

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

Bangladesh: Economy

August 23, 2021

DBL on \$650m Expansion Spree

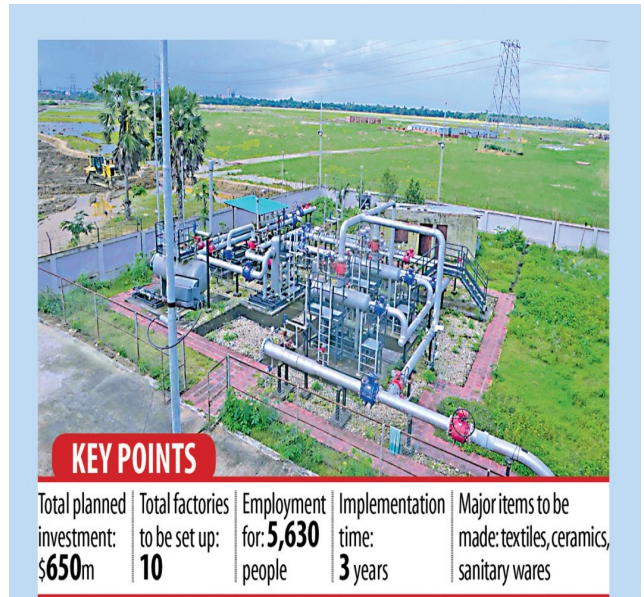
DBL Group, one of the leading exporters, is going to invest \$650 million to set up 10 manufacturing units for textiles, ceramics, and sanitary ware at the Sreehatta Economic Zone in Moulvibazar.

It made the disclosure during the foundation stone laying ceremony of the DBL Industrial Park at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka yesterday. So far, the state-run economic zone has received \$1.5 billion in investment proposals.

"The launch of the DBL Industrial Park is an important step towards achieving our vision of pushing forth the next phase of Bangladesh's growth through world-class infrastructure," said MA Jabbar, managing director of DBL Group, at the ceremony.

It has 39,000 employees and recorded a turnover of \$600 million in 2018-19. DBL has also invested in Ethiopia, where it has an apparel and textile factory.

Source: DBL on \$650m expansion spree | The Daily Star



Islami Bank, Mastercard Launch Dual Currency Cards

Islami Bank Bangladesh yesterday launched Shariah-based dual currency Mastercard Titanium and Gold debit, World and Gold credit and prepaid cards.

The cards come with a two-factor authentication facility, with cardholders receiving a one-time password to verify their online transactions, helping to reduce incidences of fraud, said the bank.

The contactless cards are embedded with an EMV (Europay, Mastercard, and Visa)-enabled chip enabling use at payment terminals or point-of-sale machines, it added. The EMV cards store data on integrated circuits every time a cardholder processes a transaction, making it nearly impossible for fraudsters to duplicate or clone the card, it said.

Source: Islami Bank, Mastercard launch dual currency cards | The Daily Star



Walton TV Attracts Buyers in Romania

Bangladesh's electronics giant Walton brand TV has been receiving sound response from the buyers in Romania.

In Romania, Walton brand TV is ahead of other global brands in terms of the market competitiveness due to its high quality picture, product's durability, affordable price and state-of-the art features and design.

After meeting the domestic demands, they have been exporting 'Made in Bangladesh' tagged television in many European countries including Germany, Austria, Denmark, Slovakia, Spain, Greece, Ireland, Poland, Croatia as an original equipment manufacturer. Along with its TV exports to Europe as an OEM, Walton started television export to Romania under its own brand name in this year's April.

Saeed Al Imran, vice-president of Walton's International Business Unit and also in- charge of the Romanian market, said "In Romania, there are 1.5 million TV markets a year, which is very competitive.

Source: Walton TV lures buyers in Romania (tbsnews.net)



Big Groups Foresee Business in Jute

A number of big business conglomerates have stepped up to take over shut state-run jute mills to cash in on growing export potentials.

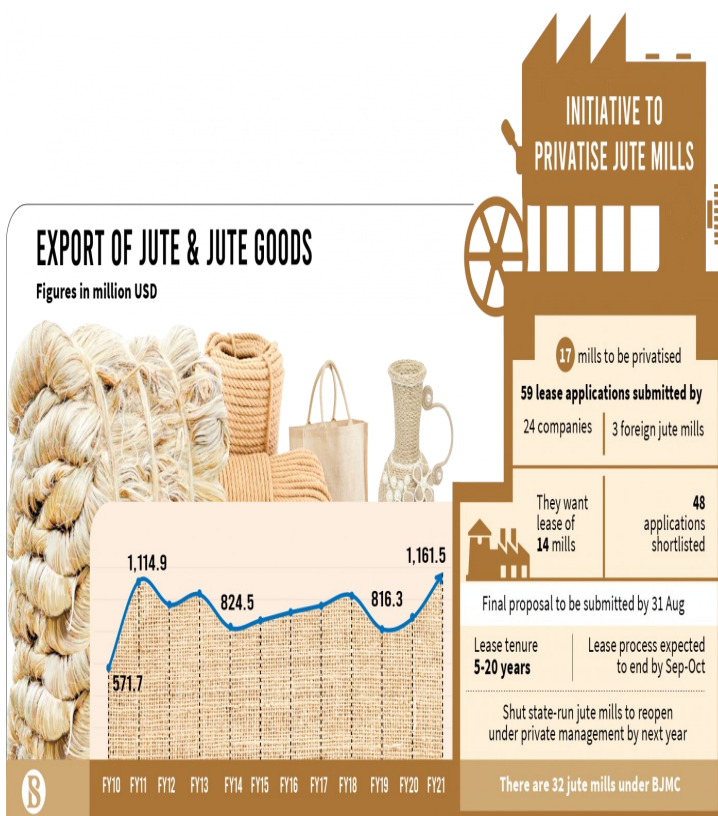
Pran, Bay and Akij are among some big names who want to invest in such jute mills, while two jute mills from India and one from the United Kingdom are also in the race, according to sources at the textiles and jute ministry.

Twenty-four companies vied for the lease of 14 out of 17 mills put on an international tender.

Akij Group already has a strong presence in jute business, whereas Pran is willing to enter the sector as a new player and the group will run its business by forming a joint venture with other jute mills.

Eleash Mridha, managing director of Pran, told The Business Standard, "We export a lot of potatoes from Bangladesh using jute bags. Jute shopping bags are also exported to different countries. Foreign buyers now prefer jute bags. There is also an opportunity to export jute diversified products.

Source: Big groups foresee business in jute (tbsnews.net)



Buoyant Investors Send Stocks to New Heights

The prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) surged to new heights yesterday thanks to increased participation of buoyant investors who have high hopes on the market going up even further.

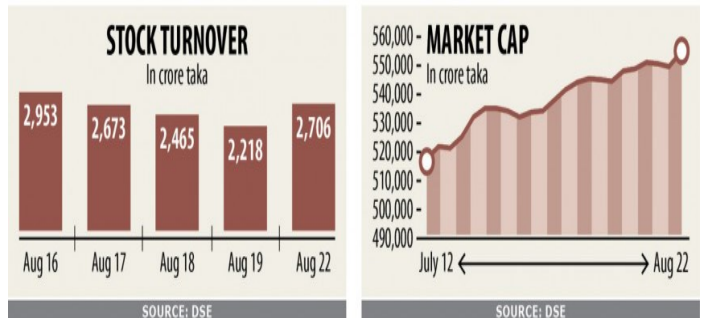
The DSEX, the benchmark index of the country's premier bourse, advanced 81 points, or 1.21 per cent, to 6,842. This is the highest point to be reached since its inception in 2013.

The DS-30, the blue chip stock index, increased by 28 points to hit 2,451 at the same time.

"The market is rising mainly because investors are more confident and buoyant as well due to the low interest rates offered by the banking sector," said a merchant bank official.

Banks offer deposit rates ranging from 3 per cent to 5 per cent, which does not even cover the country's inflation rate. "So, people prefer to keep their funds away from banks and in the stock market, which offers a large number of lucrative investment opportunities," he said.

Source: Buoyant investors send stocks to new heights | The Daily Star



Ifad Autos' Stocks Jump on Tk 80cr Investment Plan

Shares of Ifad Autos Ltd jumped 4.42 per cent at the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday after it announced its plan to invest Tk 80 crore in one of its sister concerns.

The board of the listed automobile company decided to make the investment to acquire 40 per cent shares of Ifad Multi Products Ltd. The fund would be mobilised from the company's own fund, Ifad Autos said in a regulatory filing.

Ifad Multi Products is one of the sister concerns of Ifad Group having common management.

The share purchase will be implemented after securing permission from general shareholders.

Currently, the company is a major manufacturer and supplier of instant noodles, stick noodles, biscuits and cookies, spices, and bottled drinking water.

Source: Ifad Autos' stocks jump on Tk 80cr investment plan | The Daily Star

Global: Business

India May Exceed Emission Cut Targets

India is set to exceed its targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions and boosting the share of non-fossil fuels in electricity generation but any further commitment to reducing its carbon footprint will depend on climate finance from rich countries, a senior official said.

As a part of its pledge beneath the 2015 Paris local weather settlement India, the world's third-biggest carbon emitter after China and the United States, is meant to cut back its carbon footprint by 33-35 per cent from 2005 ranges by 2030. Also, India goals to provide 40 per cent of its energy from non-fossil gas sources by 2030.

"We will achieve these goals before 2030, or in other words, by 2030, these goals will be overachieved," Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, essentially the most senior civil servant on the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, advised Reuters in an interview.

"From 2005 levels, India's carbon emissions fell 24 per cent by 2016 – in the space of 11 years. Between 2016 and 2030 – in a span of 14 years – we've to reduce emissions by just 9-11 per cent, but it will be definitely much more than that," he mentioned.

In all chance, by 2025, non-fossil gas sources would account for 40 per cent of India's energy technology, Gupta mentioned.

Source: India may exceed emission cut targets | The Daily Star



China Eyes Pushing US IPO-bound Firms to Hand over Data Control

Chinese regulators are considering pressing data-rich companies to hand over management and supervision of their data to third-party firms if they want US stock listings, sources said, as part of Beijing's unprecedented scrutiny of private sector firms.

The regulators believe bringing in third-party information security firms, ideally state-backed, to manage and monitor IPO hopefuls' data could effectively limit their ability to transfer Chinese onshore data overseas, one of the people said.

That would help ease Beijing's growing concerns that a foreign listing might force such Chinese companies to hand over some of their data to foreign entities and undermine national security, added the person.

The plan is one of several proposals under consideration by Chinese regulators as Beijing has tightened its grip on the country's internet platforms in recent months, including looking to sharpen scrutiny of overseas listings.

Source: China eyes pushing US IPO-bound firms to hand over data control -sources (tbsnews.net)

Global Dividends to Near Pre-pandemic Levels in 2021 -report

Global dividends are forecast to rise to \$1.39 trillion this year, up slightly from a previous estimate to reflect a stronger than expected recovery in the company payouts, Janus Henderson said in a report published on Monday.

Its latest estimate, up 2.2 percentage points from an earlier one, is just 3% below the pre-pandemic peak.

Underlying growth - adjusted for special dividends, changes in currency, timing effects, and index changes - was 11.2%. On a year-on-year basis, 2021 growth is expected at 10.7%, equivalent to an underlying rebound of 8.5%.

Dividends from companies restarting payments totalled \$33.3 billion and accounted for three-quarters of the underlying growth in the second quarter, the report said.

Source: Global dividends to near pre-pandemic levels in 2021 -report (tbsnews.net)



GM Expands Chevy Bolt EV Recall for Fire Risk, will Take \$1 billion Hit

The Detroit company also said it would indefinitely halt sales of the EVs due to the issue and will seek reimbursement from battery supplier LG

The Detroit company also said it would indefinitely halt sales of the EVs due to the issue and will seek reimbursement from battery supplier LG. The latest recall covers 73,000 vehicles from model years 2019 through 2022.

“The reserves and ratio of cost to the recall will be decided depending on the result of the joint investigation looking into the root cause, currently being held by GM, LG Electronics and LG Energy Solution,” LG said in a statement, referring to its subsidiaries.

GM has said it will use a different-generation battery when it launches electric Hummer and Cadillac vehicles over the next year.

Source: GM expands Chevy Bolt EV recall for fire risk, will take \$1 billion hit | Dhaka Tribune



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