



Tuesday 17th March 2026

IMF raises alarm over aid to Ukraine with parliament in gridlock

The IMF raised concern about Ukraine’s ability to continue receiving aid from its \$8.1 billion package as lawmakers stall on measures needed to release the financing, its representative said. The Ukrainian parliament has until the end of March to pass a series of legislative amendments that would raise taxes on businesses and households under the latest four-year loan program approved last month. (www.bloomberg.com 17/03/26)

Bond funds boost diverging rate bets, bucking inflation threat

Bond managers are doubling down on bets that central banks’ monetary policy will diverge, even as the inflation fear unleashed by the war in Iran boosts the case for higher interest rates. Government debt has whipsawed in the run-up to a wave of central bank meetings this week. (www.bloomberg.com 16/03/26)

Prolonged Iran war threatens to magnify economic pain, BIS warns

A lengthy conflict in the Middle East would threaten to cause a further surge in interest rates and a sell-off in financial markets that could magnify the wider damage to the global economy, the Bank for International Settlements has warned. (www.ft.com 16/03/26)

BIS urges central banks to look through energy price surge

The Bank for International Settlements has advised central banks to not react to the effects of the Middle East conflict by adjusting interest rates, especially if the energy supply shock proves to be temporary. “If it’s a supply shock, and certainly if it’s a temporary one, these are the textbook examples where you should look through and not react with monetary policy,” said Hyun Song Shin, head of the BIS’s monetary and economic department. (www.centralbanking.com 16/03/26)

US industrial production increases on factory, mining output

US industrial production rose modestly in Feb. lifted by a second month of gains in manufacturing and mining output. The 0.2% increase in production at factories, mines and utilities followed a 0.7% advance a month earlier, Fed data showed Monday [16/03]. The median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of economists was a 0.1% increase. (www.bloomberg.com 16/03/26)

Fed options trade earns \$10m as oil upends rate-cut views

This month’s surge in oil prices and the market’s move to ratchet back expectations for Fed policy easing have generated \$10m profit for one option bet in short-term interest rates. The wager was placed in Jan in options linked to the Secured Overnight Financing Rate, which closely tracks the Fed’s path. (www.bloomberg.com 16/03/26)

China's economy remains a sturdy anchor in choppy waters

China set a GDP growth target of 4.5% to 5% for 2026, markedly outpacing the IMF's Jan. projection of 3.3% for the global economy. The target reflects China's confidence that rests on solid fundamentals. Over the past five years, China's economy has grown at an average annual rate of 5.4%. (www.xinhuanet.com 17/03/26)

China's job market generally stable in first two months

China's job market has remained generally stable, with the surveyed urban unemployment rate holding steady at 5.3% in the first two months of 2026, the National Bureau of Statistics said. In Feb alone, the surveyed urban unemployment rate was 5.3%, 0.1 percentage point higher than the previous month, according to the NBS. Due to the Spring Festival holiday, the rate was higher in Jan. and Feb than in Dec 2025. (www.xinhuanet.com 17/03/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3304	(1.3233)	1.3305	(1.3234)
+USD/EUR	1.1491	(1.1438)	1.1491	(1.1439)
*GHS/USD	10.8646	(10.8671)	10.8754	(10.8779)
*GHS/GBP	14.4542	(14.3804)	14.4698	(14.3959)
*GHS/EUR	12.4853	(12.4301)	12.4966	(12.4413)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 17/03/26 (Rates for 16/03/26 in brackets)

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BoE sheds senior staff as 75 get top £150,000 Payout

Seventy-five Bank of England staff received the maximum £150,000 (\$200,000) payout after volunteering for layoffs that ended in many senior departures from the UK central bank. One in six of the 446 staff leaving in the coming months were paid the top settlement under what the BOE called a “mutually agreed resignation scheme,” persons familiar with the matter said. (www.bloomberg.com 16/03/26)

Australia raises key rate by 25 Bps

The Reserve Bank of Australia raised its benchmark rate for the second straight time, citing material risk that inflation will remain above target for longer than anticipated. The policy board, governed by Michele Bullock, decided to hike the cash rate target by 25 basis points to 4.10%. (www.rttnews.com 17/03/26)

Canada inflation decelerates to 1.8% before oil shock

Canada’s inflation rate slowed more than expected last month as a temporary sales tax break dropped out of annual comparisons and core price pressures eased before the spike in oil prices. Yearly headline inflation fell to 1.8% in Feb. from 2.3% in Jan. Statistics Canada has said. (www.bloomberg.com 16/03/26)

Mexico says to propose keeping free trade pact, scrapping tariffs in talks with U.S.

Mexican Economy Minister Marcelo Ebrard said his country will propose the continuation of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement on free trade and the elimination of tariffs when he meets with US officials for the first round of bilateral discussions ahead of the trade treaty's review. (www.xinhuanet.com 17/03/26)

Singapore non-oil domestic exports rise 4.0%

The growth in Singapore's non-oil domestic exports moderated in Feb. amid a fall in outflows of non-electronics, Enterprise Singapore has said. Non-oil domestic exports climbed to 4.0% year-over-year in Feb. much slower than the 9.2% surge in the previous month. (www.rttnews.com 17/03/26)

Oil climbs over 2% as Iran war halts supply

Oil prices rose more than 2% on Tuesday, reversing some of the previous session's losses, on worries about supply with the Strait of Hormuz mostly shut and US allies rebuffing calls to send warships to help tankers move through the vital waterway. Brent futures jumped \$2.74, or 2.7%, to \$102.95 a barrel by 0357 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude gained \$2.45, or 2.6%, to \$95.95. (www.reuters.com 17/03/26)

Asia stocks attempt a rebound with central banks in the spotlight

Stocks climbed in Asian trading on Tuesday, pressing for a second day of gains as investors confronted a crowded central bank calendar and an unrelenting Middle East conflict. Markets are on edge, trying to price in the economic damage from U.S. President Donald Trump's war with Iran and the policy reaction it could trigger. (www.reuters.com 17/03/26)

Nigeria inflation eases marginally in February after central bank trims rates

Nigeria's headline consumer inflation (NGCPIY=ECI), opens new tab slowed slightly in Feb. to 15.06% year-on-year from 15.10% in Jan. the National Bureau of Statistics said on Monday [16/03]. (www.reuters.com 16/03/26)

Rwanda's economy expands 9.4% in 2025, surpassing gov't target

Rwanda's economy grew by 9.4% in 2025, surpassing the projected target of 7.0%, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning announced said. According to GDP report, the value of the economy at current market prices reached 23,387bn Rwandan francs (about \$16bn) in 2025. (www.xinhuanet.com 17/03/26)

Middle East conflict clouds Ghana's inflation outlook, central bank governor says

The US-Israeli war against Iran poses a fresh threat to Ghana's inflation outlook through higher oil prices and tighter global financial conditions, even as the same geopolitical uncertainty is pushing gold prices up, the West African country's central bank governor said on Monday. (www.reuters.com 16/03/26)

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