



WORLD STOCKS GAIN AS INVESTORS PILE INTO RISK

STOCK indexes around the world gained yesterday as investors piled into riskier assets as they bet on Federal Reserve interest rate cuts and that a US-China trade agreement could follow the US-Mexico deal. In commodities trading, oil prices rose while gold came under pressure as investors turned to stocks. Wall Street followed Europe higher after a surge in Frankfurt's DAX on the return of German and Swiss investors from an extended holiday weekend. Earlier, China's stocks rose on Beijing easing financing rules to boost local government spending on public works and expectations of lower central bank rates globally. While some investors were still jumping into a rally sparked by a US-Mexico trade and immigration agreement reached on Friday, others were looking ahead to the June 18-19 Fed meeting and expectations of trade talks between the US and China leaders later in the month. "The market is looking for the Fed to give an indication next week that it's going to cut rates in July," said Bruce Bittles, a chief investment strategist in Florida. Gold prices dipped as investors booked profits following robust gains. US crude rose 0.69 percent to \$53.63 (R797.29) per barrel. | Reuters