

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

Bangladesh: Economy

November 10, 2021

Most Pharma Companies Post Higher Annual Profits

Most listed pharmaceutical and chemical companies have registered a higher profit in fiscal 2020-2021 compared to the previous year riding on a jump in sales during the Covid-19 pandemic.

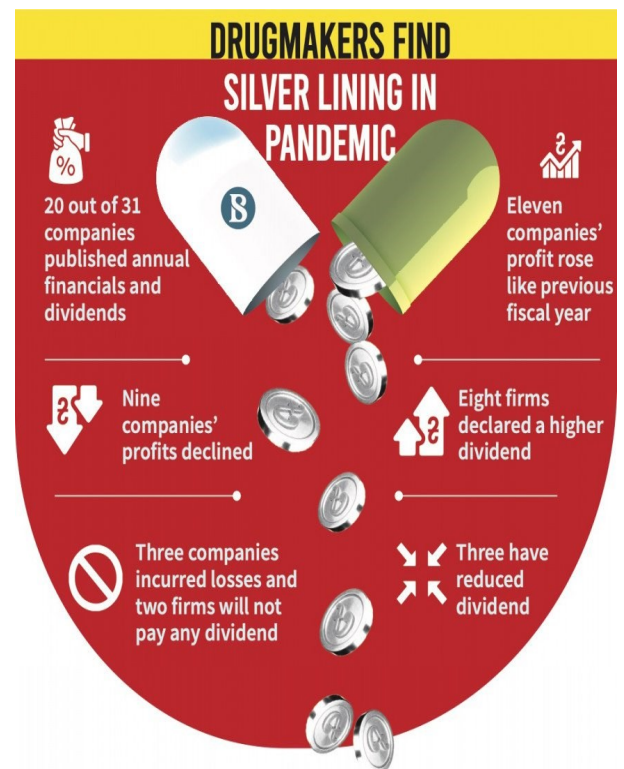
Eight of the companies will pay a higher dividend than the previous fiscal year, four will disburse the same amount as it did a year ago while three firms, which reported a decline in profit, will reduce their dividend.

Drugs and hygiene products manufactured by pharmaceuticals and chemicals companies saw a sharp surge in sales during the pandemic.

It helped the pharmaceutical companies in the country to post good growth in terms of both revenue and profit compared to the previous fiscal year, according to industry insiders.

Eleven of the companies have reported an increase in profit, and nine witnessed a profit decline compared to the previous fiscal year, according to an analysis by The Business Standard.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/most-pharma-companies-post-higher-annual-profits-327493>



eGeneration's Revenue Sees 36% Growth

eGeneration Limited – an IT consulting and software solutions company – posted a 36.32% revenue growth in the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

During the period, the revenue of the company was Tk14 crore, which was Tk10.27 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal year.

Its earnings per share were Tk0.41, up from Tk0.37 in the same period of the previous year. Recently, the company has recommended a 10% cash dividend for the last fiscal year that ended on 30 June 2021. During the period, the company earned 20% higher revenue compared to the previous year. The net profit increased by 12.88%.

eGeneration started as a private limited company in November 2003 and began commercial operations the same year. The firm was listed on stock exchanges this year.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/egenerations-revenue-sees-36-growth-327484>



Govt Provided \$18.66M Aid for Labour Welfare: State Minister

The Bangladesh Workers Welfare Foundation, under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, has so far provided \$18.66 million to around 21,500 workers and their families, said State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnujan Sufian on Sunday.

The aid was extended to workers of export industries alongside institutional and informal sectors, reads a press release.

The state minister was speaking at the 343rd meeting of the International Labor Organization (ILO) governing body on a virtual platform.

Monnujan assured the ILO body about taking specific steps for social security and workers' minimum wage under the roadmap for further development of labour standards in Bangladesh.

She praised the ILO's proposed action plan on social security and emphasised on issues like strengthening partnerships to support social protection programmes, particularly in countries having resource constraints.



Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-provided-1866-million-aid-labour-welfare-state-minister-327436>

FBCCI Signs MoUs with Chamber Wales, Wales Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) has signed separate memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with Chamber Wales and Wales Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce at a business meeting in Wales.

Md Jashim Uddin, president of FBCCI and Paul Slevin, president of Chamber Wales, and Abdul Alim, president of Wales Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce, inked the deals on behalf of their respective organisations on 8 November, says a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, Md Jashim Uddin stated that Bangladesh now has many highly prospective diversified products to export to the UK.

Chamber Wales and Wales Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry may encourage people in the UK to use the products of Bangladesh, he added.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/fbcci-signs-mous-chamber-wales-wales-bangladesh-chamber-commerce-327502>



IBN Sina's Profit Grows 40% in Q1

IBN Sina Pharmaceutical Industry – an enterprise of IBN Sina Trust – has reported a 39.69% growth in profit in the July-September quarter of the 2021-22 fiscal year.

After its board of directors' meeting, the company published the financials on Tuesday.

As per the information, its consolidated earnings per share (EPS) rose to Tk4.54. At the same time, the EPS was Tk3.25 in the previous fiscal year.

Its net operating cash flow per share decreased by 31.58% to Tk3.27 from Tk4.78 at the same time in the previous fiscal year, according to the financials.

Riding on an increase in the sales of drugs during the pandemic, its consolidated profit rose by 24% in fiscal 2020-21 compared to the previous year.

Based on the profit growth, it has recommended a 47% cash dividend for its shareholders, which is the highest for the company in the last twelve years since 2009.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ibn-sinas-profit-grows-40-q1-327481>



Stocks Close Higher on a Late-hour Buying Spree



Stocks in the Dhaka and Chattogram bourses rebounded on Tuesday, thanks to a buying spree by bargain hunters during the end hours, after a consecutive fall for seven sessions.

The broad-based index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) soared 68.44 points or 1.0% to close at 6,868 after losing 107 points in the previous two consecutive days.

DSEX had doubled in the 15 months till early October. Since then the DSE index began correction from 7,410 points and dipped below 6,800 points on Monday.

Among other indices, the blue-chip index DS30 increased 1.25%, while the Shariah-compliant securities' index DSES gained 1.2%. Indices' effort to bounce back on Tuesday was mostly contributed by some selective large-cap stocks.

Pharmaceuticals, textile and miscellaneous sectors contributed most to the daily turnover in the DSE.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bourses-close-higher-after-7-day-stock-selloff-327256>

Cybersecurity Firm McAfee to be Sold for \$14b

US cybersecurity firm McAfee announced on Monday it will be sold to a group of investors for more than \$14 billion, just over a year after going public.

The consortium led by Advent International Corporation and Permira Advisers will pay about \$12 billion in cash to acquire all of McAfee's outstanding shares, with the cost rising to more than \$14 billion when the company's debt is added.

The investor group also includes Crosspoint Capital Partners, Canadian pension fund CPP Investments, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC and a subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority sovereign wealth fund.

The sale is the latest episode in the history of the company founded by John McAfee in 1987, the namesake of the antivirus software.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/cybersecurity-firm-mcafee-be-sold-14b-2226026>



Philippine Economic Growth Beats Forecasts in Third Quarter

The Philippine economy grew more than expected in the third quarter, the government said on Tuesday, as a rebound in consumer spending overcame pandemic lockdowns and other restrictions to rein in the fast-spreading Covid delta variant.

Gross domestic product expanded 7.1 per cent, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority, better than the 4.9 per cent predicted in a Bloomberg survey and following a blockbuster 12 per cent rate in the previous three months.

The second-quarter reading was the best performance in more than three decades and came as the country emerged from a deep recession that saw five quarters of contraction caused by the virus.

Socioeconomic planning secretary Karl Chua said that the third quarter growth validated the government's approach to fighting Covid with strict containment measures.

'Our strategy was correct. The results are clear,' Chua said in a virtual briefing. 'This careful balancing between Covid-19 and non Covid-19 needs led to the continued expansion of most sectors.'

With GDP growth reaching 4.9 per cent in the first nine months, Chua said that the Philippines was likely to attain the higher end of the government's 4-5 per cent target this year.

Source: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/154180/philippine-economic-growth-beats-forecasts-in-third-quarter>

Australia Bumps up Investment in EV Chargers

The Australian government on Tuesday pledged A\$178 million (\$132 million) to ramp up the rollout of hydrogen refuelling and charging stations for electric vehicles, but did not offer EV rebates or set targets to phase out petrol cars.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the beefed up Future Fuels Fund provides "an Australian way" to lower transport emissions, reiterating a slogan he introduced recently to describe the country's middle ground on climate change policy.

"We will not be forcing Australians out of the car they want to drive or penalising those who can least afford it through bans or taxes," Morrison said in a statement.

"Instead, the strategy will work to drive down the cost of low and zero emission vehicles."

The additional investment, which adds to an existing A\$72 million commitment and will be spent by the end of June 2025, will also aid purchases of electric cars and buses for government and business fleets.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/australia-bumps-investment-ev-chargers-2226076>



German Exports Fall for Second Straight Month

German exports fell for the second month in a row in September as Europe's top economy grapples with global supply shortages, official data showed Tuesday.

Germany exported 112.3 billion euros (\$130.2 billion) worth of goods in September, adjusted for the season -- a 0.7 per cent drop from the previous month, according to federal statistics agency Destatis.

The August drop in exports was the first since April 2020, when the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic stifled the global economy.

The upheaval caused by Covid-19 has given rise to global shortages in components, such as semiconductors, timber and plastics, limiting production in key sectors for the German economy such as the car industry.

A business survey found that shortages of materials eased in October, though companies still expect the situation to remain difficult for months to come. The German government has downgraded its forecast for economic growth this year from 3.5 per cent to 2.6 per cent.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/german-exports-fall-second-straight-month-2226151>



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