

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▼ 1.63%	▼ 1.76%	\$1,855.10	\$56.29	▼ 1.09%	▼ 0.96%	▼ 0.95%	▼ 1.51%	BUY TK 83.95	100.87	113.82	12.76
5,695.37	10,008.14	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	48,347.59	28,546.18	2,945.52	3,569.43	SELL TK 84.95	104.67	117.62	13.41



# Star BUSINESS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27, 2021, MAGH 13, 1427 BS • starbusiness@thedailystar.net

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

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON And MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

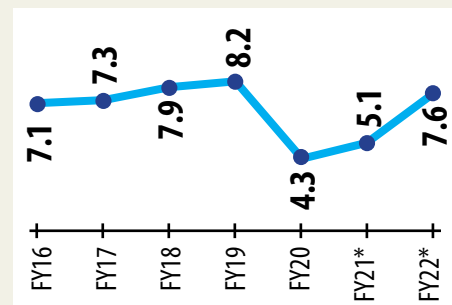
Bangladesh's economy will return to the high growth trajectory in the next fiscal year overcoming the scarring impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a United Nations report.

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) will grow by 7.6 per cent in the fiscal year of 2021-22 following a 5.1 per cent 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

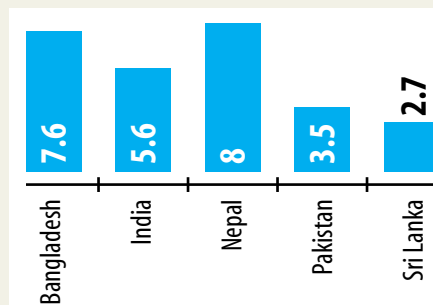
### GDP GROWTH OF BANGLADESH

In %; \* forecast; SOURCE: UN DESA



### GDP GROWTH FORECASTS FOR 2022

In %; SOURCE: UN DESA



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 per cent in the FY22 from 1.6 per cent in the current fiscal year. The IMF has forecast 7.9 per cent growth in the FY22.

The government has lowered the GDP growth projection for the

current fiscal year to 7.4 per cent taking into account the fallouts of the coronavirus pandemic.

Achieving resilience to external shocks should be among the most important considerations within the decision framework for policymakers in South Asia who are currently rethinking their industrial policies, the report said.

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## Commerce Bank, Janata run into a quagmire

Struggle to recover Tk 633cr deposits from six NBFIs

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Bangladesh Commerce Bank and Janata Bank Ltd are in a difficult situation to recover Tk 633 crore they deposited with six non-bank financial institutions as the latter's financial health deteriorated because of massive scams and lack of good governance.

Private lender BCB and state-run Janata kept the fund with Peoples Leasing & Financial Services, First Finance, FAS Finance & Investment, Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company (BIFC), International Leasing and Financial Services (ILFS), and Premier Leasing & Finance Ltd several years ago.

Although the funds have matured, the NBFIs are unable to return the money to the banks.

The two banks requested the central bank to intervene to help them realise the money. But they have received a feeble response from the regulator.

Recently, BCB has informed the central bank that as much as Tk 502 crore was stuck with the six NBFIs as of November 15 last year.

The NBFIs also have stopped paying interests to the bank since fiscal 2018-19, according to a central bank paper.

The amount, which was kept in the form



Bangladesh Commerce and Janata banks can't get back deposits of Tk 633cr from six NBFIs who are suffering from a fund crisis resulted mainly from a lack of governance

of term deposits, can't be renewed as the NBFIs are not paying the interest against the fund.

"This has created an obstacle to carrying out the banking operation, including liquidity management and making profits from the fund," the bank told the BB.

BCB has served legal notices on BIFC and ILFS as part of its effort to file a case. But the lender has been forced to back-track due to the central bank intervention.

"Against the backdrop, the bank has been in a quagmire," a senior official of the bank said.

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## Banks fail to pay import bills, tarnish country's image

Bangladesh Bank report says; meeting with bankers today



Bankers said banks should settle import bills on time for the sake of the country's image abroad.

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

The image of the country's financial sector has been tarnished in the international arena as a good number of local banks have not made import payments on time.

The number of allegations placed by foreign embassies in this regard has been rising as the respective overseas lenders failed to get their export earnings in due time, according to a Bangladesh Bank report.

Against this backdrop, the central bank will raise the issue before the bankers' meeting today.

Bangladesh Bank arranges the bankers' meeting every three months with the managing directors of all local banks and the central bank higher-ups taking

part. The failure to settle import bills has increased the 'add confirmation charge' as well, the report said.

The charge for confirming letters of credit (LC) remains between 2 and 3 per cent annually depending on the client, said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank. "But the failure to settle import bills on time may push it up," he added.

Confirmation fees are a security mechanism that eliminates risks for exporters.

When exporters are not satisfied with the LC-issuing bank, mainly for its insolvency risks, political issues in the importing country or both, they may seek an additional guarantee for the LCs.

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## E-payment of import taxes over Tk 2 lakh a must from July

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Business will require to pay import tariff and taxes over Tk 200,000 electronically from the first day of July this year as the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is gradually automating customs systems in order to provide faster service and bring about transparency, said NBR chief yesterday.

"We have prepared a roadmap for e-payment," NBR Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem said during a webinar organised by the NBR yesterday to mark International Customs Day.

The NBR made payments of import tariffs and taxes totalling more than Tk 2 lakh compulsory from April 1 this year for businesses who bring goods through Customs House, ICD Dhaka.

The customs house then brought several firms under the e-payment scheme as a part of its preparation to launch a pilot of the electronic payment system for import duties and taxes from April, Mobar Khanam, commissioner of the Customs House, ICD Dhaka, told The Daily Star.

And so, e-payments for import duties and taxes of over Tk 2 lakh will be made compulsory for the rest of the customs houses from July this year.

Currently, businesses can pay import tariffs via bank drafts, pay orders and cash.

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## Stocks fall, Beximco companies end rally amid profit taking

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Concerns of Beximco Group witnessed corrections yesterday after leading from the front to raise the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) to a three year high just a week ago.

DSEX, the benchmark index of the DSE, dropped 94.55 points, or 1.63 per cent, to 5,695 yesterday.

This year, the stock market rose thanks to the run-up of insurance companies along with Beximco Group's concerns, which are all now

facing a profit booking tendency, said a stock broker preferring anonymity.

Stock prices of Beximco Limited, whose paid-up capital is Tk 876 crore, fell 8.1 per cent while Beximco Pharmaceuticals with a paid-up capital of Tk 446 crore dropped 4 per cent.

IFIC Bank, which has a paid-up capital of Tk 1,619 crore, fell 2.84 per cent and Shinepukur Ceramics, another listed concern of Beximco Group, declined 8.39 per cent. It has a paid-up capital of Tk 146 crore.

Among the 49 listed insurance companies, only 8 rose while 37 dropped.

"As Beximco's concerns are big, their impact on the index is also large," the stock broker said.

Just because of the drop of Beximco and Beximco Pharmaceuticals, the DSEX lost around 14 points, according to amarstock.com, a stock market analysis-based website.

This is a normal trend of the stock market because no share can rise without witnessing some corrections, he added.

The stock market has continued to fall for the last three consecutive trading days, which is still considered as profit booking by market analysts.

Trigger sales from some merchant banks is one of the reasons behind the market fall, said a top official of a merchant bank preferring anonymity.

The regulator fixed the interest rate on margin loans at no higher than 12 per cent, and the trigger sales came as a result, he said.

Many merchant banks have no scope of lending at this rate as their cost to maintain the fund is higher, he added.

Thanks to the recent high jump of the index, many scripts have increased by more than 50 per cent.

"So, investors are taking profits and this is a good sign," another merchant banker said.

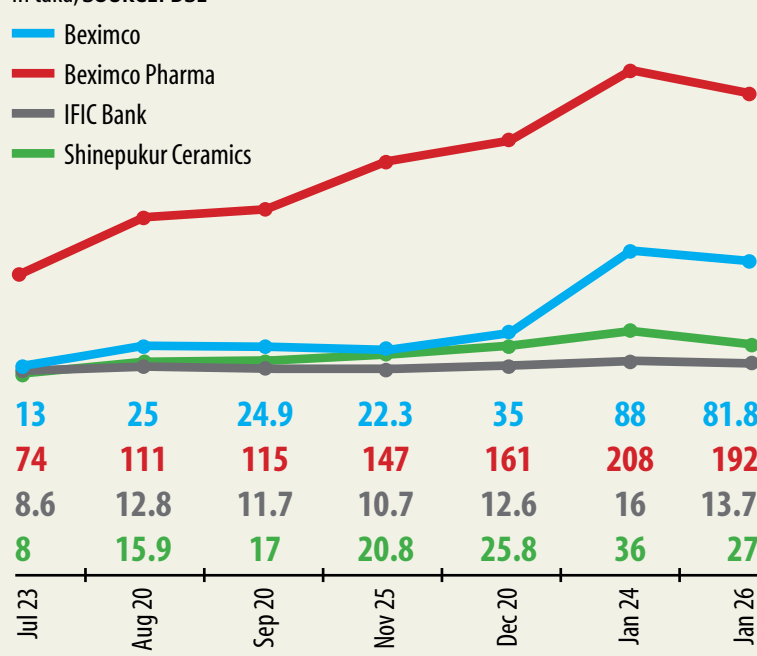
When investors take profits, the market gets its depth for further rise.

"If investors remain cautious about their investment decisions, then they will profit or otherwise incur loss," the merchant banker said.

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### STOCK PRICE TRENDS OF BEXIMCO CONCERNS

In taka; SOURCE: DSE



### UTTARA MOTORS LAUNCHES THE ALL NEW POWERFUL AND STYLISH SUZUKI VITARA BREZZA

Uttara Motors Limited, yesterday introduced the all new SUZUKI Vitara Brezza, the WICKED SUV through an exclusive digital event. The Vitara Brezza, offers enhanced sportiness, bolder looks, stronger stance, premium interiors and a host of new features. The Vitara Brezza comes with powerful 1.5 liter K-series petrol engine with Smart Hybrid Technology and equipped with Advanced Automatic Transmission. Vitara Brezza is sure to delight customers by providing a lot of attractive features like: Auto Folding ORVMs, Automatic Dual chamber LED projector headlamps, Automatic Rain Sensing Wipers, Cruise Control System, Voice Command, Steering Mounted Audio & Calling Controls, Engine Push Start/Stop with Smart Key, 7" Touchscreen New-age Smartplay Studio, Dual SRS Airbags, Reverse Parking Camera & Sensors, ABS with EBD and much more. Detail specifications are available on www.suzukicar.com.bd. Keeping up with its strong, urban and premium appeal, the all-new Vitara Brezza is bolder, sportier and more powerful. The honorable Deputy Managing Director, Mr. Durand Rahman and Head of Business Planning, Mr. Nayeemur Rahman jointly inaugurated the exclusive digital launching

event through SUZUKI CAR BANGLADESH Facebook page and YouTube channel. The SUZUKI Vitara Brezza is available in two different variants, THE SINGLE TONE VARIANT & THE DUAL TONE VARIANT. The single tone variant comes in 4 attractive colors: Granite Grey, Premium Silver, Pearl Arctic White & Autumn Orange. The dual tone variant comes in three fun colour combinations: Sizzling Red with Midnight Black Roof, Torque Blue with Midnight Black Roof & Granite Grey with Autumn Orange Roof. The Vitara Brezza single tone variant is priced at a very competitive 24 lac 50 thousand Taka. And the dual tone variant is priced at 25 lac 50 thousand Taka. Both these prices are inclusive of 3 years or 55,000km SUZUKI standard warranty and 12 free services from Uttara Motors. Customers can also avail easy auto loans from partnered financial institutions. Uttara Motors is always committed to customer satisfaction and provides sales and service through 11 branch offices and 8 service centers all over Bangladesh. They have been selling SUZUKI cars since early 80's and have delivered over 50,000 units all over the country to happy and satisfied customers.