

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

Bangladesh: Economy

September 27, 2021

Walton Grows Riding on TV and AC Business

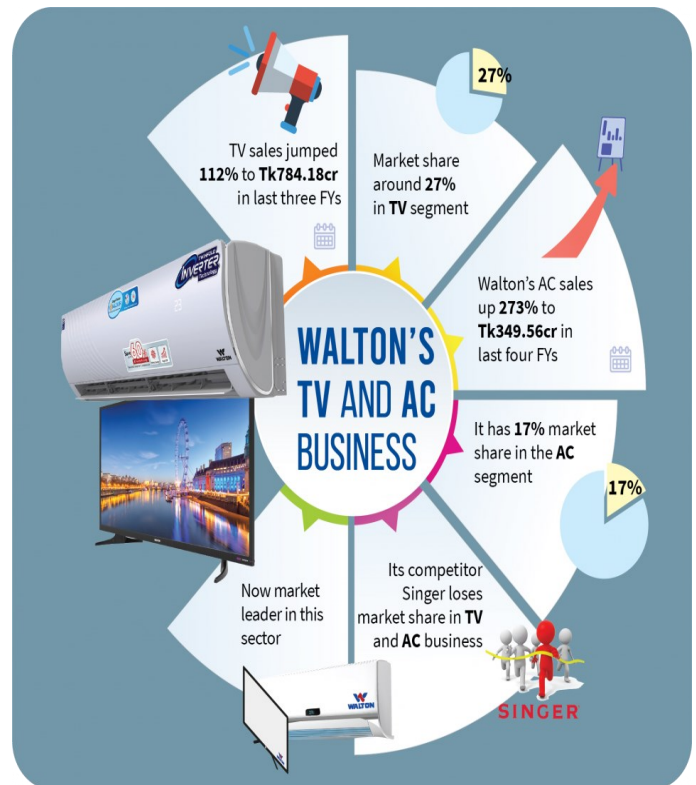
With a 66% share of the refrigerator market already in its hand, Walton is now inching towards sealing the leading positions in television and air conditioner sales as well.

Over the last four consecutive financial years till FY21, AC business jumped by 273% to Tk349.56 crore and TV sales grew by 112% to Tk784.18 crore during the period, according to Walton's audited financial statements.

Even the 66-day shutdown could not dampen its growth in TV and AC businesses – 93% and 55% respectively in FY20. But the country's electronics and home appliance giant registered a 39% fall in its refrigerator sales that year.

With a vision "Go Global 2030", Walton wants to become one of the best global electronics brands by the next nine years, said Walton Hi-Tech Industries' Managing Director Golam Murshed at a roadshow, which was organized by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission in Switzerland on 22 September.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/walton-grows-riding-tv-and-ac-business-307888>



ASA Targets to Disburse Tk. 32,000cr loan in 2021-22

Association for Social Advancement (ASA), a non-government organisation, has set a target of disbursing loans worth Tk. 32,000 crore among 6.4 million clients during the fiscal year of 2021-2022 with an aim to assist people to cope with the Covid-induced pandemic damage.

The decision was taken by ASA's 42nd annual general meeting held at ASA Tower Conference Hall in Shyamoli, Dhaka on September 25, 2021, a press release said.

The meeting also endorsed an estimate of spending Tk. 35 crore for implementing corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes: primary healthcare, primary education strengthening, physiotherapy, and sanitation during the same period.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/asa-targets-disburse-tk-32000cr-loan-2021-22-2184921>



Agent Banking Expands 65% in a Year

Agent banking, which started its journey more than eight years ago to provide banking services to the country's rural population, has expanded over 65% in a year on the back of large remittance inflows and comparatively better economic activities in rural areas amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to a Bangladesh Bank report, agent banking deposits also grew nearly 100%, loan disbursements 342.21%, and remittance inflows 155% between June 2020 and June 2021.

According to people concerned, the economic activities in rural areas were more active than in urban areas during the pandemic. As a result, there is a positive impact on agent banking. At the same time, the savings of people outside the banking services have started coming to the banks.

Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited started agent banking a little late. But in a short time, the bank's agent banking services have expanded enormously, and currently, it is at the top in collecting deposits and remittances.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/agent-banking-expands-65-year-307912>



Titas Seeks Foreign Funding to Install 1.25m Prepaid Meters in Dhaka

Bangladesh's largest state-run natural gas distributor is seeking funds from two major donor agencies to implement its plan to install 1.25 million more prepaid gas meters domestic customers in the capital city.

The financing is being sought from the Asian Development Bank and Japan Bank for International Cooperation, official sources told UNB without specifying the amount as the proposals are still at a discussion stage.

If the move succeeds, more than half the total consumers of the state-run Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company will come under the prepaid gas meter coverage, the sources said.

Source: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/150211/titas-seeks-foreign-funding-to-install-125m-prepaid-meters-in-dhaka>



Summit Power Declares 35pc Cash Dividend for 2021

The board of directors of Summit Power has recommended a 35 per cent cash dividend for the year ended on June 30, 2021.

The board of directors of the company held a meeting on Sunday and approved the audited financial statements for the year ended on June 30, 2021 and recommended the dividend.

The final approval of the dividend will come at the annual general meeting (AGM) scheduled to be held on December 5 at 11:30am through the digital platform.

The record date is set on October 24, according to a discourse posted the company's website after the meeting as a price sensitive information.

The power generation company has also reported consolidated earnings per share (EPS) of Tk. 5.25, consolidated net asset value (NAV) per share of Tk. 34.45 and consolidated net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) of Tk. 8.53 for the year ended on June 30, 2021 as against Tk. 5.17, Tk. 31.50 and Tk. 9.42 respectively for the same period of the previous year.

The company also disbursed 35 per cent cash dividend for the year ended on June 30, 2020. In 2019, it also provided a 35 per cent cash dividend.

Source: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/summit-power-declares-35pc-cash-dividend-for-2021-1632676382>



Stocks Down as Investors Continue Profit Booking

DSEX, the broad-based index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), moved moderately up by 12.00pm, and was dominated by the sellers most of the remaining 150 minutes of the session.

At the end of the week's first session, 230 of the DSE scrips suffered price fall, while 113 gained, and 33 remained unchanged.

Investors' participation, however, was higher as the DSE registered Tk2,257 crore in daily trading turnover against Tk1,852 crore in the previous session.

Trading turnover increased amid the dominant selling pressure as investors were favoring to book profits out of their concerns that a price correction is overdue since the index skyrocketed from a midterm base a year ago.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stocks-down-investors-continue-profit-booking-307891>



Global: Business

Tesla Shanghai to Make 300,000 cars in Jan-Sep Despite Chip Shortage

Tesla Inc's Shanghai factory is expected to produce 300,000 cars in the first nine months of the year, capped by a delivery rush in the end of the July-September quarter, despite a global semiconductor shortage, two sources said.

The factory makes the electric Model 3 sedans and Model Y sport-utility vehicles for domestic and international markets, including Germany and Japan. Around 240,000 vehicles were shipped from the factory in the first eight months, including many for export, according to data from the China Passenger Car Association. Tesla has not announced details on the factory's production.

In August, an official in the area where Tesla's factory is located said it is expected to produce 450,000 vehicles this year, including 66,100 for export.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/asia/china/news/tesla-shanghai-make-300000-cars-jan-sep-despite-chip-shortage-2184906>



UK to Offer 10,500 Post-Brexit Visas to Counter Growing Worker Crisis

Britain will issue up to 10,500 temporary work visas to lorry drivers and poultry workers to ease chronic staff shortages, the government announced Saturday, in a U-turn on post-Brexit immigration policy.

The short-term visas, to run from next month until late December, come as ministers grapple with a huge shortfall in drivers and some other key workers that has hit fuel supplies and additional industries.

A tanker drivers shortage has caused large queues at petrol stations in recent days, as people ignore government pleas not to panic-buy fuel after some garages closed due to the lack of deliveries.

The decision to expand the critical worker visa scheme is a reversal by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, whose government had tightened post-Brexit immigration rules insisting that Britain's reliance on foreign labour must end.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/europe/news/uk-offer-10500-post-brexit-visas-counter-growing-worker-crisis-2184926>



China Steps up Funding Oversight of Evergrande Property Projects

Several local governments in China have set up special custodian accounts for property projects of its most indebted developer, Evergrande, to protect funds earmarked for housing projects from being diverted, media outlet Caixin said.

Reeling under \$305 billion of debt, Evergrande missed a payment deadline on a dollar bond last week, and its silence on the matter has set global investors wondering if they will have to swallow large losses when a 30-day grace period ends.

In some southern cities, such as Zhuhai and Shenzhen, the offices of the housing regulator, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, were also involved in overseeing and reviewing fund use by Evergrande's projects, it said.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/asia/china/news/china-steps-funding-oversight-evergrande-property-projects-2184941>



Australian PM Refuses to Commit to Phasing out Fossil Fuels

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison refused to commit to phasing out fossil fuels as a major climate conference approaches, while his deputy doubled down on opposing targets for net zero emissions of greenhouse gases.

Australia, the world's top coal and a major gas exporter, is under growing pressure to come up with emissions reduction targets ahead of November's COP26 United Nations climate conference in Scotland. The International Monetary Fund called on Australia to set a "time bound" target to reach net zero emissions on Friday, when the country's treasurer warned that Australia must brace for much higher borrowing costs if it fails to commit to a net zero target by 2050, as many peers have done.

In interviews with Australian media after a summit in Washington, Morrison said his government was still working on its emissions plans, declining to commit to curbing fossil fuels that account for a major part of Australia's export revenue.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/world/africa-rest-the-world/australia/news/australian-pm-refuses-commit-phasing-out-fossil-fuels-2184936>

Disclaimer

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