



Friday, July 16, 2021

WB prices CAD 600m Sustainable Development Bond

The World Bank International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD Aaa/AAA) on July 15 priced a five-year CAD 600m Sustainable Development Bond that matures on July 22, 2026. World Bank bonds support the financing of a combination of green and social projects and activities for sustainable development in IBRD member countries. (www.classfmonline.com 15/07/21)

WB trims East Asia, Pacific GDP forecast amid Covid-19 concerns

Growth in East Asia and the Pacific this year will be slower than previously thought, the World Bank has said as many countries in the region grapple with spikes in Covid-19 cases, new variants and vaccine supply constraints. The East Asia and Pacific region, excluding China, is expected to grow 4% this year, World Bank President David Malpass has said. (www.reuters.com 13/07/21)

ECB launches digital euro project

The Governing Council of the European Central Bank has unanimously agreed to begin investigating the launch of a digital euro. The July 14 decision is a key step towards the future issuance of a central bank digital currency in the eurozone. The decision comes barely a week after the ECB adopted a new inflation target and monetary policy framework. (www.centralbanking.com 13/07/21)

US jobless claims drop to pandemic-era low of 360,000, matching estimates

First-time claims for US unemployment benefits decreased in line with economists' estimates in the week ended July 10th, the Labor Department has said. It said initial jobless claims fell to 360,000, a decrease of 26,000 from the previous week's revised level of 386,000. (www.rttnews.com 15/07/21)

China's economy is still growing, recovery slows down

China's economy is still growing, but the pace of its recovery slowed in the second quarter as the country contended with surging commodity prices and supply chain disruptions. GDP grew 7.9% in the April-to-June quarter compared with the same period a year ago, China's National Bureau of Statistics has said. Growth was significantly slower than the 18.3% year-on-year increase registered in the first quarter. (www.cnn.com 15/07/21)

China's GDP expanded 12.7% in H1

China's GDP expanded 12.7% year on year in the first half of 2021 as recovery continues to firm, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed on Thursday. The figure puts average H1 growth for the past two years at 5.3%, 0.3 percentage points faster than the two-year average of Q1 growth from the 2019 level, according to the NBS. (www.xinhuanet.com 15/07/21)

UK inflation near 3-year high growth slows

UK consumer prices accelerated more-than-expected to a near three-year high in June, the Office for National Statistics has said. Inflation rose to 2.5% in June from 2.1% in May. This was the highest inflation since Aug. 2018. The rate also remained above the central bank's 2% target and economists' forecast of 2.2%. (www.rttnews.com 14/07/21)

BOJ cuts growth forecast, unveils climate scheme plan

The Bank of Japan has cut this fiscal year's growth forecast but maintained its view that the economy was headed for a moderate recovery, a sign monetary policy will be in a holding pattern for some time. The BOJ also released an outline of its new scheme aimed at boosting funding for activities combating climate change. (www.reuters.com 16/07/21)

CURRENCY	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3859	(1.3870)	1.3860	(1.3871)
+USD/EUR	1.1818	(1.1825)	1.1890	(1.1825)
*GHS/USD	5.7791	(5.7781)	5.7849	(5.7839)
*GHS/GBP	8.0093	(8.0142)	8.0179	(8.0228)
*GHS/EUR	6.8303	(6.8323)	6.8371	(6.8396)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 16/07/21 (Rates for 15/07/21 in brackets)

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Italy inflation remained stable in June

Italy's consumer price inflation remained stable in June, as initially estimated, the statistical office Istat has said. Consumer prices increased 1.3% yearly in June, same as seen in May, as estimated. On a month-on-month basis, consumer prices rose 0.1% in June. The core inflation rose to 0.3% in June from 0.2% in May, as initially estimated. (www.rttnews.com 15/07/21)

RBI fines banks for violations in non-bank lending

The Reserve Bank of India has levied 145m rupees (\$1.95m) in fines on 14 banks for improper transactions with a non-bank financial company. The RBI's release, dated July 7, stated that the banks violated regulations on lending and bank finance to non-banks. (www.centralbanking.com 13/07/21)

Turkey central bank keeps rate on hold

Turkey's central bank has retained its key interest rate, as widely expected, for the fourth straight meeting. The Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey governed by Sahap Kavcioglu, decided to hold the key one-week repo rate at 19.00%. (www.rttnews.com 15/07/21)

Chile becomes 7th EM central bank to raise key rate

Chile's central bank has raised its key interest rate for the first time in 2-1/2 years, as widely expected, saying a rapid narrowing of economic slack due to fiscal stimulus and strong consumption had created the appropriate conditions for a gradual withdrawal of monetary stimulus. (www.centralbanknews.info 14/07/21)

Spain inflation steady at 2.7%

Spain's consumer prices increased at a steady pace in June, final data from the statistical office INE showed on Wednesday. Consumer prices increased 2.7% year-on-year in June, the same rate as posted in May. The June rate was revised up from 2.6% estimated initially. (www.rttnews.com 14/07/21)

Oil drops, heading for biggest weekly fall in months

Oil prices fell on Friday, heading for their biggest weekly drop since at least May as expectations of more supplies spooked investors, with OPEC likely to add output to meet a potential revival in demand as more countries recover from the pandemic. Brent crude for Sept. was down 20 cents at \$73.27 a barrel by 0544 GMT. (www.reuters.com 16/07/21)

AfDB approves €60m to support Tunisia

The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group has approved a grant of €60m (about \$71m) to Tunisia to support economic recovery and social inclusion. The main objective of this programme is to support dynamic economic recovery by improving the investment climate. (www.xinhuanet.com 15/07/21)

Kenya seeks to raise 6.8tr shillings in tax

The Kenya Revenue Authority is taking steps to tax more workers in the country's informal sector. The move is to help collect 6.8 trillion Kenya shillings over the next three years to keep up with rising public spending needs. (www.dailyguidenetwork.com 15/07/21)

Angola's largest diamond mine increases turnover

Angola's largest diamond exploitation mine Catoca mining society has raised \$280m with the sale of 2.9m carats of diamonds in the first half of this year, its head of production and technical control department Romulo Mucase has said. Mucase said the amount represents an increase of 81%. (www.xinhuanet.com 15/07/21)

Ghana: Food, transport dominant drivers for 7.8% inflation in June 2021

Year-on-year inflation stood at 7.8% in June compared to 7.5% in May, pushed slightly by transport and food items, Government Statistician Professor Samuel Kobina Annim has said. Announcing the rate, he said food and transport were the dominant drivers for the higher rate of inflation in June 2021. (www.ghanaweb.com 15/07/21)

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