

Summary of Business News – 93

Important Trade and Economic News Published in Various Newspapers during 05 - 18 January 2026

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><u>Export on decline, deeper dip in Dec</u> 6-month count \$23.9b, posts 2.19pc YoY fall Bangladesh's merchandise exports have been on the decline for five consecutive months to December when the dip was the deepest at 14.25 per cent year on year in terms of earning. The sharp decline in December 2025, by official count, also put the overall export growth in negative territory during the first half or July-December period of the current fiscal year of 2025-26. The scale was weighed down by a negative growth in export of readymade garments (RMG)--the country's largest foreign-currency earner--alongside declines in agricultural products and several non-traditional export sectors. Bangladesh received US\$3.96 billion from exports last month, which was \$4.62 billion in December 2024, according to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data released Sunday. Exports started witnessing year-on-year negative growth in August 2025 when the country recorded a 2.93-percent fall. This was followed by a decline of 4.61 per cent, 7.43 per cent and 5.58 per cent in September, October and November, respectively. Of the total December earnings, RMG fetched \$3.23 billion, logging a 14.23-percent negative growth compared to that in the same month of 2024, the EPB data revealed. The overall exports, however, stood at \$23.99 billion during the July-December period of FY26, reflecting 2.19-percent year-on-year negative growth. Bangladesh earned \$24.53 billion in the first half of the fiscal year 2024-25.</p>	05 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/export-on-decline-deeper-dip-in-dec-1767548416?date=05-01-2026)	
02	<p><u>Inflation rises further as prices spike</u> December rate 8.49pc in rise from November's 8.29pc Inflation rises further with December rate up at 8.49 per cent on a point- to-point basis in an apparent defiance of central bank's bid to lower persistently elevated price growth in a weakening investment scenario. The overall inflation stood at 8.49 per cent last month, edging up from 8.29 per cent in November last, according to BBS count. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics released Monday its statistics that show inflation on account of both food and nonfood prices accelerated during the month under review. The food inflation was recorded at 7.71 per cent while non-food inflation at 9.13 per cent.</p>	06 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-rises-further-as-prices-spike-1767633022?date=06-01-2026)	
03	<p><u>পিএমআই সূচক: ডিসেম্বরে নির্মাণ খাতের সংকোচন, অর্থনীতিতে গতি কিছুটা বেড়েছে</u> গত মাসে অর্থাৎ ২০২৫ সালের শেষ মাস ডিসেম্বরে দেশের নির্মাণ খাত সংকুচিত হয়েছে। এ ছাড়া দেশের প্রধান তিনটা খাতের সম্প্রসারণ হয়েছে। সামগ্রিকভাবে গত নভেম্বরের তুলনায় ডিসেম্বরে দেশের প্রধান চারটি খাতের সম্প্রসারণ হয়েছে। ডিসেম্বর মাসে দেশের পারচেজিং ম্যানুজার্স ইনডেক্সের (পিএমআই) মান ছিল ৫৪ দশমিক ২, যা নভেম্বর মাসে ছিল ৫৪। অর্থাৎ সামগ্রিকভাবে দেশের অর্থনীতি সম্প্রসারণের ধারায় আছে, যদিও এ হার তেমন একটা বেশি নয়। দেশের অর্থনীতির প্রধান চারটি খাত, অর্থাৎ কৃষি, উৎপাদন, নির্মাণ ও সেবা খাত নিয়ে প্রতি মাসে এই পিএমআই ইনডেক্স প্রকাশ করা হচ্ছে। এই সূচকের মান ৫০-এর ওপরে থাকলে বোঝা যায় যে সেই খাতের সম্প্রসারণ হয়েছে। মান ৫০-এর নিচে থাকলে ধরে নেওয়া হয়, সেই খাতের সংকোচন হয়েছে।</p>	07 Jan. 2026	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/phsbmh5u28)	

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04	<p><u>বিধিনিষেধ আরোপে ভারতে কমেছে বাংলাদেশি পণ্য রপ্তানি</u></p> <p>ভারতের বিধিনিষেধে দেশটিতে বাংলাদেশের পণ্য রপ্তানিতে নেতিবাচক প্রভাব পড়তে শুরু করেছে। চলতি অর্থবছরের প্রথম পাঁচ মাসে (জুলাই-নভেম্বর) বাজারটিতে বাংলাদেশি পণ্যের রপ্তানি কমেছে সাড়ে ৬ শতাংশের বেশি। এ সময়ে দেশটিতে রপ্তানি হওয়া বাংলাদেশের শীর্ষ তিন পণ্য—তৈরি পোশাক, প্রক্রিয়াজাত খাদ্যপণ্য এবং পাট ও পাটজাত পণ্যের রপ্তানি কমেছে। স্থলবন্দর ব্যবহার করে বাংলাদেশের পণ্য রপ্তানির ক্ষেত্রে চলতি বছর ভারত তিন দফায় বিধিনিষেধ আরোপ করে। বিধিনিষেধ আরোপের পরের দু-তিন মাস ভারতে বাংলাদেশি পণ্যের রপ্তানি বাড়লেও গত সেপ্টেম্বরে তা কমতে শুরু করে। রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরোর (ইপিবি) সর্বশেষ তথ্যানুযায়ী, চলতি অর্থবছরের পাঁচ মাসে ভারতে রপ্তানি হয়েছে ৭৬ কোটি ডলারের পণ্য, গত অর্থবছরের একই সময়ে যা ছিল ৮১ কোটি ডলারের পণ্য, অর্থাৎ রপ্তানি কমেছে ৬ দশমিক ৬৮ শতাংশ।</p>	07 Jan. 2026	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/wegy901m78)	
05	<p><u>Forex reserves to stay over \$32b even after ACU payments</u></p> <p>Bangladesh's treasury won't feel dollar stress even after settling import- payment obligations to the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) member- countries as gross foreign-exchange reserves are yet expected to stay over US\$32 billion. The latest payment of \$1.5 billion is scheduled to be remitted to the ACU headquarters in Tehran today (Thursday), officials said Wednesday.</p> <p>As per the union's existing provisions, outstanding import bills and interest thereof are to be paid by member-countries every two months. After the payment for the November-December 2025 period, the country's gross forex reserves are estimated to stand over \$32-billion mark Thursday, little down from \$33.78 billion on the previous working day. The reserves stood at \$33.71 billion Tuesday.</p>	08 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/forex-reserves-to-stay-over-32b-even-after-acu-payments-1767806467?date=08-01-2026)	
06	<p><u>NBR unveils automated online VAT refund system</u></p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) on Wednesday launched an automated online Value- Added Tax (VAT) refund system, allowing refunds to be transferred directly in taxpayers' bank accounts, a move considered ending long-standing delays and harassment in the refund process, reports BSS. NBR Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan formally inaugurated the system by transferring Tk 4.59 million (45.35 lakh) in VAT refunds to the bank accounts of three taxpayers from three Dhaka-based VAT commissionerates through the electronic platform.</p> <p>Speaking at the launching event at the NBR conference room at its revenue Bhaban in the capital's Agargaon, the NBR chairman said the authority initially replicated the existing manual refund procedure into an electronic format to ensure continuity, with plans to further simplify the process through legal and regulatory amendments if needed.</p>	08 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/nbr-unveils-automated-online-vat-refund-system-1767805031?date=08-01-2026)	
07	<p><u>Export cash incentives to continue till June 2026</u></p> <p>The government will continue to provide cash incentive facilities for exporters for an additional six months in order to support them during ongoing global economic challenges. According to a notification issued by the Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance on Wednesday, the government has extended export cash incentive facilities until June 30, 2026, as part of a long-standing policy measure. Exporters will still be able to receive cash incentives at the current rates for shipments made during this extended period, as the facility was originally set to expire on December 31, 2025.</p> <p>The extension comes at a time when Bangladesh's exporters are facing subdued global demand, higher production and logistics costs, and stricter compliance requirements in major markets such as the European Union and the United States.</p>	09 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/export-cash-incentives-to-continue-till-june-2026-1767889560?date=09-01-2026)	

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08	<p><u>BTCL increases internet speed by five times</u> Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL) has announced a major upgrade to its internet services, increasing speeds by up to five times across its existing packages while keeping monthly prices unchanged. The move aims to improve digital services by allowing users to enjoy significantly faster connectivity at the same cost, the state-owned telecom operator said in a press release today. Under the new offer, BTCL has rebranded its "Sulav" series as the "Sashroyi" series to reflect the enhanced value of the packages.</p>	11 Jan. 2026	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/news/btcl-increases-internet-speed-five-times-4078331)	
09	<p><u>দক্ষিণ এশিয়ায় বাংলাদেশের মূল্যস্ফীতি সবচেয়ে বেশি</u> দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার দেশগুলোর মধ্যে বাংলাদেশে সবচেয়ে বেশি মূল্যস্ফীতি বিরাজমান। সর্বোচ্চ মূল্যস্ফীতির দিক থেকে ২০২৫ সালে বাংলাদেশ শীর্ষে ছিল। ২০২৬ সালেও বাংলাদেশে সর্বোচ্চ মূল্যস্ফীতি থাকবে। জাতিসংঘের অর্থনীতি ও সামাজিক সম্পর্ক বিভাগের এক প্রতিবেদনে এ চিত্র উঠে এসেছে। সম্প্রতি বৈশ্বিক অর্থনৈতিক পরিস্থিতি ও ২০২৬ সালের সম্ভাবনা শীর্ষক প্রতিবেদন প্রকাশ করা হয়।</p>	11 Jan. 2026	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/thaiw73ns1)	
10	<p><u>Regulator directs bankers for time-bound action</u> <u>Help struggling businesses with policy concessions promptly, slash NPLs</u> <u>Given until March for downsizing classified loans below 25pc</u> Bankers are now given until next March to downsize the classified-loan buildups in the banking sector below 25 per cent through prompt delivery of government policy concessions for struggling businesses. The central bank made the directive to top executives in the country's all commercial banks for such time-bound action at a special bankers' conclave Sunday at the Bangladesh Bank headquarters, according to meeting insiders. While spelling out the firman, the Bangladesh Bank governor, Dr Ahsan H. Mansur, also appreciated the bankers' efforts in bringing down non-performing loan (NPL) loads below 31 per cent until December last banking on various regulatory interventions like policy support and partial write-off facilities from the September count of 35.73 per cent.</p>	12 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/help-struggling-businesses-with-policy-concessions-promptly-slash-npls-1768150946?date=12-01-2026)	
11	<p><u>Apex Tannery to set up own ETP at cost of Tk12cr</u> Apex Tannery, a listed leather goods manufacturer, has decided to set up an in-house effluent treatment plant (ETP) at a cost of Tk12 crore to meet regulatory requirements and comply with the environmental standards demanded by international buyers. The company made the decision at a recent board meeting and disclosed it through the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website. Although Apex Tannery had earlier obtained approval to establish its own ETP at its factory premises in the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation Savar Leather Industrial Estate, it is now moving forward with the investment.</p>	14 Jan. 2026	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/apex-tannery-set-etp-following-international-buyers-standards-1333741)	
12	<p><u>JUL-DEC PERIOD OF FY2026</u> <u>ADP implementation hits 20-year low at 17.54pc</u> <u>Down from 17.97pc in same period last FY</u> Bangladesh's Annual Development Programme (ADP) implementation has hit a 20-year low, with government agencies spending only 17.54 per cent of the total allocation in the first half (Jul-Dec) of the current fiscal year, officials said. Even during the same period last FY2025, the ADP implementation rate was slightly higher at 17.97 per cent, though it had reached 22-24 per cent in the three years prior, the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) data showed on Wednesday. IMED officials highlighted a concerning trend of slow development spending, attributing it to ongoing political uncertainty, slow procurement processes, and administrative disruptions.</p>	15 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/adp-implementation-hits-20-year-low-at-1754pc-1768413350?date=15-01-2026)	

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13	<p><u>Economic growth may slow to 4.6pc this FY</u> WB downgrades earlier projection, but predicts pickup to 6.1pc for FY27 Bangladesh economy may expand at a rate of 4.6 per cent in the current fiscal year in a further 0.3-percentage-point fall from the level predicted in June 2025, says the World Bank in an update. With this downgrading, the global development financier cut the country's economic-growth forecast for a second time in seven months on several grounds. The growth arithmetic is contained in WB's Global Economic Prospect (GEP) report unveiled Wednesday, from its headquarters in Washington, DC. In the previous forecast last June, the Washington-based global lender had forecast 4.9-percent gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the country this fiscal. In October 2025, the WB in another report titled 'Bangladesh Development Update' projected that Bangladesh might grow at a 4.8-percent rate for FY2026.</p>	15 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economic-growth-may-slow-to-46pc-this-fy-1768412949?date=15-01-2026)	
14	<p><u>Contractionary monetary policy under critical scrutiny as inflation bites</u> Liquidity feeding, irregular subsidised credit injection into market still continue Businesses feel unease and inflation frowns while some liquidity-squeezing moves have been in place for months. The central bank, however, claims its contractionary monetary policy still looks accommodative in current context. Officials and money-market analysts say the monetary policy is contractionary in terms of value due to higher policy rate but it is very much accommodative as far as the volume is concerned. Apart from the regular liquidity-feeding instruments of the Bangladesh Bank (BB), the flow of subsidised credits or money injection through irregular arrangements keep rising on the market, which is contradictory to the spirit of contractionary monetary-policy stance taken for holding inflation in check. As a matter of fact, the BB-guided tight monetary policy is not transmitting into the money market properly and not being able to contain the inflationary pressure at the expected level, which ultimately hurts common people through curtailing their purchasing power. After the changeover in state power following the 2024 July-August mass uprising that toppled the Sheikh Hasina government, eminent economist Dr Ahsan H. Mansur took the central bank leadership and enhanced policy rate in quick successions by 150 basis points to 10 per cent from 8.50 per cent on October 22, 2024 to contain higher inflationary pressure as part of contractionary monetary policy. The banking regulator still continues on the policy stance despite criticism from the business circles as the rate of inflation has yet to be brought down to the targeted level of 7.0 per cent.</p>	15 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/contractionary-monetary-policy-under-critical-scrutiny-as-inflation-bites-1768412626?date=15-01-2026)	
15	<p>বাংলাদেশের মূল ঝুঁকি অপরাধ ও অবৈধ অর্থনৈতিক তৎপরতা: ওয়ার্ল্ড ইকোনমিক ফোরাম অর্থনীতিতে সব সময়-ই ঝুঁকি থাকে। সেই ঝুঁকি আগেভাগে চিহ্নিত করা গেলে তার প্রভাব মোকাবিলা করা তুলনামূলকভাবে সহজ হয়। ওয়ার্ল্ড ইকোনমিক ফোরাম মনে করছে, ২০২৬ সালে বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতির মূল ঝুঁকি হবে অপরাধ ও অবৈধ অর্থনৈতিক তৎপরতা। প্রতিটি দেশের জন্য পাঁচটি প্রধান ঝুঁকি চিহ্নিত করা হয়েছে প্রতিবেদনে। দেখা যাচ্ছে, ২০২৬ সালে বাংলাদেশের দ্বিতীয় প্রধান ঝুঁকি হবে ভূ-অর্থনৈতিক সংঘাত, যেমন নিষেধাজ্ঞা, শুল্ক ও বিনিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে যাচাই-বাছাই। তৃতীয় প্রধান ঝুঁকি হচ্ছে মূল্যস্ফীতি। বলা বাহুল্য, দেশে প্রায় চার বছর ধরে উচ্চ মূল্যস্ফীতি বিরাজ করেছে। ২০২৫ সালে দেশে গড় মূল্যস্ফীতি ছিল ৮ দশমিক ৭৭ শতাংশ। বাংলাদেশের ক্ষেত্রে চতুর্থ ঝুঁকি হিসেবে চিহ্নিত করা হয়েছে অর্থনৈতিক ধীরগতিকে। তারা বলেছে, মন্দা বা স্থবিরতার মতো পরিস্থিতি সৃষ্টি হতে পারে। পঞ্চম ঝুঁকি হিসেবে চিহ্নিত করা হয়েছে ঋণ-সরকারি, করপোরেট ও পারিবারিক।</p>	15 Jan. 2026	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/z449dyaw6l)	

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16	<p>Regulator defends Bank Company Act amendment <u>Amendment to massively change bank board formation</u> Bangladesh Bank governor Dr Ahsan H. Mansur has said the proposed legal changes are vital for enforcing governance in the banking sector through management streamlining, and expects government approval shortly. The proposed amendment to the existing Bank Company Act passed through the ministry concerned, he told journalists Thursday, on a note of optimism that it might get government's seal of approval within this month. "It's now under the government consideration. We expect the government will take decision regarding the matter within this month," the BB governor told the reporters in an emergency press briefing meant to dispel any confusion. Once the amendment is passed, he said, there will be some massive change in terms of formation of bank board. "Some quarters might not like it but the proposed changes in the existing Bank Company Act are needed to ensure good governance in the financial sector," he said. According to the draft, the number of directors will be reduced. Family directorship in the banks will be curtailed to two in place of five and their tenure will be three years in each of two terms. Now a family director can stay on the bank board twelve years in a row, according to the latest Bank Company Act amended in 2023.</p>	16 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/restoring-macroeconomic-stability-rests-on-revenue-policy-upgrade-1768588161?date=17-01-2026)	
17	<p>MULTI-STAKEHOLDER REFORM TASKFORCE RINGS ALERT <u>Restoring macroeconomic stability rests on revenue policy upgrade</u> A time-bound structural and policy rejig of the revenue system is imperative for restoring and sustaining Bangladesh's macroeconomic stability as insufficient domestic resources upend government plans and generate overall volatility. To this end, a multi-stakeholder taskforce on revenue reform is likely to recommend that the government complete major tax-policy reforms in near and midterms within next five years, beginning under the current interim government and finishing under the upcoming elected one. The 'National Taskforce on Tax Restructuring', formed in October last following the political regime change, in order to review the country's revenue framework, is scheduled to submit its report by January 31, 2026, in line with its mandate. The taskforce will focus on structural adjustments and development of the overall tax framework to help Bangladesh achieve its fiscal goals. Talking to The Financial Express, Dr Zaidi Sattar, who heads the taskforce, said the report would place strong emphasis on revenue-policy reforms aimed at removing longstanding bottlenecks to trade and investment.</p>	17 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/restoring-macroeconomic-stability-rests-on-revenue-policy-upgrade-1768588161?date=17-01-2026)	
18	<p>জাতিসংঘ প্রতিনিধিদলের বাংলাদেশ সফর স্থগিত স্বল্পোন্নত দেশের (এলডিসি) তালিকা থেকে বের হওয়ার বিষয়ে বাংলাদেশের সার্বিক প্রস্তুতি পর্যালোচনা ও নিজেদের অবস্থান জানাতে চলতি মাসে ঢাকায় আসার কথা ছিল জাতিসংঘের একটি প্রতিনিধিদলের। সেই সঙ্গে বাংলাদেশের এলডিসি-উত্তরণ বিষয়ে ২১ জানুয়ারি একটি স্বাধীন প্রস্তুতিমূলক মূল্যায়ন প্রতিবেদন উপস্থাপনের কথা ছিল। কিন্তু এর আগেই জাতিসংঘ প্রতিনিধিদলের সফর আপাতত স্থগিত করা হয়েছে। নতুন কোনো তারিখ এখনো নির্ধারিত হয়নি। জাতিসংঘের আন্ডার সেক্রেটারি জেনারেল ও পঞ্চম এলডিসি সম্মেলনের মহাসচিব রাবাব ফাতিমার নেতৃত্বে প্রতিনিধিদলটির ঢাকায় আসার কথা ছিল। জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচনের যুক্তি দেখিয়ে অন্তর্বর্তী সরকারের পক্ষ থেকে সফরের বিষয়ে 'না' জানানো হয়েছে বলে সংশ্লিষ্ট সূত্রগুলো জানিয়েছে। বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয় ও অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্ক বিভাগ (ইআরডি) সূত্রে জানা গেছে, আগামী মাসে নির্বাচিত সরকার দায়িত্ব নেওয়ার পর দলটি বাংলাদেশ সফর করতে পারে।</p>	17 Jan. 2026	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/iml2xrss0q)	