

*Following is a summary of important business news published in the leading daily newspapers of Bangladesh. For the complete news, please follow the online link given below each news. Please note that the news summary doesn't reflect the opinion of BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited.*

### **Expansionary stance to continue in FY'22**

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has decided to continue with the expansionary monetary policy stance (MPS) during the current fiscal year (FY) to facilitate the recovery of the pandemic-hit economy, officials said. The board has also asked the officials concerned to take effective measures in the next monetary policy for enhancing the private sector credit growth in the near future. The BB's top policymaking body's latest observations came against the backdrop of falling trend in the private sector credit growth in the recent months mainly due to the ongoing second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in Bangladesh.

- A BB senior official said the central bank will finalise the monetary policy for FY'22 in line with its board's advice. The next monetary policy is expected to be announced in the last week of this month, according to the BB official.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/expansionary-stance-to-continue-in-fy22-1626632694>

### **June inflation highest in 8 months**

- Inflation spurted to 5.64% in June, the highest in eight months, reflecting the disruptions faced by the supply chain and the rise in the cost of living, official figures showed yesterday. Food inflation surged 58 basis points to 5.45% as the price of staple rice, and other essentials showed an upward trend. Non-food inflation was up eight basis points at 5.94%.

- The impact of economic disruptions in supply sides was clearly noticeable in these inflationary trends, said a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office. The average inflation in the just-concluded fiscal year was 5.56%, overshooting the government's target of 5.4%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/june-inflation-highest-8-months-2133641>

### **Covid Vaccination: Government to lower age bar to 30 years**

- The government has decided to lower the age limit to 30 years for Covid vaccination to bring more people under its inoculation campaign. The decision came at a virtual meeting of the Covid Vaccination Programme Committee yesterday as the country continues to see a surge in virus infections and deaths. Meeting sources said the government will start vaccinating people living in slum areas of the capital after the Eid vacation as part of its efforts to bring those with limited access to internet and technology under its vaccination programme.

- So far, around four% of the country's population has been inoculated. The vaccination campaign, which was stalled due to a dearth of supply of AstraZeneca vaccine jabs from Serum Institute of India, resumed recently with the arrival of Sinopharm, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. The government has so far received 17.9 million doses of Covid vaccines from different sources, including 3.3 million jabs as gift from India and 1.1 million shots from China. As of July 17, a total of 11.1 million people were inoculated – 4.3 million of them got both the first and second shots.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/health/disease/coronavirus/fallouts-fightback/vaccine/news/covid-vaccination-govt-lower-age-bar-30-years-2133716>

### **A fleeting respite for shop owners**

- Malls and markets have been registering large gatherings of Eid shoppers since reopening on July 15, providing a much-needed respite to stores to make some sales in a season marked by a depressed business. However, sales figures will in no way be equal to that logged by businesses during the same time last year. Overall sales may be 40% of the previous year's total sales, said the president of the Bangladesh Shop Owners Association.

- For electronics sellers, the festival accounts for the highest sales as consumers buy refrigerators, freezers, televisions and air conditioners. The demand for mobile handsets, motorcycles and furniture also goes up. Usually, sales begin nearly three weeks prior to Eid-ul-Azha. The marketing manager of Transcom Electronics, one of the leading electronics retailers in Bangladesh, said they expected to recover up to 80% of the business this Eid. The chief operating officer of Aarong, one of the popular stores, said they had good sales in the last two days. The head of retail at Bata, said the shoemaker could register some sales. Now 50% to 60% of the customers who used to come before Covid-19 are coming in for Eid-ul-Azha.

- In the case of mobile handsets, sales have more than doubled this year compared to usual business days, said chief marketing officer of Fair Electronics, the local assembler of mobile handsets and home appliances of Korean electronics giant Samsung. However, they may be able to reach 30-40% of our home appliance sales target, he

added. Only refrigerator sales are going very well, he said. For motorcycle sellers, the reopening brought good news. The managing director and CEO of ACI Motors said motorcycle sales rose significantly after showrooms opened. They hope to sell as many as 3,000 motorcycles in the six days before Eid, he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/fleeting-respite-shop-owners-2133646>

### India's largest RMG factory Shahi to invest USD 9.26 million in Bangladesh

• Sewtech Fashion Limited, a subsidiary of Shahi Exports Private Limited, one of the largest garment manufacturers in neighbouring India, is going to set up a garment factory at Chittagong EPZ with an investment of USD 9.26 million. This fully foreign-owned company will produce annually 3.36 million pieces of ladies, kids and men's woven tops. It will employ about 3,500 workers. To this end, Sewtex Fashion signed an agreement with the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (Bepza) on Sunday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/indias-largest-rmg-factory-shahi-invest-926-million-bangladesh-276379>

### World Stock and Commodities\*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$70.77	\$22.25	45.86%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$72.48	\$20.68	39.92%
Gold Spot*	\$1,812.20	(\$82.90)	-4.37%
DSEX	6,365.12	963.05	17.83%
S&P 500	4,327.16	571.09	15.20%
FTSE 100	7,008.09	547.57	8.48%
BSE SENSEX	53,140.06	5,388.73	11.28%
KSE-100	47,834.33	4,078.95	9.32%
CSEALL	7,966.95	1,192.73	17.61%

### Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 84.78\*  
 GBP 1 = BDT 116.59\*  
 EUR 1 = BDT 100.07\*  
 INR 1 = BDT 1.13\*

\*Currencies are taken from XE Currency Converter and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.

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