



Thursday, April 15, 2021

Fitch to wait until next year to make final Covid-19 judgments

Credit rating agency Fitch says it is likely to wait until next year before making final judgment calls on many of the countries still on downgrade warnings due to the Covid-19 crisis. Fitch has downgraded 35 countries, including 10 more than once over the last year as the pandemic shuttered economies and sent debt levels soaring. (www.reuters.com 14/04/21)

Emerging-market central banks lead on women's empowerment

Men dominate senior roles at central banks and the economics profession as a whole. Of the 31 new central bank Governors appointed last year, just one was female. Nguyen Thi Hong became the Governor of the State Bank of Vietnam, the first woman in the South-east Asian central bank's history. (www.centralbanking.com 14/04/21)

ECB's Lagarde says eurozone economy still on crutches

The eurozone economy is still standing on the "two crutches" of monetary and fiscal stimulus and these cannot be taken away until it makes a full recovery, European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde has said. (www.reuters.com 14/04/21)

ECB's digital euro consultation says public worried over privacy

Respondents to a European Central Bank (ECB) consultation have said that privacy was their main concern about any possible digital euro. A total of 43% of respondents to the ECB's public consultation named that as the most important consideration for any eurozone central bank digital currency. Another 18% of participants chose security as the most important issue, while 11% selected the ability to pay across Eurozone countries. (www.centralbanking.com 14/04/21)

'Dark trading' approach shows UK regulators are more 'nimble' – FCA

The UK's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) will use new "freedoms" given to it after Brexit to take a more nimble approach to regulation, a senior official has said. On April 13, its chief operating officer cited the example of how the FCA was regulating "dark trading". The FCA defines dark trading as financial market transactions when trades with no pre-transparency are carried out. (www.centralbanking.com 14/04/21)

US applications to start a business rebounded moderately in March

Applications to start new US businesses rebounded moderately in March as economic activity picked up amid a continued improvement in the public health situation. The Commerce Department said business applications rose 3.4% to a seasonally adjusted 440,165 last month. The increase, however, recouped only a fraction of Feb.'s 13.0% tumble. (www.reuters.com 14/04/21)

German economy shrank 1.8% in first quarter due to Covid-19 lockdown

The German economy probably shrank by 1.8% on the quarter in the first three months of this year due to Covid-19 restrictions, leading economic institutes said as they revised their joint growth forecast for Europe's largest economy. The institutes now expect GDP to grow by 3.7% this year, sharply down from their previous forecast of 4.7%. (www.reuters.com 15/04/21)

Turkish lira trades flat ahead of cenbank rate decision

Turkey's lira traded flat against the dollar on Thursday, ahead of the new central bank Governor's first rate decision, where the bank is expected to maintain its policy rate at 19%. (www.reuters.com 15/04/21)

CURRENCY	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3798	(1.3736)	1.3799	(1.3737)
+USD/EUR	1.1975	(1.1929)	1.1975	(1.1930)
*GHS/USD	5.7285	(5.7275)	5.7343	(5.7333)
*GHS/GBP	7.9042	(7.8673)	7.9127	(7.8758)
*GHS/EUR	6.8601	(6.8328)	6.8669	(6.8396)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 15/04/21 (Rates for 14/04/21 in brackets)

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China's central bank injects 150bn Yuan through medium-term loans

China's central bank injected medium-term loans into the banking system on Thursday, while keeping the interest rate unchanged for a whole year. The People's Bank of China said in an online statement that it was keeping the rate on ¥150bn (\$22.97bn) worth of one-year medium-term lending facility loans to some financial institutions steady at 2.95% from previous operations. (www.reuters.com 15/04/21)

BOJ's Kuroda warns of lingering pandemic pain for economy

Japan's economy is picking up steam but any recovery is likely to be modest due to lingering caution over the coronavirus pandemic, Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda warned on Thursday. The central bank offered a bleaker assessment than three months ago for two of Japan's nine regions and maintained its view on the remaining areas, signalling cautious optimism on the outlook for the fragile recovery. (www.reuters.com 15/04/21)

Japanese banking association calls for post-Archehos vigilance

Japanese banks must be on the lookout for cases similar to the collapse of Archehos Capital Management, the head of the country's banking lobby group said on Thursday. The New York investment fund run by former Tiger Asia manager Bill Hwang collapsed last month when its debt-laden bets on media companies including ViacomCBS unravelled, leaving global banks with losses. (www.reuters.com 15/04/21)

Hong Kong stocks track mainland lower on policy tightening fears ahead of GDP data

Hong Kong stocks slipped on Thursday, largely in line with losses on the mainland, as recent upbeat economic data raised worries over policy tightening. At the close of trade, the Hang Seng index was down 107.69 points or 0.37% at 28,793.14. The Hang Seng China Enterprises index fell 0.85% to 10,905.89. (www.reuters.com 15/04/21)

World stocks soar to fresh peaks, dollar slips

Major global stock indexes scaled new peaks after upbeat US and European earnings pointed to a strong recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, while the dollar dipped to three-week lows as Treasury yields held below recent highs. MSCI's gauge of stocks across the globe gained 0.02% to hit a new peak, as did the S&P 500 before retreating down 0.38%. (www.norvanreports.com 14/04/21)

European shares set for mixed open

European stocks are seen opening on a mixed note on Thursday as the overall global Covid-19 caseload topped 138m and the deaths surged to more than 2.97m, propelling governments around the world to announce new restrictions on mobility. The pan European Stoxx 600 edged up 0.2%. France's CAC 40 index rose 0.4% and the UK's FTSE 100 climbed 0.7% while the German DAX dipped 0.2%. (www.rttnews.com 15/04/21)

Oil futures close sharply higher on inventory data, IEA demand forecast

Crude oil futures ended sharply higher on Wednesday, buoyed by an upward revision in the global oil demand forecast by the International Energy Agency (IEA). West Texas Intermediate crude oil futures for May ended up by \$2.97 or about 4.9% at \$63.15 a barrel, the highest settlement in about four weeks. Brent crude oil futures were up \$2.73 or 4.28% at \$66.40 a barrel a little while ago. (www.rttnews.com 15/04/21)

Ghana is still a lower-middle-income country: Finance Ministry

Ghana is still classified as a lower-middle-income (LMC) country by the World Bank, the Ministry of Finance has said. It said Ghana's status as an LMC has not changed despite the classification in the recent IMF Fiscal Monitor report. The ministry offered further assurances that the government is implementing measures such as the GH¢100bn Ghana CARES programme to fuel economic growth. (www.asaaseradio.com 14/04/21)

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