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NEWS

Daily News Flash

Thursday, February 20, 2025

MACRO ECONOMY

YIELDS ON GOVT SECURITIES TUMBLE IN FEB: WHAT IT MEANS FOR ECONOMY

- Interest rates on government securities have dropped sharply since early February as the banking sector, flush with excess liquidity, faces weak private sector loan demand, signalling a likely decline in lending rates.
- The Bangladesh Bank sees the decline in government securities' interest rates as a sign of economic recovery after a soft landing of macroeconomic indicators, with the expected drop in lending rates likely to curb inflation, reduce financing costs and, eventually, stimulate investment demand.
- A senior Bangladesh Bank executive, directly involved in monitoring monetary policy developments, told TBS that the sharp decline in government securities' interest rates signals the need to revise the policy rate downward. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the official explained that interest rates on government securities have started to slow down since December due to weak private sector credit demand. Banks are also opting to invest in government securities rather than lend to the private sector amid political uncertainty.

Source: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/yields-govt-securities-tumble-feb-what-it-means-economy-1072266

FOREIGN SUBSIDIARIES CAN NOW REMIT SERVICE PAYMENTS WITHOUT CENTRAL BANK APPROVAL

- Foreign subsidiaries operating in Bangladesh can now remit various service payments to their parent companies abroad without prior approval from the Bangladesh Bank.
- The central bank issued a circular in this regard today (19 February), instructing all scheduled banks and authorised dealers to implement the directive. Previously, banks were not allowed to process such payments without Bangladesh Bank's approval.
- According to the circular, resident companies operating as subsidiaries of foreign companies in Bangladesh avail various services from their parent companies abroad. Considering this, and to facilitate transactions between subsidiaries and their parent or group companies, the new directive has been introduced. However, the circular stated that specific conditions must be met by the subsidiaries before service payments.

Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/foreign-subsidiaries-can-now-remit-service-payments-without-central-bank-

LARGE INDUSTRIES SEE THROUGHPUT RESURGENCE

- Large industrial enterprises in Bangladesh see throughput resurgence--after recent pickups for political upheavals--as is reflected in the large-scale manufacturing sector's latest index upswing.
- The index measuring state of the manufacturing biggies expanded 11.39 per cent in October of this fiscal year, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data.
- However, five in the domain-tobacco products, leather, paper, motor vehicles, and fabricated metalssaw a decline during this time.

Source: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/large-industries-see-throughput-resurgence

BANKS & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

BB'S POWER TO DISSOLVE WEAK BANKS PROPOSED

NEWS

- The Bangladesh Bank has been granted sweeping powers in the draft of Bank Resolution Ordinance, 2025, allowing it to take over crisis-hit banks, transfer their assets, and hand over operations to a Bridge Banks.
- The financial institutions division under finance ministry published the draft law titled 'The Bank Resolution Ordinance, 2025' on Tuesday and sought public opinion on the law.
- The law provides a range of resolution mechanisms, including the creation of Bridge Banks to maintain critical operations, capital restructuring, and asset transfers to third parties.

Source: https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/258350/bbs-power-to-dissolve-weak-banks-proposed

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TELECOMMUNICATION

BTRC TO HOLD 700 MHZ SPECTRUM AUCTION THIS YEAR

- The telecom regulator aims to auction spectrum in the 700 MHz band this year to support the expansion of 4G and roll out 5G networks in the country.
- On January 30, GSMA, a global organisation representing mobile network operators, sent a letter to the BTRC about the 700 MHz auction.
- In the letter, GSMA said, as per the spectrum roadmap released by the BTRC in October last year, 2x45 MHz in this band is planned to be available in 2025. "However, we understand BTRC's current plan is to auction only 2x25 MHz. This raises concerns about artificial scarcity," it said. "This limited supply of spectrum for auction is likely to drive spectrum prices higher and restrict operators' ability to acquire sufficient spectrum."

Source: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/btrc-hold-700-mhz-spectrum-auction-year-3828906

REVENUE SHARING FOR ITC OPERATORS HIKED TO 3%

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has amended the licensing guidelines for international terrestrial cable (ITC) operators, raising the gross revenue sharing requirement from 1 percent to 3 percent.
- Under the revised terms, ITC licensees must now pay 3 percent of their annual audited gross revenue on a quarterly basis, with payments due within the first 10 days of the following quarter. The total amount will be reconciled annually based on audited financial statements.
- Md Arif Al Islam, CEO of Summit Communications, the largest ITC operator, said they would comply with the government's decision. He added that they would consult Bharti Airtel and Tata, from whom they procure wholesale bandwidth, to negotiate price reductions to absorb this impact.

Source: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/revenue-sharing-itc-operators-hiked-3-3828581

ENGINEERING

LOCAL ELECTRICAL ITEMS OVERLOOKED IN GOVT PROCUREMENT

NEWS

- Electrical and home appliance entrepreneurs have sought equal and fair treatment of domesticallyproduced goods in government procurements to expand their market and also reduce the pressure on foreign exchange reserves by cutting import dependency.
- The Bangladesh Electrical, Electronics and Home Appliances Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BEEMEA) has described the existing public procurement act and the public procurement rules as biased towards foreign electrical products and demanded their amendments in a recent letter to the commerce ministry. The ministry forwarded the letter to the planning ministry with recommendations to amend the act accordingly.
- "Through the dedicated efforts of local entrepreneurs, international-standard factories equipped with state-of-the-art machinery are now producing a wide range of products," said the letter. However, certain provisions in the procurement rules have enforced reliance on imports of such products, which is obstructing the domestic industry's growth and the expansion of local entrepreneurship, it said.

Source: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/local-electrical-items-overlooked-in-govt-procurement

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CAPITAL MARKET

STOCKS DOWN FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE SESSIONS

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) indices have experienced a decline for the second consecutive session, as cautious investors booked profits and reduced their market activity, while institutional investors remained observant of the current market conditions.
- On Wednesday, the benchmark DSEX index fell by 11 points, closing at 5,192. Meanwhile, the DSE Shariah Index decreased by 2 points to 1,158, and the DS30 index saw a reduction of 9 points, closing at 1,913.
- In its daily market commentary, EBL Securities noted that the capital market faced pressure from profitbooking as investors rebalanced their portfolios. This trend led the benchmark index to close in negative territory for two consecutive sessions.

Source: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stocks-down-2-consecutive-sessions-1073006

EBL Securities Ltd.

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