



Thursday, 14th September 2023

"Re-globalization is in our common interest," says WTO chief economist

"Re-globalization is in our common interest," Ralph Ossa, chief economist of the World Trade Organization (WTO), told Xinhua in a recent interview. According to Ossa, re-globalization means increased international cooperation and broader integration and is key to addressing the pressing challenges of our time. (www.xinhuanet.com 13/09/23)

ECB's razor-edge decision rests on price outlook

The European Central Bank's dilemma over whether to deliver a 10th straight interest-rate increase on Thursday hinges chiefly on how quickly its forecasts show inflation retreating. Updated projections for the Eurozone through 2025 are now the most crucial input. (www.bloomberg.com 14/09/23)

Claudia Buch nominated for role of Eurozone's chief banking supervisor

Claudia Buch, the deputy head of Germany's Bundesbank, is set to become the eurozone's top financial supervisor after the European Central Bank put her forward to become the next chair of its banking watchdog. Buch was one of two candidates along with Bank of Spain deputy governor Margarita Delgado who was on the shortlist to replace Andrea Enria as the chair of the Single Supervisory Mechanism. (www.ft.com 13/09/23)

Mario Draghi to size up EU's competitiveness

Former Italian prime minister and president of the European Central Bank Mario Draghi will take on a new role assessing the EU's economic competitiveness, in a bid to improve the bloc's business climate. Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, announced Draghi's appointment in her annual state of the union speech on Wednesday. (www.ft.com 13/09/23)

US inflation pressures stubborn as fuel prices rise

Consumer prices in the US rose by more than expected last month, driven by higher costs for rent and fuel. The inflation rate, which measures the pace of price rises, was 3.7% over the 12 months to August, the Labor Department said, up from 3.2% in July. The figures underscore the challenges facing officials trying to stabilise prices, which soared last year at the fastest pace in decades. (www.bbc.com 13/09/23)

China's data to show economy is trying to move past the worst

China's economic activity improved in Aug. adding to a steady drip of clues that suggest the worst of this year's downturn may pass. The peak summer holiday season drove a boom in spending on travel and hotels, keeping few bright spots for the economy humming. (www.bloomberg.com 14/09/23)

UK: Cash payments rise for first time in 10 years

Payments made with cash rose for the first time in a decade last year as consumers struggled with rising prices. But the number is still dwarfed by debit card use which accounted for half of all payments, its highest ever level. Consumers often say they find it easier to manage their money using cash. (www.bbc.com 13/09/23)

Germany to predict 2023 contraction as industry woes deepen

The German government will predict a contraction for this year instead of sluggish growth when it updates its outlook for Europe's biggest economy next month, highlighting the nation's plight as its industrial sector struggles. Gross domestic product is likely to shrink again in the third quarter and expand only slightly in the final three months of the year. (www.bloomberg.com 13/09/23)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCY

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2498	(1.2472)	1.2499	(1.2473)
+USD/EUR	1.0745	(1.0726)	1.0746	(.0726)
*GHS/USD	11.0503	(11.0503)	11.0613	(11.0613)
*GHS/GBP	13.8106	(13.7819)	13.8256	(13.7968)
*GHS/EUR	11.8740	(11.8534)	11.8858	(11.8641)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 14/09/23 (Rates for 13/09/23 in brackets)

* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 14/09/23 (Rates for 13/09/23 in brackets)

ADB approves loan to boost flood resilience in Philippines

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said that it has approved a \$303m loan to reduce flood and climate risks in three major river basins in the Philippines, one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change and disasters caused by natural hazards. (www.xinhuanet.com 13/09/23)

Argentina to keep key Interest rate unchanged despite surging inflation

Argentina's central bank will likely keep its key interest rate unchanged despite inflation reaching its highest in more than three decades because policymakers expect slowing price pressures later in the year, two officials with direct knowledge of the matter said. (www.bloomberg.com 14/09/23)

Austria to raise pensions in 2024 amid high inflation

The Austrian government announced Wednesday that it would raise pensions by 9.7 percent next year due to high inflation in the country. The package, worth a total of €5.3bn (\$5.7bn), will cover 2.2m pensioners in the central European country, said Austria's social affairs minister Johannes Rauch at a press conference. (www.xinhuanet.com 13/09/23)

Momentum builds to end RBNZ dual mandate

A New Zealand think-tank has proposed scrapping the central bank's employment mandate, regulatory role and deposit insurance programme. Its recommendations come ahead of general elections in Oct. The largest opposition party, National, is also calling for the abolition of the employment mandate. (www.centralbanking.com 13/09/23)

Finland inflation eases to 5.6%, lowest in 18 months

Finland's consumer price inflation moderated in August to the lowest level in one-and-a-half years, largely due to the adjustment of the price index of electricity, preliminary data from Statistics Finland shows. The CPI climbed 5.6% year-over-year in August, slower than July's 6.5% gain. (www.rttnews.com 14/09/23)

European shares edge higher ahead of ECB rate decision

European shares inched higher on Thursday, with investors cautious ahead of the European Central Bank's rate decision where it is likely to raise interest rates for a tenth consecutive time. Markets are now pricing in a 65% chance of a 25-basis-point hike that could take Europe's key interest rate to a record peak. (www.reuters.com 14/09/23)

SA's trade conditions still subdued: survey

Trade conditions in South Africa remained "tight and unsteady" in August with more than half of the surveyed respondents experiencing negative conditions but there are promising signs for the future, the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SACCI) said Wednesday. (www.xinhuanet.com 14/09/23)

SA unions threaten to strike over spending cuts

South Africa's largest labor union federation is threatening to go on strike if the government backs proposed austerity measures which could include reneging on a public sector wage agreement. National Treasury presents President Ramaphosa with a cost-saving plan to help tackle the country's revenue shortfall and budget deficit. (www.bloomberg.com 13/09/23)

IMF and WB meetings to go ahead as planned, Morocco Says

Morocco confirmed that the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings scheduled to take place next month in Marrakech will go ahead as planned, despite last week's devastating earthquake near the city. (www.bloomberg.com 14/09/23)

BoU issues first Islamic banking licence

The Bank of Uganda granted its first Islamic banking licence on Sept 8. Salaam Bank Uganda, a subsidiary of a Djibouti-based bank, received the licence at the central bank's offices from deputy governor Michael Atingi-Ego. The Ugandan parliament legislated to authorise Islamic banking which president Yoweri Museveni signed into law in Aug. (www.centralbanking.com 13/09/23)

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