



### **ADB launches emergency support for countries hit by Iran war fallout**

The Asian Development Bank has launched an emergency funding package for countries hard hit by the fallout from the war in the Middle East and will reverse its curbs on financing of corporate oil purchases. ADB president Masato Kanda told the FT that Asian and Pacific countries would be the worst affected by volatility in global oil and gas markets. ([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com) 24/03/26)

### **Japan private sector growth softens**

Japan's private sector growth cooled in March as growth trajectories slowed across manufacturing and service sectors, flash survey results from S&P Global showed Tuesday [24/03]. The flash composite output index fell to 52.5 in March from a 33-month high of 53.9 in Feb. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 24/03/26)

### **French central bank books \$15bn gain on gold reserve upgrade**

The Bank of France has booked one-off capital gains of nearly €13bn (\$15.1bn) from an upgrade of its gold reserves since last July as it benefited from high gold prices. Over the past 2 decades, the bank has been gradually replacing older or non-standard gold holdings with bars that meet modern international standards. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 24/03/26)

### **Australia inflation eases in February**

Australia inflation slowed slightly in Feb. the Australian Bureau of Statistics said today. The CPI increased 3.7% year-on-year, slower than the 3.8% rise in Jan. Prices were expected to climb 3.8%. Trimmed mean inflation was unchanged. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 25/03/26)

### **Bank of Finland cuts growth forecast, citing Mideast tensions**

The Bank of Finland on Tuesday lowered its forecast for economic growth over 2026-2028, saying an energy shock caused by tensions in the Middle East was weakening the outlook. Finland's economy is to grow by 0.6% in 2026, down from the 0.8% forecast in Dec. Growth is projected to pick up to 1.4% in 2027 and 1.5% in 2028. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 24/03/26)

### **Oil prices drop on prospect of Middle East ceasefire easing supply disruption**

Oil prices fell around 4% today on the prospect of a possible ceasefire easing supply disruptions from the key Middle East producing region after reports the U.S. sent Iran a 15-point plan to end the war between them. Brent crude futures fell \$4.89, or 4.7%, to \$99.60 a barrel by 0335 GMT, after declining to as low as \$97.57. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 25/03/26)

### **South Africa's consumer confidence improves in Q1 but Mideast war risks loom, survey shows**

South Africa's consumer confidence improved in Q1, a survey showed on Tuesday [24/03], helped by a rebound among higher-income households, although the report warned the Middle East war could weigh on sentiment in the coming months. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 24/03/26)

### **IMF plans Mozambique visit as debt pressures mount, domestic financing reaches limits**

The IMF will visit Mozambique in the coming months, a Fund spokesperson said, as Mozambique seeks help shoring up its increasingly strained finances and grapples with mounting public debt. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 24/03/26)

### **Morocco to boost trade cooperation with Cote d'Ivoire**

Morocco's senior trade official on Tuesday [24/03] expressed the country's willingness to strengthen trade cooperation with Cote d'Ivoire. During a visit to the Cote d'Ivoire Export Agency (ACE), Omar Hejira, Morocco's secretary of state to the minister of industry and trade, said the two sides share a common goal of boosting trade. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 25/03/26)

### **Fitch Solutions revises Ghana's GDP growth to 5.5% due to Middle East conflict**

Fitch Solutions has revised its 2026 real GDP growth forecast for Ghana to 5.5%, from the previous 5.9%. Fitch is attributing this to the war in the Middle East and the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which it described have dimmed Ghana's near-term growth outlook. ([www.myjoyonline.com](http://www.myjoyonline.com) 24/03/26)

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