

US consumer confidence falls unexpectedly

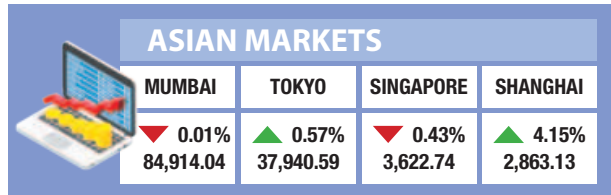
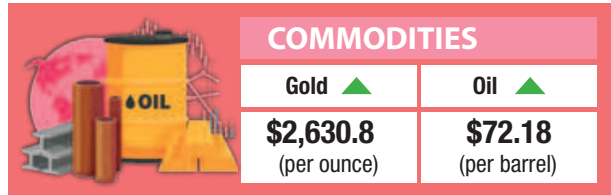
AFP, Washington

US consumer confidence unexpectedly dropped in September on labor market concerns, according to survey data published Tuesday, signaling dampening optimism about the economy as November's presidential election approaches.

That could prove challenging for Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris given the economy remains a top issue for voters ahead of the election, in which she is running against Republican former president Donald Trump.

The Conference Board's consumer confidence index fell sharply to 98.7 in September, down from a revised 105.6 last month.

This was well below market expectations, according to Briefing.com.



Citing an increase in pure gold prices in the local market, the Bangladesh Jewellers Association yesterday decided to raise the prices of 22-carat gold by Tk 2,612 per bhoori.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

Gold hits all-time high of Tk 135,663 per bhoori

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Gold prices continued breaking records as it reached a new all-time high of Tk 135,663 per bhoori (1.664 grammes), which will come into effect from today.

Citing an increase in pure gold prices in the local market, the

Bangladesh Jewellers Association in a meeting on Tuesday decided to raise the prices of 22-carat gold by Tk 2,612 per bhoori.

Gold prices in Bangladesh have been rising steadily for over a year, crossing the Tk 100,000 per bhoori mark for the first time in July last year.

Although the country does not

import significant quantities of gold, its prices remain linked with international trends.

The country's annual demand for gold currently stands between 20 and 40 tonnes.

At present, about 80 percent of the demand is met by smuggled gold, according to industry people.

Midland Bank strikes MoU with Ace Autos

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Midland Bank PLC recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with ACE Autos and ACE Workshop, a local car importer and its automobile repair shop, under which the bank's cardholders will enjoy special discounts on auto purchase and servicing.

Saleh Mujtaba Khaled, chief operating officer of the car importer and modern motor workshop, and Md Rashed Akter,

head of the retail distribution division of the bank, penned the MoU at the bank's head office in the capital's Gulshan, said a press release.

MDB Visa platinum credit cardholders will enjoy a Tk 25,000 discount on car purchases from ACE Autos outlets and a 10 percent discount from ACE Workshop outlets on car servicing fees.

MDB gold credit card, debit and prepaid cardholders will enjoy a 5 percent discount from ACE Workshop outlets on car servicing fees.



Saleh Mujtaba Khaled, chief operating officer of ACE Autos and ACE Workshop, and Md Rashed Akter, head of retail distribution division of Midland Bank, pose for photographs after signing a memorandum of understanding at the bank's head office in the capital's Gulshan recently.

PHOTO: MIDLAND BANK

Akij Ceramics brings large tiles

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Akij Ceramics has launched a range of tiles sized 100x100 centimetres considering the huge demand for such products in Bangladesh.

The tiles feature a high gloss finish that enhances the spaciousness of interiors, providing a seamless and luxurious look. They are designed to elevate any space with a sophisticated and spacious appeal, as per a press release.

The size of these tiles also reduces the need for grout lines, making them ideal for contemporary spaces aiming for a clean and expansive aesthetic.

The range includes a variety of designs to cater to diverse tastes and styles, making it suitable for both residential and commercial use.

Local consumers seeking these grand-scale tiles previously had no choice but to rely on imported products, often at a higher cost and with limited design options.

Addressing this gap in the market, Akij Ceramics launched this new line of 100x100-centimetre tiles that not only matches, but exceeds international standards in design and durability.

As such, this high quality, locally produced alternative offers consumers a competitive option without the need to turn to foreign imports.

Bangladesh's tile industry has made remarkable advancements, with leading manufacturers at the forefront of this progress in recent years.

With the launch of these tiles, Akij Ceramics continues to set new standards by combining aesthetic beauty, functional performance and exceptional craftsmanship, the press release said.

The global demand for 100x100-centimetre or 1,000x1,000-millimetre tiles has seen a significant rise, driven by a preference for larger floor tiles that create a seamless, luxurious appearance in both residential and commercial spaces.

There are currently 31 ceramic tile manufacturing facilities in the country with a combined annual production capacity of 20.70 lakh square metres.

An estimated \$633 million worth of tiles were sold in Bangladesh in fiscal year 2022-23.

At present, domestic production caters to 80 percent of the country's total demand for tiles.

BB hikes

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lower capacity and competitiveness and a possible negative impact on employment opportunities," the DCCI president told The Daily Star.

In recent times, the private sector has been facing many obstacles due to an inadequate supply of gas and electricity along with labour dissatisfaction in industrial areas. The DCCI president feared

reduced credit flow could exacerbate challenges.

"We hope the central bank can activate various programmes to support lending to cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises as soon as possible," he said.

"We also hope the central bank will return to lower rates as soon as practical and reduce taka rates in a manner similar to the reduction of US dollar rates."



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Inspector General
Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka

Invitation for e-Tender

Memo No.44.01.0000.029.07.40.24-1845 Dates: 23 September 2024

For financial year 2024-25, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

S. No.	Description	Tender ID	Procurement Method	Scheduled Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Opening Date and Time
1.	Blanket (Double)	1017093	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
2.	Blanket (Semi-double)	1017174	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
3.	Haversack	1017192	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
4.	Kit Box	1017193	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
5.	Mosquito Net (Double)	1017194	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
6.	Mosquito Net (Single)	1017195	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
7.	Socks (Black and White)	1017196	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
8.	Socks (Training & Parade)	1017198	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
9.	Boot (Training and Parade)	1017211	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
10.	Canvas Shoe	1017212	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
11.	Canvas Shoe (For Officer)	1017214	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
12.	Petticoat	1017215	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
13.	Gumboot	1017217	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
14.	Pump Shoe (For Women Police)	1017219	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
15.	Shoe Brush	1017223	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
16.	Shoe Polish	1017224	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00
17.	Polo Shirt (Half Sleeve)	1017343	OSTETM	24-Sep-2024 23:00	23-Oct-2024 12:00

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 Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branch.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



(Mohammad Ashrafuazzaman, BPM-Sheba)
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GD-511

IMF mission wants workplan

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discussed the government's near-term priorities and commitments under the IMF-supported programme and planned fiscal reforms.

The interim government informed the mission about various steps that have been taken for revenue mobilisation and curbing inflation, according to a finance ministry official who took part in the meeting.

"We have sought technical and financial assistance from the IMF," Ahmed told journalists at Bangladesh Secretariat afterwards.

"We need resources. We will utilise our local resources as much as we can, but for specific areas, we will require foreign assistance," he added.

However, the interim

government may revise the amount of loan that it would finally seek as it is dependent on the assistance other donor agencies end up confirming.

"We asked for new resources (loans), but did not mention any figure. We will meet the IMF policymakers in Washington in October," he said.

Yesterday, the IMF mission also met Ahsan H Mansur and sought to know about the reforms being brought about in the banking sector and initiatives for increasing foreign currency reserves.

In response, Bangladesh Bank informed that a market-based exchange rate has been brought about for foreign currencies and further measures will be taken as necessary.

Factory owners accept all 18 demands

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The government will frame a policy to centrally control the jhut (waste fabric) business as control for the trade of scrapped clothes emerged as one of the main reasons for the unrest.

A separate review committee will submit a report on the industry's capacity to review the wage structure, the labour secretary said, adding that the government will also review police cases against workers to ensure they are not harassed.

Md Sarwar Alam, superintendent of Ashulia Industrial Police-1, said

yesterday: "Of the closed factories, 46 were shut today due to workers' protests over demands for salary increases, increments and other benefits while nine had declared a general holiday."

Labour leaders reported that workers of several factories gathered in front of the premises in the morning but left when they were found to be closed.

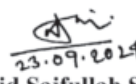
According to the Industrial Police, the closed factories are primarily located along the Bypail-Abdullahpur road in the Jamgora, Narasinghpur, and Zirabo areas of Ashulia.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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Email: eerhdfaridpur@gmail.com

RHD Quotation for Toll Collection
Sealed Quotation are hereby invited for the following work:

1	Leasing Quotation No.	: FRD-01/2023-24 (12th call)
2	Description of toll	: Leasing out for collection of Toll from Different Vehicular Traffic Crossing the Gorai Bridge at 66th km of Daulatdia-Faridpur (Goalchamot)- Magura-Jhenidah-Jessore-Khulna Mongla (Digraj) (N-7) Highway Road under Road Division, Faridpur during the year 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27 (3 financial years).
3	Lease period	: 03 (three) financial years
4	Price of quotation scheduled	: Tk. 5000/- (five thousand) only (non-refundable)
5	Earnest money	: 10% of total quoted rate (with VAT and IT) in form of B.D. or P.O from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favor of Executive Engineer, Road Division, Faridpur
6	Last date & time for selling leasing quotation document	: 07/10/2024 upto5:00pm
7	Last date & time for receiving quotation	: 08/10/2024 up to 12:30pm
8	Eligibility of quotationer	: Contractors in RHD or in any department/ any person or firm in Bangladesh (who possesses nationality of Bangladesh, VAT certificate and up-to-date trade license and income tax certificate)
9	Name of offices where leasing quotation will be available	: Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka/Deputy Commissioner, Faridpur/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Faridpur/Madaripur/Shariatpur/Gopalganj/Rajbari/Planning Division-1, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka/Upazilla Nirbahi Officer, Modhukhali, Faridpur/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division 1/2/1 Line Workshop, Faridpur
10	Name of the offices where leasing quotation will be received	: Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Faridpur/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Faridpur/Deputy Commissioner, Faridpur.
11	Date, time & place for opening the quotation	: Place: Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Faridpur, Date: 08/10/2024, Time: 02:00pm.

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any/ all quotations without assigning any reason thereof.



Khalid Saifullah Sardar
ID No. 602287
Executive Engineer (c.c.), RHD
Road Division, Faridpur

GD-510