



ECONOMIC & STOCK MARKET NEWS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2025





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Asian Markets Decline Amid Tariff Concerns

Summary: Asian stock markets fell on Monday due to concerns over tariffs imposed by President Trump on key U.S. trading partners. Japan's Nikkei 225 lost 2.4%, Australia's S&P/ASX 200 decreased by 1.8%, South Korea's KOSPI dropped 2.9%, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 1.4%. Analysts warn that escalating trade tensions could reduce global trade flows, increase business costs, and raise inflation. apnews.com

European Central Bank Cuts Interest Rates to Support Growth

Summary: The European Central Bank (ECB) has reduced its key interest rate by 0.25 percentage points to 2.75% to support the stagnant eurozone economy. ECB President Christine Lagarde indicated that further rate cuts may be forthcoming, emphasizing that current policies remain restrictive. The eurozone's economic growth is expected to remain weak in the near term. theguardian.com

Export Plunges to a 26-Month Low

Summary: Bangladesh's export earnings fell to \$3.76 billion in October, the lowest in 26 months, as shipments of apparel items declined due to falling global demand amid higher inflation. The receipts were 13.64% lower year-on-year, with readymade garments, which make up more than 80% of total takings, slumping around 14% to \$3.17 billion. thedailystar.net

Asian Markets React to Tariff Concerns

Summary: Asian stock markets declined on Monday due to concerns over tariffs imposed by President Trump on key U.S. trading partners. Major indices in Japan, Australia, South Korea, and Hong Kong experienced significant losses, reflecting investor anxiety over potential impacts on global trade and inflation. apnews.com

Political Upheaval in Bangladesh Leads to Leadership Change

Summary: A nationwide student-led uprising resulted in the overthrow of Sheikh Hasina's government last summer, leading to Muhammad Yunus assuming interim leadership. Yunus aims to stabilize the economy, tackle corruption, and implement reforms, focusing on leveraging the country's young population and technological aspirations.

Bangladesh's Economic Growth Moderates

Summary: Bangladesh's real GDP growth is estimated to have slowed to 5.2% in FY24 from 5.8% in FY23. Challenges include elevated inflation, financial sector vulnerabilities, and external sector pressures. Growth is expected to rebound gradually over the medium term.

Agricultural Exports from Bangladesh Surge

Summary: Bangladesh's agricultural products, including vegetables, fruits, and spices, earned \$1.16 billion in FY22, marking a 13.04% growth. Vegetable exports have seen significant increases, reaching 0.10 million tons annually to countries worldwide.

Capital Market Extends Gains for Third Consecutive Week

Summary: Bangladesh's capital market continued its upward trend for the third consecutive week, with the DSEX index increasing by 39 points (0.73%) to close at 5,355 points. Investor interest was strong in the pharmaceutical, banking, and textile sectors.

Commercial Banks Granted Wider Scope in Stock Market Investments

Summary: The Bangladesh Bank revised guidelines for commercial banks' investments in the capital market, excluding bonds, debentures, and Islamic Sharia-based securities from their market-exposure limits. This move aims to stimulate the sluggish stock market and develop the bond market.

Stocks Rebound as Regulatory Measures Lift Sentiment

Summary: The DSEX index rose by 84.81 points (1.7%) to settle at 5,199 points, driven by robust corporate earnings and positive regulatory interventions. The banking, pharmaceuticals, and textiles sectors were top performers.