

Tuesday 27th January 2026**Trump announces increasing tariffs on South Korean products from 15% to 25%**

US President Trump said Monday [26/01] he will raise tariffs on certain South Korean goods from 15% to 25%, accusing South Korea's legislature of not having enacted a bilateral trade agreement with the US. "Because the Korean Legislature hasn't enacted our Historic Trade Agreement, which is their prerogative, I am hereby increasing South Korean tariffs on all other Reciprocal tariffs, from 15% to 25%," he said. (www.xinhuanet.com 27/01/26)

Profits of China's major industrial firms up 0.6% in 2025

Profits of China's major industrial firms returned to growth in 2025, snapping a three-year streak of declines, with emerging sectors such as equipment manufacturing and high-tech manufacturing serving as major growth drivers. Profits of China's major industrial firms increased 0.6% year on year to nearly CN¥7.4tr (about \$1.06tr) last year. (www.xinhuanet.com 27/01/26)

China's industrial profits post first yearly increase since 2021

China's industrial enterprises had their first annual gain in profits since 2021, as producer deflation showed signs of easing in the wake of government efforts to curb excess competition and cut capacity. Profits climbed 5.3% in Dec. from a year earlier. (www.bloomberg.com 27/01/26)

UK should invest in energy over rail for growth boost, BCG says

UK ministers should focus their investment splurge on energy and digital infrastructure rather than road and rail to get the biggest boost to economic growth, according to new research. A report by Boston Consulting Group found that a 5% increase in Britain's energy infrastructure would lift long-run economic growth by almost half a percentage point. (www.bloomberg.com 27/01/26)

German firms' investments in China boomed in 2025 on US trade war worries

German companies' investments in China hit a four-year high in 2025, according to data, underscoring how US President Trump's trade war is pushing industries and governments to boost business ties elsewhere. The data, from the IW German Economic Institute and unreported, showed investments in China climbed to over €7bn (\$8bn) between Jan. and Nov. last year. (www.reuters.com 27/01/26)

German business confidence remains unchanged

German business sentiment remained unchanged in Jan. as the improvement in current situation was offset by the deterioration in expectations, the Munich-based ifo Institute said on Monday [26/01]. The business climate index remained unchanged at 87.6 in Jan, while the score was expected to rise to 88.3. (www.rttnews.com 26/01/26)

Japan's leader has few good options on Yen before election

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi kicks off her election campaign with an overriding goal: Get past the Feb. 8 vote without markets blowing up. Figuring out how to do that as market pressure builds is causing headaches for her three-month-old government and the Bank of Japan. Finance Ministry official familiar with the matter said. (www.bloomberg.com 27/01/26)

Australia drops annual move in quarterly CPI, shifts to monthly

The Australian Bureau of Statistics will no longer publish a year-on-year Consumer Price Index in its quarterly report as it shifts to a monthly inflation framework that aligns its reporting more closely with international practice. The new headline inflation measure will be derived from the full monthly CPI, Chief Statistician David Gruen said Tuesday. (www.bloomberg.com 27/01/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING	SELLING
+USD/GBP	1.3707	(1.3580)
+USD/EUR	1.1894	(1.1767)
*GHS/USD	10.8946	(10.8746)
*GHS/GBP	14.9332	(14.7677)
*GHS/EUR	12.9583	(12.7969)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 27/01/26 (Rates for 26/01/26 in brackets)

* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 27/01/26 (Rates for 26/01/26 in brackets)

South Korea reassures on US investment pledge after Trump threatens to hike tariffs

South Korea scrambled on Tuesday to assure the U.S. it remained committed to implementing a trade deal after President Donald Trump said he would hike tariffs on autos and other imports from its ally, blaming a delay in enacting the pact agreed last year. (www.reuters.com 27/01/26)

Brazil's current account deficit hits 11-year high in 2025

Brazil's current account deficit amounted to \$68.8bn in 2025, the worst level in 11 years, according to data published Monday [26/01] by the Central Bank. The 2025 deficit was equivalent to 3.02% of GDP, higher than the 2024 shortfall of \$66.2bn, according to the bank. (www.xinhuanet.com 27/01/26)

Thai Finance Ministry cuts 2025 growth estimate to 2.2%

Thailand's Ministry of Finance revised down its estimate for last year's growth and signaled the economy will expand at its slowest pace in 3 years in 2026 as exports and domestic demand moderate. GDP likely expanded 2.2% in 2025, the ministry said, cutting its earlier estimate of 2.4%. (www.bloomberg.com 27/01/26)

Ecuador credit upgraded by Moody's after \$4bn bond sale

Ecuador's credit rating was raised by Moody's Ratings as President Daniel Noboa continues improving the country's fiscal standing. The ratings company upgraded the South American nation two notches to Caa1, seven levels into speculative ratings, according to a statement late Monday. (www.bloomberg.com 27/01/26)

Finland unemployment rate rises to 6-month high

Finland's unemployment rate increased slightly in December to the highest level in six months, figures from Statistics Finland showed on today. The jobless rate among the 15-74 age groups rose to 9.8% in Dec. from 9.7% in the previous month. In the corresponding month last year, the unemployment rate was 8.1%. (www.rtnews.com 26/01/26)

Oil falls despite US winter storm as investors eye Kazakhstan supply resumption

Oil prices fell today as investors kept an eye on a resumption in supply from Kazakhstan, but price declines were limited as a massive winter storm hit crude production and affected refineries on the US Gulf Coast. Brent crude futures fell 44 cents, or 0.7%, to \$65.15 a barrel at 0440 GMT. (www.reuters.com 27/01/26)

Asian stocks hit record high as earnings hopes offset Trump's Korea tariff move

Asian shares hit a new record on Tuesday as investors hoped for the best from a barrage of US large-cap earnings, though uncertainty caused by President Donald Trump's latest tariff moves on South Korea boosted gold and silver. (www.reuters.com 27/01/26)

Tanzania expects to sign \$42 billion mega LNG project before June, minister says

Tanzania expects to sign before June a deal for its stalled project to construct a \$42bn liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant, a senior government minister said on Monday [26/01], with production set to start in eight years' time. (www.reuters.com 27/01/26)

Ghana secures 15% free interest in Gold Coast refinery

The Government of Ghana has acquired a 15 % interest in Gold Coast Refinery Company Limited, making the state a direct shareholder in West Africa's largest gold refinery without any financial outlay. The equity stake was secured through a landmark refining agreement signed between the Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod) and the Gold Coast Refinery. (www.graphic.com.gh 26/01/26)

BoG flags sustainability concerns over Domestic Gold Purchase programme

The Bank of Ghana (BoG) has signalled a deeper policy review of its Domestic Gold Purchase Programme, even as it maintains that the initiative remains critical to macroeconomic stability and reserve accumulation. He said this at the Opening of the 128th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting. (www.myjoyonline.com 26/01/26)

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