

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

Bangladesh: Economy

October 24, 2021

Online Wholesale Fish Market Offers Farmers Bigger Profits

Pofishmarket, an online fish wholesale market, has been receiving good response from fish farmers and traders as it offers a direct access to the market, reduces numbers of middlemen, ensures better prices and minimises post-harvest losses.

In July this year, the online marketplace witnessed a nine-time rise in fish sales to over 128 tonnes in contrast to only 12.52 tonnes in the same month a year ago.

According to the fisheries department, 963.87 tonnes of fish, valued at Tk20.48 crore, were sold to 1,529 buyers through the online fish market from May 2020 to July 2021.

Using the app, the farmers themselves can easily upload information about their produce and its price. Interested buyers then can settle the purchase deal over mobile phone.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bazaar/online-wholesale-fish-market-offers-farmers-bigger-profits-319504>



FBCCI Keen to Increase Bilateral Trade with Spain

Only a handful of Spanish companies are doing business in Bangladesh, although there is a huge potential to increase trade between the two countries.

It is possible to increase the trade volume. In order to do this, Bangladesh has to be introduced to the Spanish entrepreneurs.

Spanish Ambassador to Bangladesh Francisco de Asís Benítez Salas said this to Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI) President Jashim Uddin during a courtesy call at the latter's office at Motijheel in the capital on Thursday.

Informing about the establishment of 100 economic zones across the country, the FBCCI president said Spain can choose a dedicated economic zone to set up factories like China, Japan, Korea, and India. Bangladesh is an attractive destination for foreign investors for its huge domestic market.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/fbcci-keen-boost-bilateral-trade-apex-spanish-trade-body-319069>



Islami Bank Profit Goes up on High Capital Market Return

The year-on-year consolidated profit of the Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited has spiralled by 65.49% in the third quarter this year thanks to higher capital market returns.

In Q3, Islami Bank posted its consolidated profit of Tk94.96 crore, which was Tk57.38 crore in the same period of 2020.

During the July to September period, the bank raked in Tk102.94 crore, which is around 265% higher than the corresponding period of the previous year, in return from the investment in shares and securities.

The consolidated net asset value per share stood at Tk40.59 as of 30 September 2021. The bank was listed on the Dhaka stock exchange in 1985.

The current paid-up capital of the bank is Tk1610 crore. The last trading share price at the Dhaka stock exchange was Tk30 on Thursday.

As of 30 September this year, sponsors and directors jointly held 51.32%, institute 16.25%, foreign investors 20.32% and general investors 12.11% of the company shares.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/islami-bank-profit-goes-high-capital-market-return-319873>



Paramount Textile to Invest Tk35cr for Capacity Expansion



Paramount Textile has announced an investment of around Tk35 crore to increase its weaving capacity along with other auxiliary capacities.

The company will import some capital machinery for the planned expansion and the fund will be arranged through foreign loans, Paramount said in a disclosure after the board meeting on Thursday.

After posting Tk4.46 in earnings per share (EPS) for the 2019-20 fiscal year, it posted Tk3.4 in EPS for the first nine months of the 2020-21 fiscal year. At the end of June 2020, its audited net asset value per share was Tk24.26.

Over the first nine months of the last fiscal year, the company's total revenue was over Tk375 crore, including that of its subsidiary companies. Paramount Textile shares closed 1.56% higher to Tk84.6 at the Dhaka Stock Exchange on Thursday.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/paramount-textile-invest-tk35cr-capacity-expansion-319879>



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Marico's Profits Rise by 10%

Marico Bangladesh said its profit and revenue grew in April to September period of the current year driven by its increased sales of hair oils and baby care despite pandemic.

The listed multinational fast moving consumer goods manufacturer logged Tk. 675 crore in revenue for the first half of the year, up 14 per cent from Tk. 591 crore in the same period a year ago despite the second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The growth in revenue was driven by overall volume growth led by the growth in the hair oils and baby care category, the company said in a press note.

Marico's profit rose 10.7 per cent year on year to Tk. 197.6 crore in April-September from Tk. 178 crore a year ago, said the company after its board meeting today.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/maricos-profits-rise-10-2203271>



Market Closes up After 7 Red Sessions

Stocks got some buyers on Thursday after seven consecutive sessions of aggressive selloffs.

DSEX, the broad-based index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), closed 0.79% higher at 7,076 on Thursday putting a brake on the downward momentum that was persistent even in the morning.

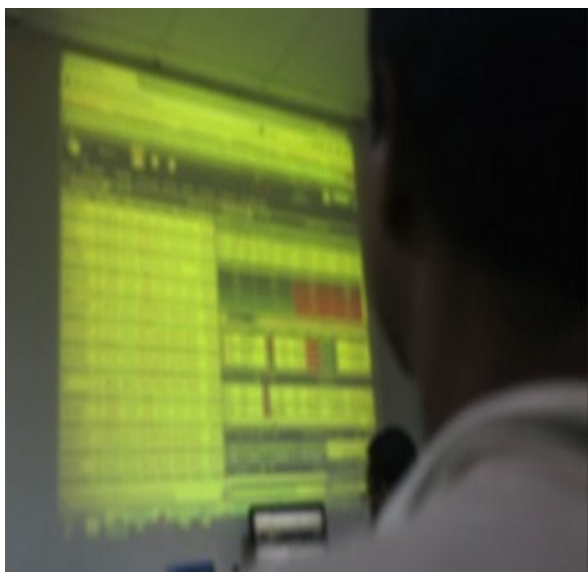
The index went below 6,985 in the first hour of trading but started to rebound as soon as the number of buy orders increased.

In total, 153 DSE scrips advanced at the end, while 179 declined and 42 remained unchanged on Thursday.

However, the rebound in the last session helped the index to avert the extension of the weekly fall. DSEX was 2.31% down over the last week.

Large-cap companies' index DS30 limited the weekly fall to 0.73% by gaining 1.63% on Thursday, while Shariah-compliant scrips' index DSES led the weekly fall with a 3.14% weekly dip.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/market-closes-after-7-red-sessions-319120>



Global: Business

UK Retail Sales Extend Slump

UK retail sales volumes dropped for a fifth month in a row during September, official data showed Friday, as the country suffers supply constraints and high prices.

Sales volumes dropped 0.2 per cent last month from August, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement revealing the longest retreat on record.

"Household goods were the main driver of... (September's) decline, with a fall of nearly 10 per cent," noted ONS economic statistics director Darren Morgan. "Despite the lifting of (lockdown) restrictions, in-store retail sales remain subdued, with many consumers still opting to shop online.

"Although sales of petrol surged in late September as drivers rushed to fill up their tanks, a UK fuel-shortage crisis likely meant consumers visited stores only for necessities, analysts said. "Whether the products aren't available, the price tag is too high, or shoppers have simply finished fettleing with their home decor, non food sales pulled down September's figures," added AJ Bell financial analyst Danni Hewson.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/europe/news/uk-retail-sales-extend-slump-2204741>



US Seals Agreement to End European Digital Taxes

The United States has resolved a key point of trade friction with Europe after inking a deal to end controversial digital services taxes on American tech giants.

Washington said on Thursday that it would remove punitive tariffs on products from Austria, France, Italy, Spain and Britain as part of the deal — a critical step in improving frayed relations even though the duties were never imposed.

Under the joint agreement, those countries will end taxes on Big Tech companies once a global minimum corporate tax deal takes effect, which is expected in 2023.

Any levies paid for the DSTs in the interim will be credited to future tax bills, according to the deal.

The United States argued for immediate withdrawal of what it said were discriminatory fees on American tech giants like Amazon, Apple and Google, while the countries preferred to wait until the new tax regime was implemented.

Source: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/152446/us-seals-agreement-to-end-european-digital-taxes>





Britain Set for £7b Transport Investment

Britain's upcoming budget will invest almost £7 billion (\$9.6 billion, 8.3 billion euros) on transport outside London, the Treasury said on Saturday, as part of plans to cut economic inequality.

Finance minister Rishi Sunak will unveil the transport initiative during his autumn budget and spending review due on Wednesday.

Prime minister Boris Johnson's so-called 'levelling up' programme is seen as vital to keeping voters in former strongholds of the main opposition Labour party who backed him in the 2019 general election.

Recipients of the transport project cash include regions in the former Labour 'red wall' that turned Tory blue two years ago and will be seen as payback for their support.

According to the finance ministry, the government will invest £5.7 billion in city regions to boost productivity via train and station upgrades, and tram network expansion.

Source: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/152542/britain-set-for-7b-transport-investment>



Eurozone Growth Slows as Prices Jump: Survey

The recovery of the eurozone economy is losing steam, a closely watched survey said on Friday, with big supply chain problems at factories causing price hikes not seen in twenty years.

"The ongoing pandemic means supply chain delays remain a major concern," warned Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist at IHS Markit.

IHS Markit said it slipped to 54.3 in October, after posting 56.2 points in September and a high 59 points in August. A figure above 50 indicates growth.

IHS Markit said supply problems were especially felt in Germany, the EU's export powerhouse that depends on the global economy to churn out high-value goods, such as cars and machinery.

While the rate of growth was still there, IHS Markit said that the eurozone could falter in the near-term "as the pandemic continues to disrupt economies and push prices higher".

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/europe/news/eurozone-growth-slows-prices-jump-survey-2204726>

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