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World Bank's Banga sets goal of quintupling critical minerals financing in five years

World Bank President Ajay Banga today said the development lender has set a goal of quintupling its critical minerals business in five years and has identified 20 countries that it can partner with on critical minerals development projects. Banga revealed the new goal in prepared remarks to a plenary session at the IMF and World Bank annual meetings in Bangkok. (www.reuters.com 16/10/26)

WEF could appoint Lagarde as early as November, sources say

The World Economic Forum could appoint Christine Lagarde as its next chair as soon as next month, four people close to the organisation told Reuters, meaning she would step down early as European Central Bank chief and trigger a wider reshuffle at the top of the ECB. Lagarde's ECB term is scheduled to end in October 2027. (www.reuters.com 15/10/26)

Eurozone industrial output drops for third month

The euro area industrial production declined for the third straight month in Aug. suggesting that harsh weather and rising energy prices weighed on industrial activity. Industrial output dropped 0.5% monthly in Aug., which was bigger than the 0.3% fall posted in July, Eurostat has said. Moreover, this was third consecutive decrease. Production was expected to remain flat. (www.rttnews.com 15/10/26)

US business inventories rise moderately in August

US business inventories increased moderately in August amid strong sales growth, government data showed on Thursday [15/10]. Inventories rose 0.4% after surging 0.9% in July, the Commerce Department's Census Bureau said. The increase in inventories, a key component of gross domestic product. (www.reuters.com 15/10/26)

US weekly jobless claims rise marginally amid low layoffs

The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits increased marginally last week amid low layoffs that are keeping the labor market stable. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits rose 1,000 to a seasonally adjusted 199,000 for the week ended October 10, the Labor Department said on Thursday [15/10]. (www.reuters.com 15/10/26)

China's FDI equity stock ranks second globally: commerce ministry

China's foreign direct investment (FDI) equity stock reached CN¥26.8tr (about \$3.98tr) in 2025, ranking second globally and marking six consecutive years of growth, the Ministry of Commerce said Thursday, citing the latest annual reports from foreign-invested enterprises. A total of 461,000 foreign-invested enterprises filed annual reports last year, up 5.7% from 2024. (www.xinhuanet.com 15/10/26)

France inflation rises more than estimated

French inflation rose more than estimated in September due to rising energy and fresh food prices, final data from the statistical office INSEE showed Thursday [15/10]. CPI rose to 3.1% from 2.4% in August. A similar higher rate was last seen in January 2024. The rate was also slightly above the initial estimate of 3.0%. EU harmonized inflation climbed to 3.4%, as initially estimated, from 2.6% in the prior month. (www.rttnews.com 15/10/26)

Malaysia GDP growth moderates to 5.3%

Malaysia's economic growth moderated to a one-year low in Q3 but the overall pace of expansion remained robust as strong global demand for electronics used in artificial intelligence bolstered the manufacturing sector. Gross domestic product grew 5.3% in the third quarter from the last year, advance estimates from the Department of Statistics showed today. (www.rttnews.com 16/10/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3253	(1.3152)	1.3254	(1.3153)
+USD/EUR	1.1204	(1.1123)	1.1205	(1.1124)
*GHS/USD	11.6442	(11.6692)	11.6558	(11.6808)
*GHS/GBP	15.4320	(15.3473)	15.4486	(15.3638)
*GHS/EUR	12.0459	(12.9809)	12.0600	(12.9926)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 16/10/26 (Rates for 15/09/26 in brackets)

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South Korea export prices surge 40.9% on year in September

Export prices in South Korea spiked 40.9% on year in Sept, the Bank of Korea said today - easing from 42.7% in Aug. On a monthly basis, export prices sank 0.8%. Import prices were up 1.7% on month and 17.6% on year. The Export Volume Index jumped 32.1% and the Import Volume Index climbed 11.1% on Sept. (www.rttnews.com 15/10/26)

Singapore non-oil domestic exports jump 68.4%

Singapore's non-oil domestic exports continued to expand sharply in Sept, underpinned by higher non-electronics demand. Non-oil domestic exports surged 68.4% from a year ago in Sept., much faster than the 46.1% in August. The growth in non-electronics quickened to 54.2% from 11.9%, primarily due to the lumpy exports of structures of ships and boats. (www.rttnews.com 15/10/26)

Austria inflation confirmed at 4-month high

Austria's consumer price inflation accelerated as estimated initially in Sept. to the highest level in four months amid higher fuel and heating oil prices, the latest data from Statistics Austria shows today. The CPI climbed 3.6% year-over-year in Sept, faster than the 3.2% increase in Aug. (www.rttnews.com 15/10/26)

Swedish jobless rate falls to 8.1% in September

Sweden's unemployment rate decreased in September after rising in the previous month, figures from Statistics Sweden showed on Friday. The unadjusted unemployment rate dropped to 8.1% in Sept from 8.5% in Aug. In the same month last year, the jobless rate was 8.3%. (www.rttnews.com 15/10/26)

Kyrgyzstan's GDP grows 10.8% in first 9 months of 2026

Kyrgyzstan's gross domestic product (GDP) reached 1tr 640.9bn soms (about \$18.8bn) in the first nine months of 2026, an increase of 10.8% compared with the same period in 2025, according to reports released Thursday [15/10] by the country's National Statistical Committee. (www.rttnews.com 15/10/26)

Oil eases, but set for weekly gain on Mideast supply risks

Oil prices eased today but were heading for weekly gains on uncertainty over Middle East supplies and a larger-than-expected draw from crude stockpiles in the US. Brent crude futures fell 50 cents, or 0.47%, to \$105.42 a barrel by 0623 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were down 49 cents, or 0.50%, to \$97.48. (www.reuters.com 16/10/26)

Gold rebounds as yields dip on dovish Fed comments

Gold prices rebounded on Thursday [15/10], after having touched a one-week low in the previous session. Spot gold climbed 1.3% to \$4,157.85 an ounce while U.S. gold futures were up 1.7% at \$4,176. The U.S. dollar retreated from an 18-month high after San Francisco Fed president Mary Daly signaled the U.S. central bank will likely need to raise short-term interest rates further to address inflation. (www.rttnews.com 15/10/26)

Nigeria's inflation rate eases slightly but still a worry for many citizens

Nigeria's headline inflation rate slowed slightly last month, but remains stuck around 15% in annual terms and a concern for many citizens before a national election. Consumer inflation was at 14.63% year-on-year in Sept down from 15.39% in Aug. (www.reuters.com 15/10/26)

Ethiopia's central bank joins African payments system PAPSS

Ethiopia's central bank has joined the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), the platform said on Thursday [15/10], bringing the country closer to full integration into the continent's financial and payments system. (www.reuters.com 15/10/26)

Fiscal policy implementation poses downside risk to inflation – BoG

The BoG has described the implementation of the government's fiscal policy in 2026 as posing a downside risk to inflation. According to its Monetary Policy Report, the US-Iran conflict, with its impact on crude oil prices, may put pressure on the government to offer periodic reliefs. (www.myjoyonline.com 15/10/26)

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