



Thursday, 18th April 2024

IMF, World Bank cite significant progress in debt restructuring cases

The IMF, World Bank and current G20 president Brazil said there had been significant progress on global debt issues in recent months, citing new agreements on desired timelines and comparability of treatment. Kristalina Georgieva, Ajay Banga and Minister Fernando Haddad issued a joint statement after a ministerial-level meeting of the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable on the sidelines of the spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank. (www.reuters.com 17/04/24)

IMF calls for fiscal restraint in year with most elections ever

The International Monetary Fund urged countries to rein in fiscal spending and rebuild their buffers but said that could prove difficult in the world's biggest-ever election year. A record 88 countries, home to more than half of the world's population, have held or are holding national elections in 2024. (www.reuters.com 17/04/24)

ECB caps remuneration rates for eurozone government deposits

ECB has re-introduced a cap on the remuneration of government deposits and non-monetary policy deposits as part of efforts to reduce its balance sheet. The new rate, announced today [17/04], is based on the euro short-term rate (€STR) minus a spread, which was set to 20 basis points. (www.centralbanking.com 17/04/24)

There's a limit to how far the ECB can diverge from the Fed, Vasle says

ECB can't fully disregard inflation dynamics and monetary policy in the US when charting its own path, Governing Council member Bostjan Vasle said. Even if the conditions in both economies may call for different responses, there are linkages that will be taken into account. (www.bloomberg.com 18/04/24)

ECB's Cipollone sees policy easing if inflation trend persists

The European Central Bank may be able to loosen its monetary-policy stance if the slowdown in consumer-price growth persists, according to Executive Board member Piero Cipollone. Should incoming data confirm that inflation is returning to the 2% target, "it would be appropriate to remove some of the restrictive measures that we put in place in 2023". (www.bloomberg.com 17/04/24)

Mester says Fed can hold rates steady, not in a hurry to cut

Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland President Loretta Mester said monetary policy is in a good place, adding that the central bank shouldn't be in a hurry to cut interest rates. Mester said she still expects inflation will fall further but that she wants to see more data to gain confidence it's moving back toward the Fed's 2% target. (www.bloomberg.com 17/04/24)

US economic activity expanded slightly in recent weeks, Fed says

U.S. economic activity expanded slightly from late February through early April and firms signaled they expect inflation pressures to hold steady, a Federal Reserve survey showed on Wednesday [17/04], continuing recent trends that have kept the central bank from being able to cut interest rates. The U.S. central bank released its latest snapshot on the health of the economy a day after Fed's Powell ditched previous guidance. (www.reuters.com 17/04/24)

US nods to 'serious' Japan, S. Korea concerns over slumping currencies

The United States, Japan and South Korea agreed to "consult closely" on foreign exchange markets in their first trilateral finance dialogue acknowledging concerns from Tokyo and Seoul over their currencies' recent sharp declines. (www.reuters.com 18/04/24)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2428	(1.2433)	1.2429	(1.2434)
+USD/EUR	1.0638	(1.0626)	1.0639	(1.0626)
*GHS/USD	12.9980	(12.9907)	13.0110	(13.0037)
*GHS/GBP	16.1539	(16.1513)	16.1714	(16.1688)
*GHS/EUR	13.8280	(13.8046)	13.8406	(13.8171)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 18/04/24 (Rates for 17/04/24 in brackets)

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China foreign ministry welcomes Blinken's visit to China as tensions simmer

China's foreign ministry on Thursday [18/04] welcomed US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to China as tensions rise between the two countries over global trade, regional conflicts and the Russia-Ukraine war. Blinken will depart on April 23 for a four-day trip to China, where he will meet with senior Chinese officials amid heightening tensions.

(www.reuters.com 18/04/24)

UK inflation slows less than forecast

UK consumer price inflation softened less than expected in March but hit the lowest in two-and-a-half years on food prices, adding uncertainty to the timing of the first interest rate cut from the BoE. Inflation weakened to 3.2% in March from 3.4% in February, the Office for National Statistics reported. However, this was slightly faster than the economists' forecast of 3.1%.

(www.rttnews.com 17/04/24)

Japan tertiary activity index rebounds 1.5%, exceeds forecast

Japan's tertiary activity index increased at a faster-than-expected pace in Feb, according to data from the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry. The seasonally adjusted tertiary activity index rose 1.5% month-on-month in Feb, reversing a 0.5% decrease in January. Economists had expected a 0.8% increase.

(www.rttnews.com 18/04/24)

Swiss trade surplus grows in q1

Switzerland's foreign trade surplus increased in the first quarter on recovering exports, data from the Federal Customs Administration showed on Thursday [18/04]. The trade balance registered a surplus of CHF 8.6 bn.

(www.rttnews.com 18/04/24)

Banxico's Espinosa says it's too soon for a long easing cycle

Mexico central bank Deputy Governor Irene Espinosa on Wednesday said it's too soon to talk about a prolonged easing cycle, less than a month since the central bank cut interest rates for the first time since 2021 and with markets waiting for clues on the next step.

(www.bloomberg.com 17/04/24)

European shares likely to open on firm note

European stocks are seen opening on a positive note as European leaders debate ways to ramp up sanctions against Iran. "We need to adapt and expand them," French President Emmanuel Macron said of sanctions the EU has already slapped on the Islamic Republic. The pan European STOXX 600 ended flat with a positive bias. The German DAX finished marginally higher, France's CAC 40 rose 0.6% and the U.K.'s FTSE 100 added 0.4%.

(www.rttnews.com 18/04/24)

Oil stabilises after sharp drop on demand concerns, easing of Middle East tension

Oil prices were little changed after a 3% drop in the previous session as the market remains concerned about demand this year and on signs that a wider conflict in the key Middle East producing region could be avoided. Brent futures were up 13 cents, or 0.15%, at \$87.42 a barrel. (www.reuters.com 18/04/24)

IMF: South Africa needs decisive efforts to cut spending

South Africa needs more decisive efforts to cut spending and reduce its debt to gross domestic product ratio, which is expected to reach almost 86% by 2029, up from 74% in 2022, a senior International Monetary Fund official said on Wednesday [17/04].

(www.reuters.com 17/04/24)

Zimbabwe hopes to start staff-monitored IMF program this year

Zimbabwe, banished from capital markets since 1999 for defaulting on its debt, hopes to deepen ties with the International Monetary Fund later this year as it seeks to clear billions of dollars in arrears. "It is our hope that in the second half of the year we'll be able to sign on to a staff monitored program with the IMF,"

(www.bloomberg.com 17/04/24)

Ghana to end 2025 with single-digit inflation of 8% – IMF projects

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected an end-year single-digit inflation of 8% for Ghana for 2025. This aligns with the government's target for the same period.

(www.citinewsroom.com 18/04/24)

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