

Toyota's global output skids in June

REUTERS, Tokyo

Toyota's global production tumbled in June, down for a fifth straight month with the automaker hit hard by a certification scandal in its home market and a fierce price war in China.

Output worldwide for Japan's biggest automaker slid 12.9 percent to 795,862 vehicles, the sharpest decline since December 2022.

In its home market, output plunged 18.8 percent after the transport ministry found irregularities in applications by Toyota and other automakers to certify certain models in a widening of an auto safety scandal.

In China, where domestic electric vehicle makers like BYD have rapidly gained market share and have aggressively cut prices, production fell 21.7 percent - marking the fifth month in a row where Toyota's output has declined by 20 percent or more.

Production in North America fell 6.2 percent while in Europe it dropped 6.6 percent due to fewer production days compared to last year.

Toyota's worldwide sales fell 5.1 percent during the month, hurt by declines in Japan and China.

The automaker is due to report first-quarter financial results on Thursday. It is expected to log a 21 percent rise in operating profit from a year earlier to 1.35 trillion yen (\$8.7 billion), according to an LSEG consensus estimates from six analysts, helped by a weaker yen and robust demand for hybrid vehicles in the United States.

Bata declares 435% cash dividend



Rajeev Gopalakrishnan, chairman of Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh) Limited, presides over the company's 52nd annual general meeting, which was held virtually on Monday. The meeting declared 435 percent cash dividend for 2023. PHOTO: BATA SHOE COMPANY

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh) Limited announced a staggering 435 percent cash dividend, including 105 percent final and 330 percent interim dividends, for the year that ended on December 31, 2023.

The announcement came at the company's 52nd annual general meeting

(AGM), which was held virtually on Monday, the company said in a press release.

Rajeev Gopalakrishnan, chairman of the company, presided over the meeting.

The chairman conveyed his sincere thanks to shareholders, customers, suppliers, employees, and the government for their continued support.

The shareholders also approved audited

financial statements for the year 2023 at the AGM.

Among others, Debabrata Mukherjee, managing director and vice chairman, Shaibal Sinha, director, Rupali Haque Chowdhury, independent director, Elias Ahmed, finance director, and Riajur Reza Muhammad Faisal, company secretary, joined the meeting.

Dollar trades sideways

REUTERS, New York/London/Tokyo

The dollar held steady on Monday as traders braced for an avalanche of market events featuring midweek policy decisions by the Federal Reserve, Bank of Japan and Bank of England, and what could be a pivotal US employment report for the Fed on Friday.

The yen was little changed following the Japanese currency's strongest weekly rally since late April on the back of shifting interest rate expectations and a stock market sell-off.

The dollar index, which measures the currency against the euro, yen and four other major currencies, rose 0.18 percent to 104.56. The euro slipped 0.33 percent to \$1.0821.

Dollar/yen was last up 0.13 percent at 153.995, reversing an earlier decline of as much as 0.49 percent to 153.04. Markets have been focused on the surge in the yen over the last week, with rising speculation of a BOJ interest rate hike this week helping buoy the currency, along with the specter of BOJ intervention after several rounds of official yen buying in recent weeks.

Win Thin, Brown Brothers Harriman's global head of market strategy, said in a client note that the yen will likely struggle to gain further upside momentum, with the BOJ likely to deliver a dovish hike at its meeting on Wednesday.

The US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) is widely expected to leave rates unchanged this week, but to cut them by a quarter point at the following meeting in September.

While the FOMC does not meet in August, Fed chair Jerome Powell could use the Jackson Hole gathering of central bankers in late August to prepare the market for a rate cut. By then more data on inflation and Friday's July employment report will be available for policy makers to weigh conditions for a September cut.

While US Japan yield differentials are thus expected to narrow, it does not look like the near-term carry trade advantage of borrowing/shorting yen to fund investments outside of Japan will erode significantly in the coming two months.

"The market doesn't have much conviction right now. It doesn't have much conviction, because everybody is reading from same song book, what would be called a 'dovish hold' by the Fed," said Marc Chandler, chief market strategist at Bannockburn Global Forex in New York.

Citizens Bank organises foundation training course

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Citizens Bank recently organised a "Foundation Training Course" for its officers.

A total of 30 officers from different branches and divisions participated in the training programme, which was held at the bank's head office in Dhaka.

Mohammad Masoom, managing director and CEO of the bank, attended the concluding session of the training course and distributed certificates among participants.

In his speech, Masoom advised participants to acquire knowledge about banking products and engage themselves for the progress of the bank. Among others, Mohammad Saiful Islam, chief financial officer and head of human resources division, and Tarafder Sushil Kumar, training and development manager, were also present.



Mohammad Masoom, managing director and CEO of Citizens Bank, poses for photographs with participants of a foundation training course at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: CITIZENS BANK

STOCKS		
	DSEX ▼	CASPI ▼
	1.13% 5,269.52	0.86% 15,141.38

COMMODITIES		
	Gold ▲	Oil ▼
	\$2,389.04 (per ounce)	\$75.64 (per barrel)

ASIAN MARKETS				
	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI
	▲ 0.43% 81,707.28	▲ 0.15% 38,525.95	▼ 0.07% 3,441.77	▼ 0.43% 2,879.30



Md Saidul Islam, chairman of Jamuna Bank, presides over the bank's 23rd annual general meeting, which was held virtually yesterday. The meeting declared 26 percent dividends, including 17.50 percent cash dividend, for 2023. PHOTO: JAMUNA BANK

Jamuna Bank announces 26% dividends

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Jamuna Bank declared 26 percent dividends, including 17.50 percent cash dividend, for the year that ended on December 31, 2023.

The declaration came at the bank's 23rd annual general meeting (AGM), which was held virtually at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.

Md Saidul Islam, chairman of the bank, presided over the meeting.

The AGM also approved the audited financial statements of the bank.

All directors and independent directors alongside the managing director and CEO, company secretary and shareholders also joined the meeting.

Oil price steadies

REUTERS, London

Oil steadied on Tuesday near its lowest levels since early June as worries about demand in China were balanced by a government pledge of policy measures for the economy and the prospect of lower US crude and product inventories.

A raft of disappointing economic news from China, the world's largest crude importer, has been weighing on commodity prices. China's manufacturing activity likely shrank for a third month in July, a Reuters poll showed on Monday.

Trust Bank opens relocated Naval Base branch

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Trust Bank recently opened a relocated Naval Base branch in Chattogram.

Rear Admiral Khondkar Misbah-ul-Azim, commander of Chattogram Naval area, inaugurated the branch, the bank said in a press release.

Ahsan Zaman Chowdhury, managing director of the bank, and other senior officials of the bank and Bangladesh Navy in the Chattogram area were also present.



Rear Admiral Khondkar Misbah-ul-Azim, commander of Chattogram Naval area, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate a relocated branch of Trust Bank in the port city recently. PHOTO: TRUST BANK

Chinese leaders pledge further support for flagging economy

AFP, Beijing

President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders stressed the need for further reform to support economic activity and the country's ailing property sector, state media reported Tuesday, following a key meeting centred on boosting growth.

Beijing is racing to achieve its goal of five percent annual growth in 2024, a target considered ambitious by many experts as the world's second-largest economy faces headwinds including an indebted real-estate market, flagging consumption and high youth unemployment.

Tuesday's gathering of the Communist Party's powerful Politburo of senior officials was billed as a chance for top leaders to take stock of the current economic situation and set out policy directions for the second half of the year.

They warned that "adverse effects brought about by current changes in the external environment are increasing", while there are "many risks and hidden dangers in key areas",

state news agency Xinhua said.

The report did not include any specific new policies, though attendees highlighted the need to ease local debt pressure and "accelerate the construction of a new development model" in the property sector.

Beijing is racing to achieve its goal of 5 percent annual growth in 2024, a target considered ambitious by many experts

Rating agency Fitch in April slashed its outlook on China's sovereign credit to negative, citing heightened risks to the country's public finances.

Second-quarter growth slowed sharply to 4.7 percent year-on-year, according to official figures published this month.

Authorities have announced various measures in recent months -- including several key interest rate cuts -- in a bid to get the economy humming again.

Zhang Zhiwei, President and Chief Economist at Pinpoint Asset Management, said in a note that Tuesday's meeting showed "the government recognises that domestic demand is weak and plans to prepare some policy measures in the pipeline to address the problem".

"Monetary policy has already turned more supportive with the rate cuts recently, which is positive for the economy," said Zhang, adding that broader changes to fiscal policy could be "much more supportive".

"It is not clear at this stage if such a shift of fiscal policy will happen."

The Politburo meeting readout also outlined new efforts to boost domestic consumption and household welfare.

But Capital Economics' Julian Evans-Pritchard said: "The lack of any specifics means it is unclear what it will entail in practice."

"Overall, the communiqué suggests the primary focus of policy remains on economic security and nurturing new productive forces in high-end sectors."