



ICDT INSIGHTS

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BANGLADESH SEES ITS FDI RISING AMID GLOBAL TRADE SHIFTS

Amid the recent global trade shifts exacerbated by the US-China Trade war, Bangladesh is attracting more and more investors and developing its economy in an unprecedented manner. "The country's new leadership has irreversibly raised the bar for FDI facilitation" has said Ashik Chowdhury, executive chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority and Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority.

There is no denying the truth of his statement, as evidenced by the growing enthusiasm surrounding the country's expanding partnerships.

Indeed, Bangladesh's economy is developing greatly thanks to to increasing Foreign direct investments from countries like China, the United Arab

Emirates, Japan and South Korea since the beginning of the year.

The country, known for its valuable human resources, low cost labour and expanding industrial base, has significant potential for foreign investment due to its business friendly environment,

strategically advantageous location, and sizable consumer market.

This results in a real increase of Greenfield FDI announcements in Bangladesh that reached a record last year, according to data monitored by FDI Markets.



According to a poll conducted in August and September of last year by the Japan External Trade Organization, 58% of Japanese businesses intend to grow in Bangladesh this year, placing it second only to India in the Asia-Pacific region.

This self-assurance is well-founded. The caretaker government of Bangladesh is functioning as a cohesive entity, guaranteeing that departments collaborate rather than operate independently. Bad loans are being addressed by banking reforms, which are also making capital repatriation easier. The objective is straightforward: no investor should feel lost in Bangladesh.

In this sense, The Bangladesh Investment Development

Authority (Bida) will host a major investment summit in April to boost FDI in the country. Over 3,000 delegates from more than 40 countries have already expressed interest in attending the "Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025" scheduled to be held from 7 to 10 April.

The summit will offer a unique platform to explore investment opportunities, foster partnerships and engage with top decision-makers, shaping the future of business.

Five key sectors have been chosen: renewable energy; digital economy; textile and apparel; healthcare and pharma; and agro-processing.

This turnaround in terms of investment attractiveness is

attributed in large part to the establishment of interim leader Muhammad Yunus, a widely respected figure in the country that allowed for a relatively stable transition of power. Yunus is well-recognized on the international stage for pioneering the use of microfinance to combat poverty, for which he won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

Since its arrival, Bangladesh is merging its existing five regional investment promotion agencies (IPAs) into one centre that will focus on attracting and streamlining foreign direct investment (FDI) to the country.

Source: The Daily Star, Investment Monitor, FDI Intelligence.

LOCAL REFINERIES ARE TRANSFORMING AFRICA'S ENERGY LANDSCAPE.

By producing and exporting refined petroleum products at an unprecedented scale, Dangote refineries has positioned Nigeria as a major player in the global petroleum market. The unprecedented project is rightfully lauded as a transformative force capable of reshaping Africa's economic future.

As the world's largest single-train refinery, with a capacity of 650,000 barrels per day, Dangote Refinery has begun exporting petrol, diesel, and jet fuel to various countries in Africa which exemplifies the growing trend of African countries trading with each other, fostering economic solidarity on the continent.

Cameroon Ghana, Angola and South Africa are among the refinery's most important customers while advanced talks are ongoing with five other African nations (Niger Republic, Chad, Burkina Faso and Central Africa Republic and Namibia) to start lifting fuel. Such exports are a game-changer, reducing reliance on



European imports, strengthening regional energy trade, and fostering economic ties within Africa. By supplying refined petroleum products, the refinery helps stabilize fuel prices and improve accessibility for businesses and

consumers, driving economic activity and enhancing energy security across the region.

Moreover, it creates thousands of jobs across the value chain, from construction to skilled operations and maintenance.

It also promotes industrialization by supplying petrochemicals and offering new opportunities in services, logistics and manufacturing.

They are a factor in attracting foreign investment, intra-African trade, economic integration and initiatives such as the African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Additionally, the Dangote Refinery supports clean energy transition by producing a range of cleaner fuels, including low-sulfur diesel and gasoline. These fuels have significantly lower sulfur content compared to traditional fuels, which helps to reduce air pollution and

improve air quality. By producing cleaner fuels, the refinery contributes to the country's efforts to combat pollution-related health issues and promotes a healthier living environment for communities.

Source: [Africa Business Insider](#), [Business Day](#)

BURKINA FASO STRENGTHENS INDUSTRIALIZATION: H.E. PRESIDENT TRAORÉ INAUGURATES NEW CEMENT PLANT



His Excellency, the President of Burkina Faso, Captain Ibrahim Traoré, inaugurated the "Sino Burkina de Ciments" (CISINOB) company in Laongo, in the center of the country. This cement plant, the result of fruitful cooperation between Burkina Faso and China, cost \$43 million and has a production capacity of 750,000 tons of cement per year.

On this occasion, His Excellency Captain Ibrahim Traoré stated that the completion of this project once again demonstrates the authorities' commitment to advancing the country's economic

development and its openness to foreign investment. He also emphasized that this cement plant, the first in an inland city, strengthens the existing supply and aligns perfectly with the vision of endogenous and sustainable development.

According to the authorities, in addition to providing an estimated 110 permanent jobs and 300 short-term seasonal jobs, this cement plant will contribute to the construction of quality infrastructure and decent housing for the population while reducing the country's dependence on cement imports.

It should be noted that the inauguration of CISINOB is part of the country's industrialization program launched by His Excellency Captain Ibrahim Traoré. In this regard, the country has opened a detergent factory in Napamboumbou, in the commune of Pabré, with a capacity of 300 tons per day, as well as a flour mill in Gampéla, in the commune of Saaba, specializing in wheat flour production with a capacity of 220 tons of flour and 80 tons of bran per day.

Source: [koaci](#), [lefaso.net](#)

10th

**DAKAR INTERNATIONAL
EXPO ON HEALTH AND
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

5th

**OCI MEMBER STATES
HEALTH EXPO**

THEME :
Health as a tool for the
economic development
of **OCI** Member States



15 - 19 april 2025
at CICES

Special Guest 
Saudi Arabia

Honour guest 
Kingdom of Morocco



IRAQ'S AGRICULTURAL REVIVAL: SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND GROWING EXPORTS

According to The Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture, the country has achieved self-sufficiency in seven crops and is exporting 13 crops internationally.

Despite water shortages, Iraq is expanding its agricultural plans by cultivating desert lands, relying on well water, and developing drought-resistant crop varieties.

Indeed, the government has invested \$663 million in over 12 000 modern irrigation systems, aiming to increase farmland by up to 375 thousand Hectare.

These initiatives, alongside awareness campaigns on water conservation, have resulted in a surplus of key crops, including wheat, while rice cultivation has expanded to 37 500 Ha.

Thanks to that, Iraq has now reached self-sufficiency in seven agricultural products year-round and is exporting 13 crops, including dates tomatoes, potatoes and

watermelon.

This trend has also been observed in vegetable oils, as the country has marked a significant milestone by shipping it abroad for the first time. Indeed, 40 000 Tons of high-quality soybean oil were successfully exported to Pakistan and India

Dates production in Iraq.

Looking on the export potential of dates, Iraq decided to focus on the sector, with a target of 30 million palm trees within three years

Indeed, Iraq's Council of Ministers authorized the Ministry of Agriculture to contract with Date Palm Developments Ltd (DPD) to supply 20,000 tissue-cultured palm seedlings as part of the National Program for Date Palm Rehabilitation and Seedling Propagation in Iraq for 2024.

Moreover, Iraq's Ministry of Agriculture has launched a

series of initiatives aimed at increasing the number of high-quality date palms and enhancing date production.

We are also witnessing the establishment of genetic banks to propagate large numbers of superior saplings.

The initiative includes tissue culture projects that began in 2009, the use of drip irrigation technology, and solar-powered systems. Efforts to rehabilitate palm orchards and other pioneering projects are also underway to improve date palm cultivation.

During Palm and Dates Day, 100 varieties of Iraqi dates and tissue-cultured saplings were exhibited, showcasing a portion of the country's 600 date varieties.

A challenge regarding the water crisis.

Iraq faces an escalating water crisis that poses a severe threat to its agricultural sector and overall water resources, with experts warning of catastrophic consequences if urgent measures are not implemented. The country has experienced a significant decrease in rainfall, exacerbating existing challenges in food production and water management.

Source: [Iraq-businessnews](#)



BRIEFS

➤ **Morocco, Egypt review trade agreement.**

On 28th February 2025, Morocco and Egypt are reviewing their free trade deals after Egyptian authorities-imposed restrictions on Morocco's car exports.

The news was confirmed by spokesman for the government Mustapha Baitas who said relations between the two countries were excellent, but their trade agreement was being reviewed by trade officials.

News outlets from the two countries mentioned that Morocco responded by blocking entry of Egyptian goods after Egypt's unjustified move against Moroccan cars. Authorities did not confirm the news.

Morocco is Africa's largest automotive exporter with \$15.7 billion, including cars from Renault factories in Tangier and Casablanca, and Stellantis cars made in Kenitra.

Source: [The North African Post](#)

➤ **Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan roll out free trade regime.**

On March 7th, 2024, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have officially established a free trade regime, following the successful implementation of the necessary bilateral procedures. This milestone was achieved under the Protocol on Exemptions from the Free Trade Regime to the agreement on long-term trade and economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

As of the implementation of the new trade regime, customs tariffs on most items manufactured within both nations have been removed. Furthermore, trade procedures have been made more straightforward, and limitations on mutual commerce have been removed. Turkmenistan has abolished customs duties on various Uzbek imports, including cement products, as well as textiles, furniture, and glassware.

To ensure the effective use of the free trade regime, Uzbekistan's Ministry of Investment, Industry, and Trade, in coordination with other relevant ministries and agencies, has launched a mechanism to facilitate the export of local products to the Turkmen market.

In 2024, trade turnover between Uzbekistan

and Turkmenistan reached \$1.14 billion, marking an increase of 5.5% compared to the previous year.

source: [Trend](#)

➤ **10 MoUs with Indonesia on cards.**

On March 10th, 2025, more than 10 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and agreements are likely to be signed between the two brotherly countries Indonesia and Pakistan soon, according to well-placed diplomatic and Foreign Office sources.

Both sides will also engage in talks to make progress on a free trade agreement (FTA) to further strengthen economic ties.

When it comes to high-potential sectors for trade growth, Pakistan may focus on processed food, pharmaceuticals, IT services and halal meat while consumer electronics, auto parts and processed palm-based products are far better in Indonesia.

In 2023, Pakistan exported goods worth approximately \$328.16 million to Indonesia. Indonesia's exports to Pakistan were valued at around \$3.03 billion. Indonesia produces nearly half of the world's refined nickel and two-thirds of the mined nickel; therefore, it intends to achieve a more prominent place in the world's electric vehicle (EV) supply chain.

Source: [The Express Tribune](#)

➤ **AfCFTA and BRICS: Unlocking Africa's trade potential**

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is emerging as a key player in global trade, and its growing ties with BRICS nations present new opportunities for economic collaboration. The BRICS bloc represents a significant share of global GDP and investment. Meanwhile, Africa offers vast untapped potential in trade, infrastructure, and critical minerals.

One area of potential collaboration is the processing of critical minerals, where African nations can work with BRICS members like China to add value to resources within the continent.

source: [Pravda Egypt](#)



- Encouraging the development of regular trade exchanges among Member States.
 - Promoting investments aimed at trade development.
 - Contributing to the promotion of productions from Member States and facilitating access to foreign
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- Promoting commercial information.
 - Assisting Member States in the field of trade promotion and international trade negotiations.
 - Assisting businesses and economic operators.
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- Encouraging contacts between businessmen from Member States.
 - Promoting the products of Member States, including through regular Islamic Fairs and specialized
-
- Assisting Member States in establishing and organizing Export Promotion Centers.
 - Providing advisory and expertise services to Member States in trade promotion matters.
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- Collecting and disseminating trade data.
 - Developing remotely accessible trade databases.
 - Assisting Member States in establishing Documentation Centers and Commercial Information
-
- Encouraging intra-OIC investments.
 - Promoting foreign investments in OIC Member States.
 - Encouraging partnerships among economic operators from Member States.
 - Providing advisory and expertise services to Member States, particularly in export-oriented investment
-
- Publishing an Annual Report on intra-Islamic trade.
 - Conducting sectoral studies on products and markets.
 - Studying ways and means to alleviate trade barriers among Member States.
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- Organizing seminars and training programs.
 - Assisting Member States in creating a pool of experts in various fields of trade development.
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- Assisting Member States in trade negotiations.
 - Preparing and organizing intra-OIC trade negotiations.

agenda



■ **42ND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ICDT**
09-10 April 2025 • Casablanca, Morocco

■ **TRAINING COURSE ON STRENGTHENING EFFORTS TO FACILITATE TRANSPORT IN OCI MEMBER-LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES.**
29-30 April 2025 • online

■ **ISLAMIC COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**
15-17 April 2025 • Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

■ **5TH OIC HEALTH EXPO.**
15-19 April 2025 • Dakar, Senegal

■ **PERMANENT FINANCE COMMITTEE**
20-23 April 2025 • Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

■ **OIC TOURISM FAIR / AFRICA TOURISM EXPO.**
19-21 June 2025 • Kampala, Uganda

■ **51ST SESSION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL**
20-21 June 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye

■ **WORKSHOP ON TIR/CMR AND ETIR/ECMR OF THE ATLANTIC ARC (MOROCCO-GABON)**
25-26 June 2025, Casablanca Morocco.

■ **ICDT INVEST DAYS - MORONI**
26-29 August 2025 • Moroni, Comoros

■ **42ND SESSION OF COMCEC**
01-04 November 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye

■ **WORLD HALAL SUMMIT**
26-29 November 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye

■ **OIC INVESTMENT FORUM IN AFRICA**
2-4 December 2025 • Bamako, Mali

■ **9TH ACMOI**
10-11 December 2025 • Jeddah, Saudi Arabia



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