

## Highlights from the Week

- + Remittance inflow jumps by \$406 million YoY in first 20 days of August
- + Gold price hits Tk. 127,942 per bhorī
- + Agricultural product exports growing slowly
- + DC Industry to set up \$5.36m factory in Bepza EZ
- + Sim Fabrics to set up denim plant in Jamalpur EZ
- + Exports fell in FY24 for lower woven, knitwear shipments
- + Oil price rises 2% amid production outages
- + BSEC resets stock circuit breaker's lower limit to 10%
- + MCCI projects higher imports, remittances and slowing inflation

## Remittance inflow jumps by \$406 million YoY in first 20 days of August

- Remittance inflow into Bangladesh surged by \$406 million in the first 20 days of August, marking a substantial 36% year-on-year increase. The country received \$1.5 billion in remittances by 20 August, compared to \$1.12 billion during the same period last year. The sudden increase is largely attributed to expatriates sending money through banking channels.
- Central bank data also reveal that on 20 August alone, expatriates sent \$109 million. According to the data, Bangladesh received \$1.13 billion in remittances in the first 17 days of this month, with more than \$300 million arriving in the following three days. Year-on-year, remittance inflow in the country fell by 3% in July. The figure stood at \$1.97 billion in the same month last year.

## Gold hits Tk 127,942 per bhuri

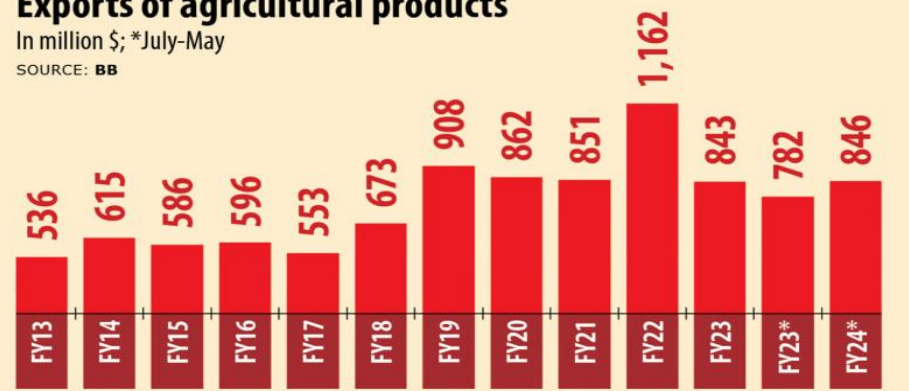
- Gold prices hit a historic high of Tk 127,942 per bhuri, with the Bangladesh Jewellers Association (Bajus) deciding to bring the new rate into effect yesterday.
- The local jewellers raised prices of 22-carat gold by Tk 1,936 per bhuri. According to a Reuters report, gold held near record highs on Monday, buoyed by a softer dollar and dovish remarks from US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, bolstering expectations of a September interest rate cut.
- Spot gold was up 0.6 percent to \$2,526.15 per ounce at 1159 GMT, about \$5 shy of the record high of \$2,531.60 hit last week. US gold futures also gained 0.6 percent to \$2,561.90.

## Agricultural product exports growing slowly

- The country's annual export earnings soared 114 percent to \$50 billion in fiscal year 2022-23 in around a decade. And while data for the whole of fiscal year 2023-24 is not yet available, it stood at \$40 billion in the July-May period.
- The country's export of agricultural products was worth \$536 million in fiscal year 2012-13 and it rose by 57 percent to \$843 million by the end of fiscal year 2022-23. At present, there are 486 manufacturers of processed agricultural products, of which 241 are exporters while the rest cater to the domestic market.
- Bangladesh exports cereal grains, tea, vegetables, tobacco, flowers, fruits, spices, dry food and other processed agricultural products to more than 145 countries. By fiscal year 2022-23, Bangladesh's food crop production had increased by around 38 percent to 467 lakh tonnes.

### Exports of agricultural products

In million \$; \*July-May  
SOURCE: BB



## DC Industry to set up \$5.36m factory in Bepza EZ

- DC Industry (Bangladesh) Company Ltd signed an agreement with Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) yesterday to set up a bag and wallet manufacturing facility in Bepza Economic Zone at Mirsharai, Chattogram with an investment of \$5.36 million.
- The company has an annual target to produce 2.5 million handbags, 1.5 million backpacks and 1 million wallets and the investment is expected to create employment opportunities for nearly 3,000 people. So far, a total of 31 companies, including DC Industry (Bangladesh) Ltd, signed agreements to set up manufacturing facilities inside Bepza Economic Zone and the proposed investments altogether amount to \$711 million.

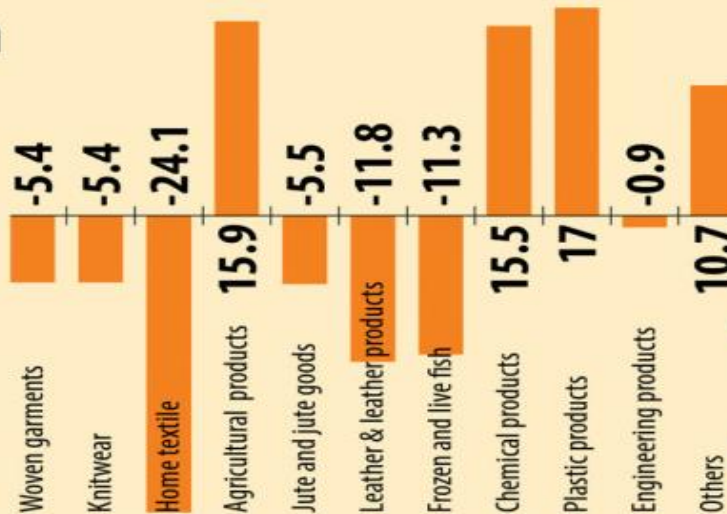
## Sim Fabrics to set up denim plant in Jamalpur EZ

- Sim Fabrics Limited is set to invest \$17 million in Jamalpur Economic Zone (JEZ) to establish a denim manufacturing plant. The proposed industrial unit to be set up on 5.0 acres of land is expected to generate over 250 employments.
- Jamalpur Economic Zone (JEZ) is the first Economic Zone under implementation in Mymensingh Division. The industrial estate will be established on a total of 436 acres of land. The successful implementation of the zone will generate over 32,000 direct employments.

## Exports fell in FY24 for lower woven, knitwear shipments

### Growth in exports of major items in FY24

Year-on-year; In %



SOURCE: BB

- Bangladesh's overall exports fell 4.34 percent year-on-year in FY24 due to lower shipments of RMG. The country's export receipts amounted to \$44.47 billion in the previous fiscal while it was \$46.49 billion in FY23.
- In the latest BoP, the Bangladesh Bank said export value, which is calculated on a Free on Board (FoB) basis for the BoP, stood at \$40.8 billion in FY24. Bangladesh Bank data showed that exports of woven garments dropped 5.36 percent year-on-year to \$16.86 billion in FY24. Exports of home textiles, the fourth largest item in the country's export basket, brought home \$782 million in FY24 compared to \$1.08 billion in FY23.
- Leather and leather products, the third biggest export item, recorded \$1.03 billion in export earnings last year. It brought in \$1.17 billion in FY23.



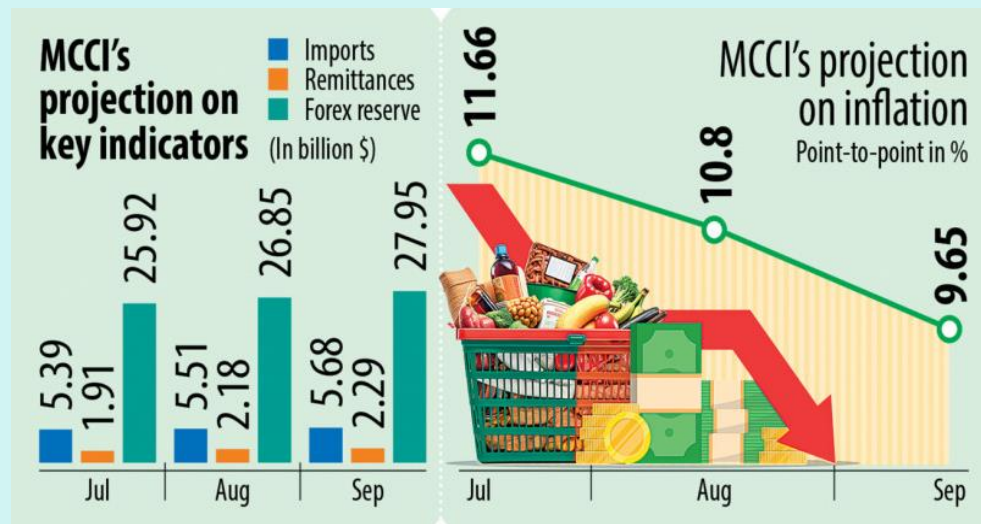
## Oil price rises 2% amid production outages

- Oil prices rose 2 percent on Monday on news of fresh production outages in Libya, adding to earlier gains on concerns that an escalating Gaza conflict could disrupt regional oil supplies.
- Brent crude futures climbed \$1.64, or 2.08 percent, to \$80.66 a barrel by 1041 GMT, while US crude futures were at \$76.38 a barrel, up \$1.55, or 2.07 percent.
- Oil prices opened the week higher after Hezbollah fired hundreds of rockets and drones into Israel on Sunday and Israel's military said it struck Lebanon with around 100 jets to thwart a larger attack, in one of the biggest clashes in more than 10 months of border warfare.

## BSEC resets stock circuit breaker's lower limit to 10%

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has decided to reset the lower limit of the circuit breaker mechanism to 10 percent from 3 percent for all publicly traded companies.
- The BSEC had set floor prices, which is the lowest price at which a stock can be traded, in July 2022 to halt the freefall of market indices amid lingering uncertainties brought on by the fallouts of Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war.
- The upper limit of the circuit breaker, meaning the extent to which the price of a stock can rise, has been kept unchanged at 10 percent.

## MCCI projects higher imports, remittances and slowing inflation



- Three major indicators of the economy -- imports, remittances and foreign exchange reserves -- are likely to increase in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, a positive development for the external accounts, according to the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI).
- The country's monthly imports may hit \$5.68 billion in September, up from August's projection of \$5.51 billion and July's estimated import bill of \$5.39 billion, the chamber said yesterday in its quarterly economic review.
- Imports and remittances may decrease in July due to the present slowed-down economy and then may increase in the next two months, the chamber said, adding that the foreign exchange reserve may decrease in July due to the payment of \$1.42 billion for the May-June period through the Asian Clearing Union (ACU).

## World Commodities

Commodity	Close Price	Value Change	Percentage Change
Crude Oil [WTI]	\$ 74.79	↑ 0.27	↑ 0.36 %
Crude Oil [Brent]	\$ 78.86	↑ 0.21	↑ 0.27 %
Gold Spot	\$ 2,519.81	↑ 15.20	↑ 0.61 %

## Local and Global Stock Indices

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	Percentage Change
DJIA	\$ 41,091.42	↓ 159.08	↓ 0.39 %
FTSE100	\$ 8,343.85	↓ 1.61	↓ 0.02 %
Nikkei 225	\$ 38,322.90	↓ 48.86	↓ 0.13 %

## Inter-Bank Exchange Rate

Currency	Lowest	Highest	Current WAR
USD	120.0000	120.0000	120.0000

**Source:**

- \* News are taken from Daily Newspapers
- \* World Commodities and Global Stock Indices data are taken from bloomberg.com
- \* Exchange Rates are taken from BB website, as on latest update.