

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.

Economy will return to high growth path next fiscal year: UN

- Bangladesh's economy will return to the high growth trajectory in the next fiscal year overcoming the scarring impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a United Nations report. The country's gross domestic product (GDP) will grow by 7.6% in the fiscal year of 2021-22 following a 5.1% expansion in the current fiscal year, said the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021 report produced by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The UN forecast is higher than the projection made by the World Bank and is in line with that of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

- The WB has said Bangladesh's economy will expand by 3.4% in the FY22 from 1.6% in the current fiscal year. The IMF has forecast 7.9% growth in the FY22. The government has lowered the GDP growth projection for the current fiscal year to 7.4% taking into account the fallouts of the coronavirus pandemic. The report urged the policymakers in South Asia to strengthen their efforts to formalise labour markets and strengthen their social protection systems to dampen the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable and improve macroeconomic resilience.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/economy-will-return-high-growth-path-next-fiscal-year-un-2034569>

ICB plans for USD 1bn bond to help capital market

- Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) is planning to issue bonds worth USD 1 billion or around BDT 8.5 trillion to strengthen its support to the capital market. The state-owned investment company would mainly utilise the proceeds to lend to the market intermediaries who have been looking for low-cost funds for stronger market activities and providing margin loans, according to sources informed about a meeting between the ICB and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on Tuesday.

- ICB itself might use part of the bond proceeds for market making, or payoff expensive loans, said sources. Alongside giving the plan, BSEC is also working to help ICB secure foreign investments in the planned bond. A Swiss investment bank already expressed its interest to invest in the planned bond against which ICB would pay comparatively low interests in line with the international markets.

<https://tbsnews.net/economy/stock/icb-plans-1bn-bond-help-capital-market-192193>

Stocks plunge as margin loan ceiling comes into effect February 1

- Dhaka stocks plunged on Tuesday as many brokerage houses and merchant banks went for forced sales to comply with a BSEC instruction over margin loan interest rate. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission on January 13 set the upper ceiling on interest rate of margin loans provided by stockbrokers and merchant bankers to investors at 12% that includes a charge of maximum 3% spread over cost of funds. The directive will come into effect on February 1. DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, lost 1.63%, or 94.55 points, to close at 5,695.37 points on Tuesday.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/128392/stocks-plunge-as-margin-loan-ceiling-comes-into-effect-february-1>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$52.76	\$4.24	8.74%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$56.03	\$4.23	8.17%
Gold Spot*	\$1,847.38	(\$47.72)	-2.52%
DSEX	5,695.38	293.31	5.43%
S&P 500	3,849.62	93.55	2.49%
FTSE 100	6,654.01	193.49	2.99%
BSE SENSEX	48,347.59	596.26	1.25%
KSE-100	46,287.38	2,532.00	5.79%
CSEALL	8,665.82	1,891.60	27.92%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 84.78*

GBP 1 = BDT 116.44*

EUR 1 = BDT 103.09*

INR 1 = BDT 1.16*

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

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