.17 ↑
Soybean (litre)	Tk 170-Tk 180	0.86 ↑	22.81 ↑
Potato (kg)	Tk 16-Tk 22	-19.15 ↓	-24 ↓
Onion (kg)	Tk 35-Tk 50	6.67 ↑	-20 ↓
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 35-Tk 38	-6.41 ↓	7.35 ↑

SOURCE: TCB



AKM Mozammel Haq, minister for liberation war affairs, addresses a discussion titled "Philosophy and political life of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman" organised by Islami Bank Bangladesh at Islami Bank Tower in Dhaka on Monday. Md Nazmul Hassan, chairman of the bank, presided over the programme, while Mohammed Monirul Moula, managing director, was present.

PHOTO: ISLAMI BANK BANGLADESH



Mohammad Feroz Hossain, managing director of Exim Bank, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate the relocated Gulshan Mohila Branch in Gulshan-2, Dhaka on Monday. Other senior officials were also present.

PHOTO: EXIM BANK



Zareen Karim, managing director of Orion Pharma, poses for photographs with the company's regional sales managers and departmental heads at a "Strategic Meeting for 2023" held at Brac Centre for Development Management in Savar on Sunday. SM Noor Hossain, executive director for sales and marketing of the company, was present.

PHOTO: ORION PHARMA

Vietnam remains appealing destination for Japanese investors

Survey finds

ANN/VIET NAM NEWS

The proportion of Japanese enterprises that intend to expand their investment in Viet Nam in the next one to two years is 60 per cent, up 4.7 points from the previous year and the highest among Southeast Asian countries.

This figure is part of a survey on Japanese investment in Asia and Oceania 2022 by the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) in Viet Nam.

In a similar survey in China, the number of Japanese enterprises that have plans to expand their

investment in China in the next one to two years is only 33.4 per cent, the lowest level since the survey started in 2007.

In addition, the percentage of Japanese enterprises operating in Viet Nam forecast to be profitable in 2022 is 59.5 per cent, up 5.3 points compared to 2021.

According to JETRO, the main reason for the improving business profits in Viet Nam, in both manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors, is due to the country's strong socio-economic recovery from the pandemic.

Stocks continue to drop

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Bargain hunters were active on the last hour of the session but it still failed to make the index take a U-turn. Pressure of sales in IT, services, paper and pharmaceuticals pushed the DSEX down, it added.

All sectors witnessed price corrections, except for ceramic that rose 0.2 per cent alongside life insurance which advanced 0.1 per cent.

The financial institutions sector fell 0.1 per cent, IT 2.6 per cent and service 1 per cent.

Analysis of the turnover revealed that investors' activities were mostly centred on pharmaceuticals (47.8 per cent), IT (8.8 per cent) and paper (7.8 per cent) sectors.

Islami Commercial Insurance posted the highest appreciation, of 9.90 per cent, followed by Union

Capital (6.52 per cent) and Pragati Life Insurance (over 4 per cent).

Orion Infusion suffered the biggest fall, of 8.7 per cent, followed by Intraco Refueling Stations (6.6 per cent), Navana Pharmaceuticals (4.8 per cent) and Genex Infosys (4 per cent).

Intraco Refueling Stations was the stock to be traded the most, with shares worth Tk 12 crore changing hands. Bashundhara Paper Mills, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, Pragati Life Insurance and Genex Infosys also saw significant transactions.

The Caspi, the all share price index of Chittagong Stock Exchange, dropped 24 points, or 0.13 per cent, to end the day at 18,279 points.

Of the securities that underwent trade, 10 advanced, 42 declined and 76 did not show any price movement.



Matiur Rahman, chairman of Uttara Motors, and Vinay Sindhu, senior manager (training) of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, pose with participants after a training session organised by Uttara Motors in Tejgaon recently.

PHOTO: UTTARA MOTORS



Md Mahub Hossain, chairman of MJL Bangladesh, virtually presides over the company's 24th annual general meeting on Monday. The shareholders approved 50 per cent cash dividend for the year that ended on June 30, 2022. Azam J Chowdhury, managing director of the company, and directors were present.

PHOTO: MJL BANGLADESH



Hafizur Rahman Khan, chairman of Runner Automobiles, virtually addressed the company's 22nd annual general meeting yesterday. The shareholders approved 10 per cent cash dividend for the year that ended on June 30, 2022. Subir Kumar Chowdhury, managing director, was present.

PHOTO: RUNNER AUTOMOBILES