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ECB's de Guindos urges prudence on rates in parting shot - FT

The European Central Bank's outgoing Vice President Luis de Guindos urged colleagues, in an interview published on Monday, to be prudent when deciding on an expected interest rate hike next month as growth was set to weaken. (www.reuters.com 11/05/26)

ECB's Kocher sees rate move if inflation outlook does not improve

The European Central Bank will need to adjust interest rates soon if the inflationary outlook does not significantly improve, ECB Governing Council Member Martin Kocher was quoted as saying. Speaking to Neue Zuercher Zeitung Switzerland's newspaper, Kocher said that even with energy prices being pushed up by the Iran conflict, it made little sense to anticipate the ECB's next move weeks ahead. (www.reuters.com 11/05/26)

US Senate Committee set to consider long-awaited crypto bill next week

US senators are set to consider long-awaited legislation that would create a regulatory framework for cryptocurrency next week, potentially ending a deadlock over the bill that pitted crypto companies against US banks. The bill, dubbed the Clarity Act, would, if signed into law, clarify financial regulators' jurisdiction over the burgeoning sector, potentially boosting digital asset adoption. (www.reuters.com 09/05/26)

US disappointed in Taiwan's smaller defense budget, official says

The US was disappointed in a move by Taiwan's opposition-controlled parliament to approve defense spending short of what Washington believes is needed, a senior US official said on Sunday [10/05].

(www.reuters.com 10/05/26)

China's consumer inflation continues mild recovery in April as domestic demand improves

China's consumer inflation extended its moderate recovery in April, supported by robust spring travel demand and rising energy prices, in a sign that domestic demand continues to improve and the broader economic recovery remains on track. (www.xinhuanet.com 11/05/26)

UK jobs market cools as Iran war hits outlook, REC survey shows

Britain's jobs market lost momentum in April after recruiters turned more cautious about hiring as the Iran war heightened cost pressures, an industry survey showed on Monday [11/05]. The Report from accountants KPMG and the Recruitment and Employment Confederation, showed permanent job placements fell at the fastest pace since January, before the US-Israeli war on Iran began. (www.reuters.com 11/05/26)

Sterling nudges lower as Starmer's future in question

The British pound pulled back slightly on Monday as markets weighed any potential fallout from local elections that saw British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour Party suffer heavy losses last week. While Starmer vowed to stay in office on Friday, speculation over potential leadership challenges ramped up over the weekend following the election. (www.reuters.com 11/05/26)

EU agrees to restore fuller trade ties with Syria

EU foreign ministers agreed on Monday to restore improved trade ties with Syria, reinstating a cooperation agreement that had been suspended in 2011 when an uprising against then-leader Bashar al-Assad expanded into a 14-year civil war.

(www.reuters.com 10/05/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3626	(1.3610)	1.3627	(1.3611)
+USD/EUR	1.1776	(1.1765)	1.1777	(1.1766)
*GHS/USD	11.2694	(11.2692)	11.2806	(11.2804)
*GHS/GBP	15.3556	(15.3373)	15.3721	(15.3538)
*GHS/EUR	13.2708	(13.2596)	13.2839	(13.2715)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 11/05/26 (Rates for 08/05/26 in brackets)

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China inflation accelerates; factory gate inflation at 45-month high

China's inflation unexpectedly accelerated and factory gate inflation hit a 45-month high in April as the war in the Middle East pushed up energy prices, official data showed Monday. Consumer price inflation rose to 1.2 % in April from 1.0 % in March, the National Bureau of Statistics reported. (www.rttnews.com 11/05/26)

Norway inflation eases to 3.4% in April

Norway's consumer price inflation eased somewhat in April after accelerating in March, data from Statistics Norway showed on Monday. The consumer price index rose 3.4 % year-over-year in April, slower than the 3.6% gain in March. (www.rttnews.com 11/05/26)

Romanian trade deficit widens in March

Romania's foreign trade deficit increased in March from a year ago as exports grew faster than imports, figures from the National Institute of Statistics showed. The trade gap rose to EUR 2.93 billion in March from EUR 2.86 billion in the corresponding month last year. In February, there was also a shortfall of EUR 2.42 billion. (www.rttnews.com 11/05/26)

Lithuania inflation climbs to 5.3%, highest since August 2023

Lithuania's consumer price inflation accelerated further in April to the highest level in more than two-and-a-half years, driven primarily by transport costs, figures from the statistical office showed on Monday. The consumer price index rose 5.3% year-on-year in April, faster than the 4.8% increase in March. (www.rttnews.com 11/05/26)

Estonia trade gap narrows in March

Estonia's foreign trade deficit decreased in March from a year ago as exports grew faster than imports, figures from Statistics Estonia showed on Monday [11/05]. The trade deficit dropped to EUR 234 million in March from EUR 268 million in the same month last year. In February, the trade gap was EUR 439 million. Exports climbed 8.0% from last year, and imports were 6.0% higher. (www.rttnews.com 11/05/26)

Oil prices climb amid failed us-iran peace talks

Oil prices ticked higher on Monday after the United States and Iran failed to agree on a peace deal, keeping the Strait of Hormuz largely closed and raising doubts about the durability of a fragile ceasefire. (www.rttnews.com 11/05/26)

Gold tumbles on inflation fears

Gold prices were sharply lower on Monday while the dollar index advanced as a lack of progress in the US-Iran peace talks sent oil prices soaring and revived inflation fears. Spot gold fell 1.2% to \$4,659.22 an ounce while US gold futures were down 1.4% at \$4,666.80. (www.rttnews.com 11/05/26)

South African rand weakens as higher oil prices dent sentiment

South Africa's rand weakened on Monday as higher oil prices, driven by stalled U.S.–Iran negotiations, raised concerns that inflationary pressures may keep interest rates higher for longer. At 0640 GMT, the rand traded at 16.4626 against the dollar, about 0.6% down from its previous close. (www.reuters.com 10/05/26)

South Africa's central bank appoints Makrelov as new chief economist and MPC member

The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) said on Monday [11/05] that Konstantin Makrelov had been appointed as its new chief economist, replacing Christopher Loewald who took early retirement in March. Makrelov will also serve as a member of the SARB's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) and Financial Stability Committee, the central bank said in a statement. (www.reuters.com 10/05/26)

Africa is no longer watching the FinTech revolution — BoG Governor

The Bank of Ghana, Governor, Dr Johnson Pandit Asiamah, has said Africa's digital financial ecosystem has reached a decisive implementation phase, arguing that the continent is no longer merely observing the global financial revolution but actively shaping it. (www.norvanreports.com 11/05/26)

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