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Eurozone economic confidence at 17-month low

Eurozone economic confidence reached its lowest level in nearly one-and-a-half years in July, survey results from the European Commission show. The economic confidence index slid more-than-expected to 99.0 in July from 103.5 in June. The reading was forecast to ease to 102.0. This was the lowest score since Feb. 2021. (www.rttnews.com 28/07/22)

Some Asia economies may need rapid rate hikes to cool inflation - IMF

Several Asian central banks must raise interest rates rapidly, because inflationary pressures are rising due to a global surge in food and fuel costs caused by the war in Ukraine, said a senior International Monetary Fund (IMF) official. (www.reuters.com 29/07/22)

Gulf central banks increase rates in line with Fed

Six central banks in the Persian Gulf region raised their policy rates on July 27, following the US's 75 basis point increase that day. Five of them, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates followed the Fed in increasing their rates by 75bp. The exception was Kuwait, the only country of the six-member Gulf Co-operation Council that does not peg its currency directly to the US dollar. (www.centralbanking.com 28/07/22)

US economy shrinks for second quarter

The US economy shrank for a second consecutive quarter, meeting one of the common criteria for a technical recession and complicating the Fed's push to stamp out soaring inflation with a string of aggressive rate rises. Data published by the commerce department shows GDP fell by 0.9% on an annualised basis in the second quarter, or a 0.2% fall from the previous quarter. (www.ft.com 28/07/22)

Inheritance tax receipts jump 14% in UK to £6.1bn

Inheritance tax payments in the year to April jumped by 14% to £6.1bn, as rising asset prices, especially houses, boosted estate values. The increase was the largest since 2015-16 when receipts rose by 22%, said HM Revenue & Customs, as it disclosed the figures this week. (www.ft.com 28/07/22)

France PPI eases slightly in June

France's producer price inflation moderated marginally in June, though it remained strong overall, data from the statistical office Insee shows. Industrial PPI in the home market dropped to 27.0% in June from 27.1% in May. The 135.0% surge in coke and refined petroleum product prices was largely responsible for June's high inflation rate. (www.rttnews.com 28/07/22)

BoJ unlikely to move policy to counter yen weakness

Rising inflation is a global phenomenon, mainly driven by recent sharp hikes in energy prices, food price increases and continuing global supply-chain disruptions related to coronavirus lockdowns. Among developed countries, the United States has one of the highest CPI inflation rates, which stood at around 9% in June 2022. (www.centralbanking.com 28/07/22)

Latin America faces challenging conditions, IMF warns

Latin America will struggle to cope with tighter financing conditions as inflation rises and commodity prices fall, the IMF warned. It said the region's economies have few alternatives to proceeding with the policy tightening initiated in 2021. "Monetary policy must continue focusing on taming inflation and anchoring inflation expectations," said the IMF. (www.centralbanking.com 28/07/22)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2114	(1.2048)	1.2115	(1.2049)
+USD/EUR	1.0146	(1.0136)	1.0147	(1.0136)
*GHS/USD	7.5582	(7.5262)	7.5658	(7.5338)
*GHS/GBP	9.1560	(9.0676)	9.1659	(9.0774)
*GHS/EUR	7.6684	(7.6282)	7.6760	(7.6358)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 29/07/22 (Rates for 28/07/22 in brackets)

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Italy non-EU trade balance swings deficit in June

Italy's non-EU trade balance swung to a deficit in June from a surplus in the previous year, as imports grew more rapidly than exports, data from the statistical office Istat showed on Thursday. The non-EU trade balance registered a deficit of €2.815bn in June versus a surplus of €4.802bn in the same month last year. (www.rttnews.com 28/07/22)

Turkey economic confidence at 14-month low

Turkey's economic confidence weakened to the lowest since May last year, survey results from the Turkish Statistical Institute show. The economic sentiment index fell to 93.4 in July from 93.6 in June. The decline was driven by the deterioration in manufacturing, services and retail trade confidence indices. (www.rttnews.com 28/07/22)

Dutch business confidence improves in July

The Netherlands' producer confidence improved in July as manufacturers' assessment of finished products improved, data from the Central Bureau of Statistics showed on Thursday. The producer sentiment index rose to 8.4 in July from 8.1 in June. This was above the long-term average score of 1.0. In May, the reading was 9.9. (www.rttnews.com 28/07/22)

Ukraine seeking \$15bn IMF loan

Ukraine's central bank Governor said the country will seek International Monetary Fund aid worth \$15bn to \$20bn. National Bank of Ukraine Governor Kyrylo Shevchenko's move comes after well-placed observers in Kyiv said lack of external financing was threatening the country's financial stability. (www.centralbanking.com 28/07/22)

Norway jobless rate fell in May

Norway's unemployment rate declined marginally in May and employment increased, survey data from Statistics Norway shows. The jobless rate dropped to 3.2% in May from 3.3% in Feb. The unemployment rate for May indicates the average for April to June and that for Feb. reflects the average for Jan. to March. (www.rttnews.com 28/07/22)

World stocks eye best month since late 2020, dollar slips

Global stocks rose on Friday, on course for their best month since late 2020 as traders bet a weakening US economy could slow the pace of monetary tightening in the world's largest economy, while the dollar struggled broadly against its rivals. (www.reuters.com 28/07/22)

Gold climbs on dollar weakness

Gold prices jumped on Thursday as the dollar fell sharply post-FOMC press conference. Spot gold rose 0.7% to \$1,745.79 per ounce, while US gold futures were up 1.4% at 1,743.60. (www.rttnews.com 28/07/22)

Crisis looms for Kenya's economy

Kenyans head to the polls on Aug. 9; amid signs that East Africa's largest economy could be headed for tough times. The country's currency, the Shilling has sharply depreciated. It means Kenya's Treasury will face difficulty paying back its huge dollar-denominated debt. The country's debt rose from \$16bn in 2013 to \$71bn in 2021. (www.africanews.com 28/07/22)

Zimbabwe raises taxes to boost revenue

Zimbabwe plans to increase royalty rates on platinum producers and introduce one for lithium miners from January 1, as part of efforts to boost its coffers that have come under strain from weakening economic conditions. (www.bloomberg.com 28/07/22)

Downward trend in Zambia inflation ends as currency impact wanes

Zambia's inflation rate climbed for the first time in about a year as the effects of a stronger kwacha in keeping costs in check wanes. Consumer prices rose 9.9% in July from a year earlier, compared with 9.7% a month prior. (www.bloomberg.com 28/07/22)

BoG dollar auctioning: bids outstrip sale by \$82m

Total bids outstripped sale of US dollar auctioning by \$82m on 26th July 2022, the Bank of Ghana (BoG) has revealed. According to the Central Bank, total bids submitted by dealers or the banks were \$107m, as against \$25m of the amount accepted. (www.myjoyonline.com 28/07/22)

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