BANK OF GHANA NEWS BRIEF
News Summaries from Foreign and Local Media

Friday, 20 November 2026

Eurozone current account surplus remains unchanged

The euro area current account surplus remained unchanged in Sept. data from the European Central Bank showed Thursday [19/11]. The current account logged a surplus of €12bn in Sept. broadly unchanged from the previous month. The surplus on goods trade fell to €14bn from €21bn. Meanwhile, services surplus rose to €16bn from €13bn. (www.rttnews.com 19/11/26)

ECB and FOMC highlight financial stability risks from AI bubble

Almost all members of the US Fedederal Open Market Committee (OMC) discussed the financial stability risks posed by artificial intelligence stocks underperforming, minutes from its Oct meeting have shown. The records were published on Nov. 18, 2026, the same day as the European Central Bank released its latest financial stability review. (www.centralbanking.com 19/11/26)

China retains key loan prime rates

China retained its loan prime rates for the eighteenth consecutive month, as widely expected, today. The People's Bank of China (OBoC) left its one-year loan prime rate unchanged at 3.0%. Likewise, the five-year LPR, the benchmark for mortgage rates, was maintained at 3.50%. (www.rttnews.com 20/11/26)

US weekly jobless claims edge up, but labor market remains resilient

The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits increased slightly last week, suggesting that labor market conditions remained stable, though some laid-off workers are struggling to find new opportunities. Labor market resilience gives the Federal Reserve greater scope to focus on stamping out inflation, which is being fueled by the ongoing US-Israeli war with Iran.
(www.reuters.com 19/11/26)

Fed's Paulson backs further rate hikes, says shared understanding beats guidance

Fed Reserve Bank of Philadelphia President Anna Paulson said the Fed will need to raise interest rates again because inflation is too high, while arguing that shared understanding matters more than explicit guidance on the rate outlook. For the Fed, "understanding matters more than the specific ways we communicate," Paulson said. (www.reuters.com 20/11/26)

Central banks of Canada and China to boost local currency use

Canada and China are to increase the usage of their currencies in trade and investment, their central banks said on Nov. 18, as the Canadian prime minister praised growing financial ties between his country and the world's second-largest economy. (www.centralbanking.com 19/11/26)

More rate hikes needed if Iran war continues – BoE governor

The Bank of England will need to make additional rate hikes if the war in the Middle East continues, its governor has said. Speaking in London on Nov. 18, Andrew Bailey said: "The longer the conflict in the Middle East persists and elevates energy prices, the more likely persistent inflationary effects will take hold and the higher the level of interest rates will need to be." The BoE raised rates this month by a quarter of a percentage point to 4%. (www.centralbanking.com 19/11/26)

UK posts smaller-than-forecast budget deficit for October

Britain borrowed less than forecast in October as a resilient economy helped offset the pressures on spending from rising inflation. The £17bn ($22.3bn) budget deficit was up marginally from a year earlier but below the £18bn median forecast by economists. (www.bloomberg.com 20/11/26)

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EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3116	(1.3165)	1.3117	(1.3166)
+USD/EUR	1.0979	(1.0975)	1.0980	(1.0976)
*GHS/USD	11.7641	(11.7741)	11.7759	(11.7859)
*GHS/GBP	15.4298	(15.5006)	15.4464	(15.5173)
*GHS/EUR	12.9163	(12.9236)	12.9291	(12.9365)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 20/11/26 (Rates for 19/11/26 in brackets)
* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES:20/11/26 (Rates for 19/11/26 in brackets)

Japan's core inflation accelerates in October, cementing rate hike expectations

Japan's annual core inflation accelerated in Oct. and exceeded the central bank's 2% target for the second straight month, a sign of broadening price pressures that cements the case for a near-term interest rate. The data will be among factors the Bank of Japan will scrutinise at its next two-day policy meeting ending on Dec. 18. (www.reuters.com 20/11/26)

Germany producer prices rise at fastest pace since 2023

Germany's producer prices increased at the fastest pace in more than3 years in Oct on rising energy and intermediate goods prices, Destatis said today. Producer prices grew 8.1% year-on-year in Oct. marking the strongest growth since Feb. 2023. (www.rttnews.com 20/11/26)

Malaysia trade surplus grows sharply in October

Malaysia's foreign trade surplus increased notably in Oct. from a year ago as exports grew faster than imports, data from the statistical office showed today. The trade surplus rose to MYR 41.8bn in Oct. from MYR 20.5bn in the same month last year. The surplus also increased from MYR 34.3bn in Sept. (www.rttnews.com 20/11/26)

Dutch jobless rate remains stable at 4.0%

The Netherlands' unemployment rate held steady for the third straight month in October, data from the Central Bureau of Statistics showed on Thursday. The seasonally adjusted ILO jobless rate stood at 4.0% in September, the same as in the previous three months. In the corresponding month last year, the rate was also 4.0%. (www.rttnews.com 19/11/26)

Swiss trade surplus grows in October

Switzerland's foreign trade surplus increased in Oct as exports grew faster than imports, data from the Federal Customs Administration showed on Thursday [19/11]. The trade surplus climbed to CHF 3.2bn in October from CHF1.2bn in Sept. In real terms, exports climbed 2.4% monthly in October, and imports were 0.7% higher. (www.rttnews.com 19/11/26)

Oil prices gain as Houthi attacks on Riyadh raise supply concerns

Oil prices rose today but were set for a weekly decline as concerns over supply disruptions grew following Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh and reports of tanker disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. Brent crude futures rose 79 cents, or 0.9%, to $92.77 a barrel by 0404 GMT. (www.reuters.com 20/11/26)

Gold tumbles amid rising expectations of a Fed rate hike in December

Gold prices have slumped on Thursday [19/11] as expectations of a rate hike by the Fed grew stronger after the release of fresh minutes from the Oct. meeting, which revealed that all participants believe an increase in interest rates is likely. (www.rttnews.com 19/11/26)

South Africa central bank keeps key rate on hold in split decision

South Africa's central bank held its key interest rate opens new tab in a split decision on Thursday [19/11], with its governor saying monetary policy was tight enough after two hikes this year. The decision by the South African Reserve Bank to keep its policy rate unchanged at 7.25% was in line with most economists . (www.reuters.com 19/11/26)

Cocoa prices plunge 47.50%, but Ghana's export receipts climb as gold earnings hit US$20.92bn.

Ghana's cocoa export earnings increased to US$3.17bn in the first 10 months of 2026 despite a sharp deterioration in realised international cocoa prices, exposing a growing disconnect between the country's foreign exchange receipts and the prices obtained for one of its most important agricultural exports. (www.norvanreports.com 20/11/26)

Producer inflation up to 5.2% in October

Producer Price Inflation rose to 5.2% in Oct. 2026, up 0.3 percentage points from Sept 2026. According to the Ghana Statistical Service, the increase was led by the Mining and Quarrying sub-sector. The Month-on-Month Inflation for Oct 2026 was 1.6%, compared with Sept 2026 1.4%. (www.myjoyonline.com 19/11/26)

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