



Monday 18 May 2026

Investors bet on stability after Trump-Xi summit as Iran war concerns linger

The focus on "strategic stability" during a summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and China's Xi Jinping will ease Sino-American geopolitical risks for Chinese markets, but little progress on trade and the Iran war will keep investor enthusiasm in check. (www.reuters.com 18/05/26)

Global banks raise yuan forecasts, fuelled by China's export strength and stable US ties

Some global investment houses revised up their yuan forecasts, fuelled by China's export competitiveness and steady trade relations with the U.S., the world's biggest economy. The Chinese currency has been grinding higher this year, rising nearly 3% against the dollar so far to 6.8040 per dollar on Monday, and is up about 2.6% versus its major trading partners. (www.reuters.com 18/05/26)

Institutions bought more private credit as individuals balked, filings show

Institutional investors broadly raised their exposure to some of the private credit funds that have been battered by growing risk aversion during the first three months of the year, according to a Reuters analysis of filings with US securities regulators. Major alternative asset managers have said that institutional investors are showing renewed interest in direct lending. (www.reuters.com 15/05/26)

How Trump's crypto venture and Iran's top exchange tapped into the same industry networks

When customers of Iran's largest crypto exchange needed to move billions of dollars, networks created by two of the industry's biggest players served as conduits. And from the early stages of President Donald Trump's flagship digital currency venture, the same two players lent credibility to the startup. (www.reuters.com 18/05/26)

UK's Capita reaffirms growth forecast as public sector revenue climbs

Capita reaffirmed its forecast for annual revenue, as the UK-based outsourcing firm looks to measures aimed at offsetting contract losses and reshaping its business. The company said it is focusing on streamlining its business and increasing its exposure to public sector work to support performance. (www.reuters.com 18/05/26)

UK to set out looser bank ring-fencing rules next week, Sky News says

Britain's government will set out more detailed proposals next week to relax bank regulations that had been designed to stop a repeat of the 2008 financial crisis, Sky News reported on Saturday [16/05]. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's government set out its legislative agenda for the new parliamentary session which included proposals to loosen the "ring-fencing". (www.reuters.com 16/05/26)

China to buy at least \$17 billion in US agricultural products annually, White House says

China has committed to purchasing at least \$17 billion of U.S. agricultural products in 2026, 2027 and 2028, the White House said in a fact sheet released on Sunday. The commitment was made during meetings between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping last week, the White House said. (www.reuters.com 17/05/26)

Trump returns from China with stability and a stalemate

President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing this week may have produced modest results by the standards of US-China summits, but it highlighted a clear benefit for China: after the extremes of last year's trade war, the countries have reverted to their familiar economic and strategic standoff. (www.reuters.com 16/05/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3323	(1. 3515)	1.3324	(1. 3516)
+USD/EUR	1.1627	(1. 1710)	1.1628	(1. 1711)
*GHS/USD	11.4068	(11. 4068)	11.4182	(11. 4182)
*GHS/GBP	15.1973	(15. 4163)	15.2136	(15. 4328)
*GHS/EUR	13.2635	(13. 3590)	13.2754	(13. 3722)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 18/05/26 (Rates for 15/05/26 in brackets)

* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 18/05/26 (Rates for 15/05/25 in brackets)

G7 finance chiefs seek to tackle imbalances in wake of bond selloff

G7 finance ministers acknowledged mounting concern over public debt and bond market volatility as they met in Paris today in the wake of a bond market selloff triggered by fears over inflation risks from the Iran war. (www.reuters.com 18/05/26)

Norway joins EU's Baltic Sea Region cooperation amid greater security focus

Norway said today it has joined the European Union's Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), which aims to coordinate work around common challenges, including security aspects. Norway, a non-EU country, will join existing members Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in the EUSBSR. (www.reuters.com 18/05/26)

Polish lawmakers adopt crypto regulation amid multi-million-dollar fraud probe

Polish lawmakers adopted a bill on Friday [18/05] regulating cryptocurrencies, as a scandal involving the collapse of the country's biggest exchange deepened and amid a row over how much to supervise the growing sector. The bill implements the EU's Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation (MiCA), which Poland must approve by July. (www.reuters.com 15/05/26)

Italy trade surplus remains steady in March

Italy's foreign trade surplus stayed unchanged at the end of the first quarter, the statistical office ISTAT reported Monday [18/05]. The trade balance showed a surplus of EUR 4.71 billion in March, the same as in the corresponding month last year. The surplus decreased from EUR 4.98 billion in February. (www.rttnews.com 18/05/26)

Turkey consumer confidence rises in May

Households in Turkey remained less pessimistic in May, survey data from the Turkish Statistical Institute showed on Monday [18/05]. The consumer confidence index rose to 85.8 in May from 85.5 in April. Moreover, this was the highest reading since March 2025. Nonetheless, a score below 100 indicates a pessimistic outlook. (www.rttnews.com 18/05/26)

Global bond rout deepens as inflation fears trigger rate-hike bets

Bonds from Tokyo to New York extended losses on Monday [18/05] as rising energy prices from the ongoing Middle East war fanned inflation fears and stoked investor wagers on rate hikes from global central banks. (www.reuters.com 18/05/26)

Oil prices extend rally amid escalating tensions

Oil prices rallied on Friday as Hormuz concerns persisted and US President Donald Trump claimed the United States will prevail in its war with Iran, "peacefully or otherwise". Brent crude prices for July delivery jumped more than 3% to \$109.19 a barrel as attacks on one ship and the seizure of another around the Strait of Hormuz stoked concerns about energy supplies. (www.rttnews.com 18/05/26)

Brokerages stay bullish on gold despite near-term pressure

Brokerages remain constructive on gold's long-term outlook despite recent price weakness, as rising bond yields, inflation concerns and a stronger dollar have pressured prices in the near term. While several banks have trimmed near-term forecasts due to softer investor demand and elevated rate expectations, most analysts still expect prices to recover through 2026. (www.reuters.com 18/05/26)

South African rand subdued as traders await inflation data

The South African rand was muted in early Monday trade, with investors holding back ahead of domestic inflation data expected to reflect pressures from war in the Middle East. (www.reuters.com 18/05/26)

Sudan Eyes US\$800 Million Copper Boost as Qatar Mining Resumes

Sudan has authorised Qatari mining companies to resume operations after war-related disruption, in a move aimed at reviving foreign investment and strengthening one of the country's key revenue-generating sectors. According to reports, Sudan's Ministry of Minerals announced that Qatari mining firms had been allowed to restart operations, with preparations underway (www.reuters.com 18/05/26)

DISCLAIMER: This information has been compiled by the Communications Office of Bank of Ghana for general reference purposes only. While every effort is made to ensure that the information is accurate, the Bank of Ghana does not guarantee nor does it accept any responsibility or liability for the accuracy or completeness of the content or for any loss which may arise from reliance on information contained in this document.