

Economy

Foreign loan inflows fall 29pc as ADP hits five-year low

January 29, 2026

- The nation received USD 2.49bn in funds from international financial institutions, namely the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and bilateral lenders, including Russia, China, Japan and India, as well as other financiers, during the July–December period of fiscal year (FY) 2025–26. The amount of fund releases dipped 29pc year on year, according to data published by the finance ministry's Economic Relations Division (ERD).
- During the same period, implementation of foreign-funded projects under the ADP stood at 18.58pc, down from 19.61pc in the July–December period of FY25, according to data from the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division under the planning ministry.
- ERD data showed that commitments of financing from international and bilateral lenders dipped as lenders are waiting for the political transition of the country, which is scheduled to hold a national election on February 12 this year.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/foreign-loan-inflows-fall-29-adp-hits-five-year-low-4092676>

Cross-border trade rules threaten Bangladesh's traditional weaving

January 29, 2026

- Tangail's centuries-old weaving industry is facing a severe crisis as trade restrictions on land routes between Bangladesh and India have sharply reduced exports of the region's iconic handwoven sarees. The restrictions have halved the volume of Tangail sarees shipped to India, leaving many local weaving businesses struggling to survive.
- India imports around 7mn pieces of sarees annually from Bangladesh. The cost of exporting each saree via land routes was around BDT 38 (USD 0.31). However, with trade restrictions imposed, the cost has increased to around BDT 80 (USD 0.65), and increased processing time.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/cross-border-trade-rules-threaten-bangladesh-traditional-weaving-1346751>

Corporate

BSCL receives new bulk vessel Banglar Nobojatra

January 29, 2026

- Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) officially received the delivery of its newly purchased bulk vessel MV Banglar Nobojatra on Tuesday. Last year, BSC purchased two bulk carriers with its own

funds for the first time. Banglar Nobojatra is the second and final vessel to be delivered today.

- The official delivery of the ship, previously named XCL Lion, was completed on January 27 at the London office of Stephenson Harwood LLP, the legal representative of the ship's US-based supplier firm Hellenic Dry Bulk Ventures LLC. As per the purchase agreement, the vessel's physical delivery is scheduled to be completed today (January 29) at Jingjiang Nanyang Shipbuilding Co Ltd in China. Following physical delivery, MV Banglar Nobojatra will be immediately deployed for commercial cargo operations

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bsc-receives-new-bulk-vessel-banglar-nobojatra-4092841>

MetLife settles BDT 28.53bn (USD 233.28mn) claims in 2025

January 29, 2026

- MetLife Bangladesh settled insurance claims worth BDT 28.53bn (USD 233.28mn) in 2025, maintaining one of the highest claim settlement ratios in the country's life insurance industry, according to a press release. The amount includes payouts made to customers as insurance benefits, as well as claims related to loss of life and medical needs.
- During the year, the insurer posted a claims settlement ratio of 98pc. Of the total claims settled, BDT 3.13bn (USD 25.59mn) was paid for health and medical claims, BDT 1.10bn (USD 8.99mn) for death claims, and BDT 24.30bn (USD 198.69mn) for maturity, partial maturity and other claims.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/metlife-settles-tk-2853cr-claims-2025-4092871>

Capital Market

Govt orders assessment of CDBL's listing potential

January 29, 2026

- The finance ministry has instructed the Central Depository Bangladesh Ltd (CDBL) and other relevant stakeholders to assess the company's potential and the appropriate timing for its listing on the stock market.
- A ministry official, who was present at the meeting, confirmed to The Daily Star that the issue of CDBL's listing was discussed, but no decision was taken.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-orders-assessment-cdbls-listing-potential-4092916>

International

SoftBank in talks to invest up to USD 30bn more in OpenAI

January 29, 2026

- SoftBank Group Corp is in talks to invest as much as an additional USD 30bn in OpenAI, a person familiar with the matter said on Tuesday, as the Japanese conglomerate doubles down on its bet on the ChatGPT owner.
- The fresh investment would form part of a funding round that could raise up to USD 100bn for OpenAI, valuing it at about USD 830bn, the person said.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/softbank-talks-invest-30b-more-openai-4092896>

Euro tops USD 1.20: who wins, who loses?

January 29, 2026

- The euro has surged past USD 1.20 for the first time in more than four years, fuelled by Donald Trump's tariff-laden presidency and a slide in the dollar. The jump came after the US president expressed indifference to the greenback's latest decline, saying the currency "is doing great".
- Launched in 1999 at USD 1.17, the single currency climbed to a record above USD 1.60 during the 2008 subprime crisis, when the US unit weakened sharply. It had not crossed USD 1.20 since 2021, when European economies were buoyed by extraordinary pandemic-era public spending.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/euro-tops-120-who-wins-who-loses-4092341>

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Research Team

Name	Designation	Email	Contact Number
Tanay Kumar Roy, CFA	Head of Equity Research	tanay@idlc.com	880 1708 46 95 80
Md. Fahad Been Ayub	Business Analyst	MdFahad@IDLC.com	880 1521 43 81 88
Mohammad Tashnim	Research Associate	mtashnim@idlc.com	880 1730 70 16 45
Zareen Binte Shahjahan	Research Associate	zareen@idlc.com	880 1708 46 95 95
Muntasir Mohammad	Analyst	muntasirm@idlc.com	

IDLC Securities Limited

DR Tower (4th Floor), 65/2/2 Bir Protik Gazi Golam Dastagir Road,

Purana Paltan, Dhaka - 1000

Tel: +8809609994352

Fax: +88029574366

E-mail: IDLCSLResearch@idlc.com