



Monday, September 09, 2019

IMF's Board of Governors removes age limit for new Managing Director

The Board of Governors of the IMF has removed the age limit for the appointment of a new Managing Director on Sept 5. The decision could facilitate the selection of the EU's candidate, Kristalina Georgieva, as the Fund's new head. Previous IMF rules prohibited the appointment of a candidate aged 65 or over and Georgieva is 66. The executive directors requested an amendment to the rules after Georgieva's nomination. (www.centralbanking.com 06/09/19)

EU regulators must co-operate more over money laundering – EBA head

EU regulators are still not doing enough to deal with money laundering as they fail to co-operate across borders and are often hampered by inadequate resources and mandates, the European Banking Authority chairman has said. (www.centralbanking.com 06/09/19)

Draghi primes ECB easing that will test global currency defences

ECB President Mario Draghi will test the composure of global policymakers this week as he unleashes a barrage of stimulus to shore up economic growth. The monetary easing will probably feature the centrepiece of an interest-rate cut that widens the difference between borrowing costs in the euro area and elsewhere. (www.bloomberg.com 09/09/19)

Eurozone's slowing growth confirmed, hit by weak trade

Eurozone growth halved in the second quarter (Q2) of this year as Germany's economy shrank and trade slowed, the EU statistics agency Eurostat has said. The eurozone's GDP expanded by 0.2% in the Q2, after a 0.4% expansion in the first three months of the year. (www.reuters.com 06/09/19)

Fed floats new stress test reforms after industry pressure

The Fed is to further simplify its stress test reform proposals, Randal Quarles has said, after several banks criticised the plans. The vice-chair for supervision said the leverage ratio buffer requirement and rules requiring banks to pre-fund dividend payments should be removed from the stress capital buffer proposal. (www.centralbanking.com 06/09/19)

US jobs growth weaker than expected

The US economy added 130,000 jobs last month, slowing more than expected, the latest official figures have shown. Economists polled by Reuters had expected an increase of 158,000. A total of 159,000 new jobs were created in July. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.7%. Average hourly earnings rose 3.2% from last year. (www.bbc.com 06/09/19)

China exports fell in Aug as trade war bites

China's exports unexpectedly fell in Aug as shipments to the US slowed sharply, adding to worries about the effects of the two nations' trade war. China is expected to announce more support measures soon, to avert the risk of a sharp economic slowdown. Aug. exports from the world's second largest economy fell 1% from a year earlier, the biggest fall since June. (www.bbc.com 08/09/19)

Germany's exports rose; imports fell in July

Germany's exports increased in July, while imports decreased from the previous month, data shows. Exports advanced 0.7% month-on-month in July, reversing a 0.1% fall in June. Meanwhile, imports fell 1.5% after rising 0.7% a month ago. Exports were forecast to fall 0.5% on month and imports to drop 0.3%. The trade surplus increased to an adjusted €20.2bn from €18bn in June. (www.rttnews.com 09/09/19)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCY	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2300	(1.2322)	1.2328	(1.2350)
+USD/EUR	1.1040	(1.1039)	1.1061	(1.1058)
*GHS/USD	5.3003	(5.2973)	5.3056	(5.3027)
*GHS/GBP	6.5257	(6.5342)	6.5344	(6.5419)
*GHS/EUR	5.8574	(5.8535)	5.8625	(5.8578)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 09/09/19 (Rates for 06/09/19 in brackets)

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Japan's April-June GDP growth revised down to 1.3%

Japan's economic growth was downwardly revised from an initial annualized real 1.8% in the April-June quarter to 1.3% in the period, the government has said in a report. According to the Cabinet Office, its assessment remains, however, that the economy is recovering at a moderate pace. (www.xinhuanet.com 09/09/19)

Australia gives banking licence to mobile startup firm Xinja

Australia has granted a new banking licence to the online-only banking firm Xinja Bank, allowing the start-up to compete against the country's "Four Big" lenders that dominate the sector. (www.reuters.com 09/09/19)

Saudi Arabia fires its oil minister for the second time in 3 years

The world's largest oil exporter has replaced energy minister Khalid al-Falih with Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, state media have reported. Al-Falih was appointed oil minister in May 2016. He was the architect of a pact between the OPEC and some other oil producers, including Russia that was designed to reduce oil supply to boost prices. (www.cnn.com 08/09/19)

Malaysia's int'l reserves rise to \$103.5bn

Malaysia's central bank has said that its international reserves stood at \$103.5bn as of Aug. 30. The reserves were 0.4% higher when compared with \$103.1bn as of Aug. 15. The international reserves consisted of \$97.1bn in foreign currency reserves, \$1.2bn in IMF reserves position, \$1.1bn in Special Drawing Rights, \$1.8bn in gold and \$2.3bn in other assets. (www.xinhuanet.com 09/09/19)

Mexico and Pemex will hedge oil output: 2020 budget plan

Mexico will maintain a strategy of hedging its oil output against lower prices, according to the government in its 2020 budget proposal. The Mexican Finance Ministry's roughly \$1bn annual oil hedge is considered the world's largest oil trade. (www.reuters.com 09/09/19)

Oil rises as Saudi Arabia signals OPEC cuts to continue under new energy minister

Oil rose on Monday on expectations that Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, will continue to support output cuts by OPEC and other producers to prop up prices under new Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman. Global benchmark Brent was up 53 cents, or 0.9%, at \$62.07 a barrel by 0425 GMT. (www.reuters.com 09/09/19)

S. Africa's rand starts week on the front foot

South Africa's rand strengthened against the dollar on Monday, with momentum reignited by upbeat remarks from the US Fed Reserve chairman and a Chinese economic stimulus package. At 0734 GMT, the rand was 0.34% firmer at 14.7700 per dollar from an overnight close of 14.8200. (www.af.reuters.com 09/09/19)

Kenyan shilling stable amid receding importer demand

The Kenyan shilling was stable against the dollar on Monday supported by inflows from diaspora remittances and portfolio investors buying government debt amid receding dollar demand from oil importers, traders say. At 0836 GMT, commercial banks quoted the shilling at 103.75/95 per dollar, compared with 103.85/104.05 at Friday's close. (www.af.reuters.com 09/09/19)

Ethiopia should slowly liberalise its exchange rate – central bank governor

Ethiopia should slowly liberalise its exchange rate regime but moving to a fully floating rate for the birr currency is unlikely over the next three years, its central bank governor has said. (www.af.reuters.com 07/09/19)

DR Congo's President targets local companies in partnership with Japan

The Democratic Republic of Congo's president, Felix Tshisekedi, is on the limelight in rebranding the central African state internationally by diversifying its economic partners. DRC is open and willing to improve on business climate in the country. (www.africanews.com 06/09/19)

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