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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

Bangladesh: Economy **November 03, 2021**

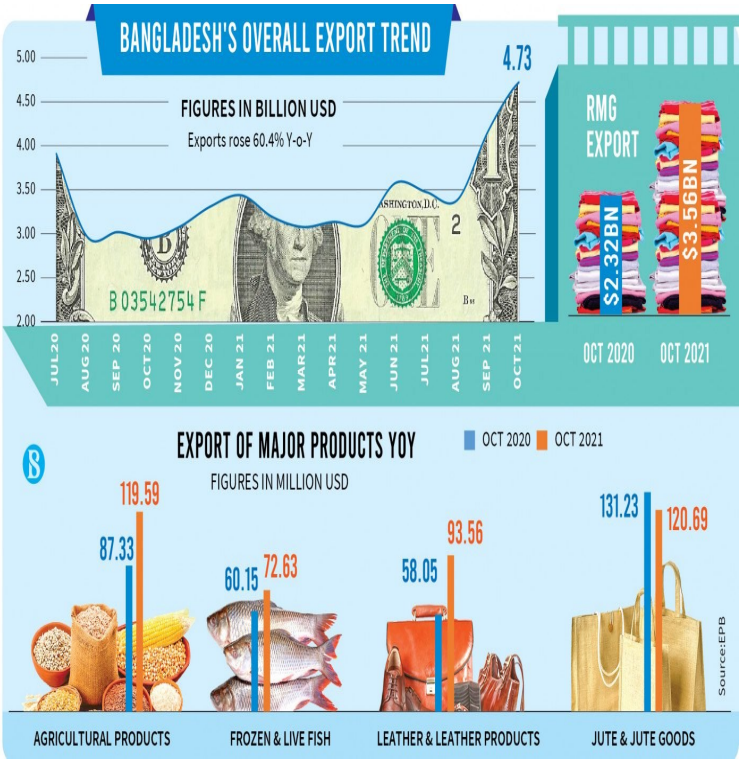
Export Sees Record over 60% Growth in Oct

Bangladesh has recorded its highest ever single-month export earnings amounting to $4.72 billion in October, thanks to a strong rebound in demand for apparels in western countries ahead of festival season and supply disruptions from key competitors that faced fresh waves of pandemic.

The export receipts surpassed the $3.46 billion target set for the month, registering a whopping 60.37% year-on-year growth, according to provisional data of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) released on Tuesday.

Apparel shipment grew by 53.27% to $3.56 billion year-on-year in October, raising the total export earnings to $15.74 billion in the first four months of this fiscal year. The highest earnings, $2.04 billion, came from knitwear shipment, while woven items fetched $1.51 billion, both posting over 52% growth from a year-ago period.

Source: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/exports-see-record-473b-rise-october-324325



City Bank Arranges Tk. 742cr for Power Plant

City Bank has arranged a Tk 742 crore syndicated loan with Bank Asia and Eastern Bank for a heavy fuel oil-based power plant being run by Manikganj Power Generations Ltd.

The financing will help the power plant operate smoothly, said a City Bank official. The plant, located at Shingair of Manikganj, has a production capacity of 162 megawatts (MW) and is owned by Doreen Group.

City Bank provided Tk 217 crore and credit guarantee of Tk 525 crore, of which Tk 355 crore is from Bank Asia and Tk 170 crore from Eastern Bank.

Providing credit guarantee means City Bank will have to repay the fund to the two banks if the borrower fails to pay back the loans.

Source: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/city-bank-arranges-tk-742cr-power-plant-2220916

Meghna Insurance Wants to Go Public for Tk16cr

Meghna Insurance Company wants to raise Tk16 crore from the stock market to strengthen its business.

The insurer has sought approval from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to issue an initial public offering (IPO) under the fixed price method.

It wants to invest Tk2.40 crore in the government treasury bonds, Tk3.20 crore in listed securities, and Tk9.52 crore in fixed deposit receipts (FDRs).

Meghna Insurance Company Limited has decided to enter the capital market after getting an exemption from the commission.

The principal activities of the company are to carry on all kinds of insurance, guarantee, and indemnity business other than life insurance business.

It is engaged in fire, marine, engineering, motor, and miscellaneous insurance.

In the January-March quarter of 2021, the net profit of the company was Tk2.67 crore, which was Tk5.24 crore in the same period a year ago.

Source: tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/meghna-insurance-wants-go-public-tk16cr-324484

Each Resident Investor Avails 40 Acme Pesticides Shares in IPO



Against their subscription for 1,000 primary shares in the initial public offering (IPO) of Acme Pesticides Limited, each resident individual investor is set to avail 40 shares, disclosed the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

Non-resident investors have been individually set to own 63 shares as competition is little less for them, the premier bourse informed following the pro-rata share allocation event held on Tuesday in DSE Tower.

Acme Pesticides IPO was 20.22 times oversubscribed.

In the new rules for IPO application, investors cannot subscribe for primary shares unless they have at least Tk20,000 investments in the secondary market and one individual cannot subscribe for more than primary shares worth Tk10,000.

Source: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/each-resident-investor-avails-40-acme-pesticides-shares-ipo-324394

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DSE News

Achia Sea Foods Files for Tk15cr through QIO



Achia Sea Foods Ltd wants to raise Tk15 crore from the capital market through a qualified investor offer (QIO) to expand the business.

The company has already applied to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) recently.

Achia Sea Foods Ltd is a shrimp producer company in the frozen food processing industry. It was launched on 27 December 1993.

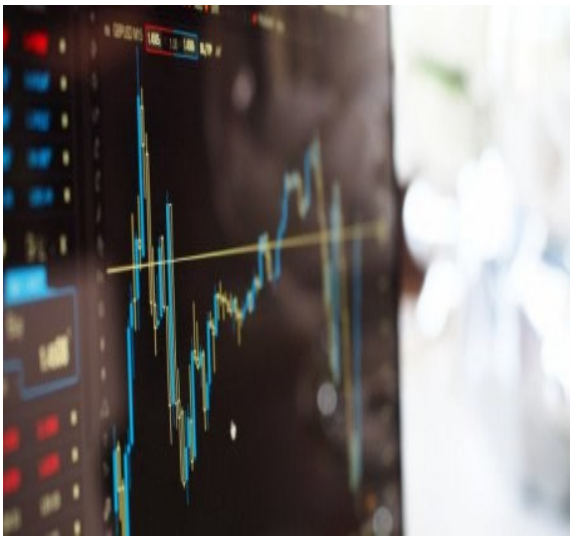
The company will use the money for balancing, modernisation, rehabilitation and expansion, and for loan payment.

According to the financial statements of 30 June 2021, the revenue of the company was Tk137.73 crore, which was Tk44.02 crore in the previous year.

Consequently, the net profit of the company was Tk4.20 crore, which was Tk1.48 crore in the previous year.

Source: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/achia-sea-foods-files-tk15cr-through-qio-324409

Stocks Close Lower for the Third Consecutive Session



Selling pressure in majority scrips pushed stock indices lower on Tuesday.

Three consecutive down sessions corrected half of the upward move over the previous three sessions.

DSEX, the broad-based index at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), falling 0.62% over the session closed at 6,954 on Tuesday.

Amid a confusion regarding short term market direction, the events such as remittance inflow drop in October, revised down GDP growth rate following the change in base year, suspected market manipulation by some quarters further hurt investors' confidence, said a brokerage official.

Most of the sectoral stocks observed a setback since the investors remained on the sideline amid recent volatility in the market, said EBL Securities in their daily market commentary.

The hype among general investors was mostly concentrated in the textile sector as some textile stocks are gaining abnormally on their days of annual corporate disclosure when there remains no price limit.

Source: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stocks-close-lower-third-consecutive-session-324433

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Global: Business

Most Markets Rise in Asia

Asian markets mostly rose Tuesday as traders bided their time ahead of key central bank meetings this week that are expected to see officials begin withdrawing their vast pandemic-era financial support, while keeping a wary eye on inflation and supply chain snarls.



Another record close on Wall Street provided a fruitful lead thanks to a strong earnings season that has seen the vast majority of companies beat expectations despite concerns about the impact of surging input costs and spiking Covid infections in the third quarter.

Hong Kong was among the best performers in early business Tuesday, helped by a surge in tech companies, which were enjoying some bargain-buying after a torrid year that has seen China tighten its grip on the sector.

Property giant China Evergrande's payment of interest on a second overdue bond before a weekend deadline provided an extra lift and slightly eased fears about an imminent collapse.

Source: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/most-markets-rise-asia-2220861

Amazon-backed EV Startup Aims for Valuation above $50b

Rivian Automotive, an Amazon-backed electric vehicle startup, said Monday it is targeting a valuation of more than $50 billion.

The California-based company will price shares between $57 and $62, raising up to $9.1 billion at the midpoint price and all company stock at about $52.5 billion, according to a securities filing.

US business media said Rivian could go public on Wall Street as soon as next week.

Rivian has raised more than $10 billion in funding since its founding in 2009, including from Amazon, which has pledged to purchase 100,000 electric delivery vans from the startup.

The Amazon order constitutes "the largest order of EVs ever" and "supporting a path to carbon neutral deliveries" for the giant retailer, Rivian said in the filing.

Amazon disclosed last week a stake of $3.8 billion in preferable stock of Rivian, according to a securities filing.

In addition to the Amazon delivery vehicles, Rivian is producing electric trucks and sport utility vehicles for consumers with prices starting from around $70,000. The news from Rivian comes as governments around the globe, including in the United States, make the development of electric cars a priority, and as the global auto sector accelerates EV production.

The offering also follows Elon Musk's company Tesla last week hitting a market valuation of more than $1 trillion.

Source: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/6000-benapole-bound-trucks-stranded-petrapole-2211781

BP Boosts Share Buyback as Profit Surges



BP added more than a billion dollars to its share buyback programme on Tuesday as it likened itself to a "cash machine" benefiting from higher oil and gas prices and a strong trading performance in the third quarter.

Natural gas and power prices around the world surged this autumn as tight gas supplies collided with strong demand in economies recovering from the pandemic.

BP said it expected natural gas prices to remain strong in the coming months of peak winter demand.

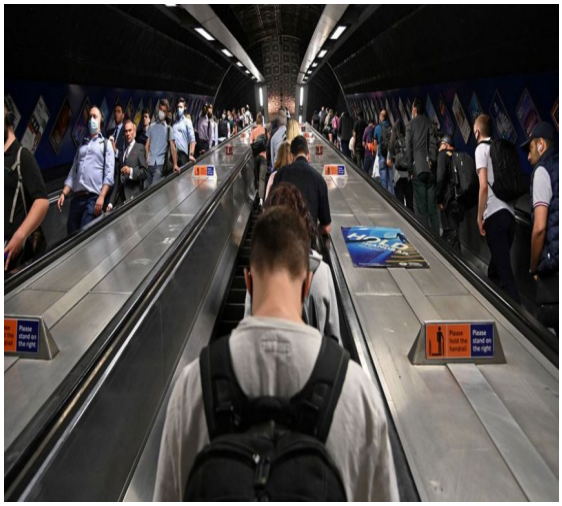
The company "is a cash machine at these sort of (oil and gas) prices and the business is running very well," Chief Executive Officer Bernard Looney told Reuters.

Underlying replacement cost profit, the company's definition of net earnings, reached US$3.32 billion in the third quarter, exceeding analysts' expectations for US$3.06 billion.

That compares with US$2.8 billion in profit in the second quarter and US$86 million a year earlier, when energy demand and prices collapsed due to the coronavirus epidemic.

Source: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/bp-boosts-share-buyback-profit-surges-2220796

No Rush of Job-seekers after end of UK Furlough: Survey



The end of Britain's furlough programme has not led to a surge in new job-seekers, according to data that suggests unemployment is unlikely to rise sharply and could bolster the case for a Bank of England interest rate hike.

Research by recruitment website Indeed, seen by Reuters ahead of publication, shows only a small increase in the proportion of British workers who say they are urgently looking for a new job.

So far there have been no official figures on what has happened to workers who were still on furlough when the scheme ended on September 30. Britain's Office for National Statistics estimates between 900,000 and 1.4 million employees were furloughed in late September, up to 700,000 of them full-time.

Uncertainty about how the end of furlough will affect Britain's economy is a key reason why some BoE policymakers think it would be better to wait than to raise interest rates this week.

Source: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/no-rush-job-seekers-after-end-uk-furlough-survey-2220881

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