

UK inflation held steady at 3% in February before energy shock

UK inflation held steady at 3% in Feb. suggesting the Bank of England was bearing down on price pressures before the Middle East war unleashed an energy shock. Wednesday's [25/03] figure from the Office for National Statistics was in line with the forecast of economists. (www.ft.com 25/03/26)

BoE faces its toughest test in four years

The effects of the US-Israeli war against Iran have put Bank of England policy-makers in a difficult position as they seek to control inflation expectations without placing undue downward pressure on growth. Unlike in the Eurozone, where inflation has stood firmly near the European Central Bank's 2% target. (www.cenralbanking.com 25/03/26)

German business confidence 13-month low

German business confidence declined to a 13-month low in March as the war in the Middle East weighed on expectations, the Ifo Institute revealed Wednesday [25/03]. The business climate index fell to 86.4 in March from 88.4 in Feb. Although the reading was slightly above the forecast of 86.2, this was the lowest since Feb 2025. (www.rttnews.com 25/03/26)

Norway to move away from interest-rate cuts

Norway's central bank will probably pivot from prospective interest-rate reductions this week as war in the Middle East adds to officials' concerns over stubbornly high inflation. Governor Ida Wolden Bache and her colleagues are widely expected to keep their benchmark at 4% for a fourth meeting today. (www.bloomberg.com 25/03/26)

Norway jobless rate rises to 6-month high

Norway's unemployment rate increased further in February to the highest level in six months. The seasonally adjusted jobless rate rose to 4.9% in Feb from 4.6% in Jan. Moreover, a similar rate was last seen in August 2025. There were 150,000 unemployed people in February, up from 141,000 in the previous month. (www.rttnews.com 26/03/26)

Oil rises as investors reassess Middle East ceasefire prospects

Oil rose more than \$1 per barrel today, clawing back losses from the previous session, on concerns that protracted fighting in the Middle East will further disrupt energy flows. Brent futures rose \$1.65, or 1.61%, to \$103.87 a barrel by 0424 GMT while US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were up \$1.49 at \$91.81 a barrel. (www.reuters.com 26/03/26)

Kenya says it has finalised trade deal negotiations with China

Kenya has finalised negotiations over a trade deal with China, 2 months after announcing agreement that would grant the East African country duty-free access to the Chinese market, President William Ruto said on Wednesday. In Jan. Kenya said the deal would give 98% of its exports duty-free access to the large Chinese market. (www.reuters.com 25/03/26)

Uganda January export earnings jump more than 77% on-year

Uganda's merchandise export earnings surged 77.6% in Jan. from a year earlier, the finance ministry said in a report, driven by soaring revenues from shipments of gold, coffee and others. Uganda earned \$1.5bn from goods shipped in Jan. up from \$844.6m in the same month a year earlier. (www.reuters.com 26/03/26)

Africa risks fragmented financial growth without integration — BoG Governor warns

Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Johnson Asiamah, has cautioned Africa's financial sector could face fragmented growth if countries fail to integrate their systems and regulatory frameworks. (www.citinewsroom.com 25/03/26)

World Bank commits \$75m to restore Ghana's cocoa farms

The World Bank has committed approximately \$75m to a cocoa rehabilitation initiative aimed at restoring about 25,000 hectares of cocoa farms across Ghana, as the sector faces mounting pressure from disease outbreaks and declining productivity. The fund will support efforts to revive farmlands severely affected to improve yields. (www.citinewsroom.com 25/03/26)

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