

# Gold nears \$5,000, silver shines as stocks slip on turbulent week

● Fellow safe haven silver also continued its rise

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Global stocks were subdued and precious metals hit fresh highs Friday after a turbulent week that saw US President Donald Trump back down from threats to seize Greenland and hit European allies with fresh tariffs.

Gold -- a safe-haven asset -- pushed closer to a record \$5,000 an ounce despite "a calmer end to a chaotic week on the markets", said Dan Coatsworth, head of markets at AJ Bell.

Fellow safe haven silver also continued its rise, blasting through \$101 an ounce amid worries over what Trump may say, or actually do, next.

"Gold nudged ahead... as investors were reluctant to let go of their safety blanket, just in case Donald Trump woke up with

## Key figures at around 1650 GMT

New York - Dow:	▼ 0.6% at 49,114.15 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 0.2% at 6,917.18
New York - NASDAQ:	▲ 0.4% at 23,531.81
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.1% at 10,143.44 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.1% at 8,143.05 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 0.2% at 24,900.71 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.3% at 53,846.87 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▲ 0.5% at 26,749.51 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.3% at 4,136.16 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1774 from \$1.1751 on Thursday
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3593 from \$1.3500
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 157.52 yen from 158.39 yen
Euro/pound:	▼ at 86.63 pence from 87.05 pence
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 2.8% at \$61.02 per barrel
Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ 2.7% at \$65.80 per barrel

another controversial idea," said Coatsworth.

Sentiment has calmed over the past two days after the US president pulled back from his threat to hit several European nations with levies because of their opposition to Washington taking over the Danish autonomous territory.

European markets sought direction in vain, Frankfurt closing just in the green as London and Paris fell the red side of the line at the end of the week.

Wall Street was a similar picture, with the Dow losing 0.6% around two hours into trading although the broader-based S&P and the tech-heavy Nasdaq were



just in positive territory.

Intel plunged 16% after lacklustre expectations on the chip maker's earnings.

Asian markets closed higher.

## Powell under pressure

Trump's latest salvo against allies revived trade war fears and uncertainty about US in-

vestment, putting downward pressure on the dollar this week.

Analysts said there was no guarantee that Europe-US relations had improved durably.

The US president's willingness to threaten tariffs over any issue had rattled confidence on trading floors, boost-

ing safe-haven metals, analysts said.

Investors were also preparing for next week's Federal Reserve meeting following economic data broadly in line with forecasts and after US prosecutors took aim at boss Jerome Powell, which has raised fears over the bank's independence.

The bank is tipped to hold interest rates, having cut them in the previous three meetings.

The meeting also comes as Trump considers candidates to replace Powell when the Fed chair's term comes to an end in May.

The Bank of Japan left its key interest rate unchanged ahead of the country's snap election next week, which could impact government spending plans.

After sharp volatility in the wake of the announcement, the yen traded slightly higher.

Next week's US earnings calendar is packed with results from Apple, Microsoft, Boeing, Tesla, Meta and other corporate giants.

# Parliament to debate plan for specialised training of finance staff

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

A proposal to expand specialist training and secondments for civil servants involved in accounting, bookkeeping and audit oversight will be debated in Parliament on Tuesday.

Submitted by MPs Jaleela Alawi, Dr Hisham Al Asheeri, Hassan Bokhamas, Mohsen Al Asbool and Khalid Buanaq, the plan calls for Jaleela Alawi, MP



structured training and work placements tailored to employees responsible for professional oversight of the accounting and audit sector.

The Services Committee has recommended approval, saying the proposal aims to improve the quality of financial records and reporting. It noted that some staff in oversight roles lack relevant professional certifications and said stronger expertise is needed as Bahrain

advances projects linked to company taxation.

In its response, the Civil Service Bureau said staff training already operates within a comprehensive legal and administrative framework. It cited the Civil Service Law of 2010 and executive regulations that require government entities to provide field-related training, with the bureau responsible for setting the overall training system and approving missions and courses within approved budgets.

The bureau said training must align with career paths, organisational goals, performance evaluations and state policy. It added that government entities are responsible for preparing and implementing their own training plans, including scholarships and programmes leading to academic degrees and

professional certifications, subject to bureau review. The bureau said its response was preliminary, with the government's final position to be submitted once the proposal is formally referred.

The Ministry of Education told the committee that the approach outlined in the proposal is already in place through its annual training plan. It said staff participate in courses, workshops, conferences and academic programmes linked to their roles, with nominations reviewed by the Civil Service Bureau. Training, it added, is delivered within budget limits and in line with existing regulations.

The Services Committee said its recommendation was based on the public interest and the need to strengthen professional financial oversight.

## MPs push for fund to shield economy from crises

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

A proposed Financial Emergency Fund will be debated in Parliament on Tuesday, under a motion calling on the Government to study how such a fund could be established to address crises and disasters with economic impact.

The proposal envisions the fund being overseen by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, with feasibility studies examining financing, reserve building, and safe investment of any money.

MP Dr Ali Al Nuaimi, who submitted the motion, said it was rooted in constitutional principles that place social soli-

darity at the heart of the State's duties during disasters and public hardship.

"Social solidarity in confronting disasters and emergencies is a constitutional obligation," he said. "It is one of the pillars the State guarantees and must take steps to make real."

He noted that financial shocks can strike without warning due to global market swings, supply-chain disruptions, maritime risks and sharp oil-price movements amid geopolitical uncertainty.

The proposal aims to draw up a financial emergency plan, reduce exposure for the State budget, and improve investment returns on fund reserves.

Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee recommended approval, with all members backing the motion on public-interest grounds.

Ali Al Nuaimi, MP



# Works ministry reports BD24.6m in roads, plans new sewer schemes

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Works says it has delivered road projects worth BD24.6 million in the Ninth Constituency of the Capital Governorate since the start of the Sixth Legislative Term, and plans further sewerage works to cover areas still outside the network.

In a written reply to MP Mohsen Al Asbool, the ministry said sewerage coverage across the Capital Governorate stands at 93 per cent, with 90 per cent of



Mohsen Al Asbool, MP

the Ninth Constituency connected. Four schemes are planned to reach the remaining areas,

including Sitra Blocks 607, 608 and 606; Aker Blocks 623 and 624; and Sitra Blocks 611 and 606, serving between 49 and 350 properties each. Some projects are at the detailed design stage, while work schedules will be coordinated to minimise disruption to residents. The ministry said the new schemes aim to improve public health, prevent groundwater contamination, and provide reliable sanitation for growing communities.

On roads, the ministry cited the East Sitra Housing Project, which links the area to main

routes via Shaikh Salman Highway, Road 1 and the Bapco junction. Resurfacing and paving works have been carried out across Aker, Sitra and Ma'aameer, including upgrades to roads 23, 2358, 2373, 2418, 2447, 2435, 2448, 2472, 3313, and Road 9 in Sitra Safalah. One ongoing project is Road 2354 in Aker Block 623, 10 per cent complete at a cost of BD70,000, with work expected to finish in Q1 2026. The ministry said all works are being delivered with attention to traffic management, pedestrian safety, and local accessibility

during construction.

The ministry said a consultant has been appointed to review designs for widening Shaikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah Highway. Plans include expanding the road from three to four lanes in each direction, constructing flyovers, adding service roads, pedestrian pavements, improved rainwater drainage, upgraded lighting, and traffic signage. The project will also integrate smart traffic management systems to improve flow and reduce congestion.

Projects are prioritised based

on built-up areas, technical feasibility, and coordination with the Capital Trustees Board and municipal councils. The ministry said it continues to consult with residents and community groups to address concerns and ensure development meets current and future needs. It added that public feedback and safety considerations are incorporated into project planning to ensure sustainable urban development, with ongoing collaboration with Parliament on service delivery and emerging infrastructure requirements.