



Monday, 22nd April 2024

IMF, World Bank steering committee stresses accountability as reforms advance

The steering committee for both International Monetary Fund and the World Bank emphasized the need for broader accountability as the institutions implemented reforms to help countries grapple with climate change and other shocks. "We must hold ourselves accountable more broadly as we become a better and bigger bank". (www.reuters.com 20/04/24)

ECB governors fear political pressure over Fed-style 'dot plot'

European Central Bank governors fear publishing their interest rate forecasts would invite pressure from governments trying to gauge if their central banker was serving their domestic agenda, sources told Reuters in a sign an idea to follow the US Federal Reserve's practice may be hard to sell. (www.reuters.com 22/04/24)

ECB's Villeroy says oil uncertainty won't stop June rate cut

The European Central Bank won't be swayed from a first interest-rate cut in June by oil price uncertainty, Governing Council member Francois Villeroy de Galhau said. According to the Bank of France governor, even if conflict in the Middle East did push up oil costs, policymakers would have to first analyze if such a shock fueled underlying prices and inflation expectations. (www.bloomberg.com 21/04/24)

Supervisors grapple with the smaller bank dilemma

It has been more than a year since three mid-tier banks collapsed in the US. Yet supervisors and central banks around the world are trying to work out what to do to ensure the safety of these smaller banks without disrupting financial markets – especially the supply of credit. (www.centralbanking.com 22/04/24)

IMF's Gopinath says high US deficits fueling growth, higher interest rates

The US needs to raise revenues to bring down high budget deficits even though they are helping to fuel global growth by stoking domestic US demand, International Monetary Fund First Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath said on Saturday [20/04/24]. (www.reuters.com 20/04/24)

The Fed's forecasting method looks increasingly outdated

The Federal Reserve is stuck in a mode of forecasting and public communication that looks increasingly limited, especially as the economy keeps delivering surprises. (www.bloomberg.com 21/04/24)

Dancing to the dollar's beat

Just when it looked like rate cuts were coming any minute now, inflation has reared its head and the strength of the dollar is forcing other central bankers to protect their currencies and reconsider their policy choices. (www.reuters.com 22/04/24)

ECB easing will help France fix budget-central banker

ECB interest rate cuts will help to create the right conditions for France to carry out long-overdue and much-needed budget tightening, Bank of France governor Francois Villeroy de Galhau said on Monday [22/04/24]. (www.reuters.com 22/04/24)

China's Q1 fiscal revenue falls as tax cut policies weigh

China's fiscal revenue in the first quarter fell 2.3% from a year earlier, as some special factors including previous tax cut policies weighed, the finance ministry said on Monday [22/04/24]. The world's second-biggest economy grew faster than expected in the first quarter, data showed last week showed (www.reuters.com 22/04/24)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2383	(1.2459)	1.2384	(1.2460)
+USD/EUR	1.0647	(1.0657)	1.0648	(1.0658)
*GHS/USD	13.0472	(13.0035)	13.0602	(13.0165)
*GHS/GBP	16.1563	(16.2011)	16.1738	(16.2186)
*GHS/EUR	13.8919	(13.8589)	13.9046	(13.8727)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 22/04/24 (Rates for 19/04/24 in brackets)

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China leaves benchmark lending rates unchanged

China left benchmark lending rates unchanged at a monthly fixing on Monday [22/04/24], in line with market expectations. The steady monthly LPR fixings come after China reported encouraging first-quarter economic data, which removes the urgency for Beijing to release monetary stimulus to aid the economic recovery. (www.reuters.com 22/04/24)

Souring China dreams force Western financial firms to cut costs

Just a few years ago, lucrative business prospects in China on the back of a booming economy led to a scramble among Western financial firms, from investment banking to asset management, to expand their footprints and source talent from across the world. (www.reuters.com 22/04/24)

UK economists say markets betting wrong on interest rate cuts

The Bank of England has found itself caught in the middle of a trans-Atlantic divide over who will cut interest rates first, with costly implications for gilt traders and British political leaders counting on election year relief from high borrowing costs. (www.bloomberg.com 22/04/24)

Australia's treasurer says MidEast tensions compound worries about global economy

Australia's treasurer warned on Monday [22/04/24] that events in the Middle East are fueling concerns for the global economy and will shape the government's budget in May, with near-term outlook downgrades for its major trading partners. (www.reuters.com 22/04/24)

Australia to cut key global economy growth forecasts in budget

Australia will cut the growth outlook for most major economies, including key trading partner China, when it releases its budget next month, Treasurer Jim Chalmers said. "Events in the Middle East are casting a shadow over the global economy, compounding the concerns about lingering inflation and weaker growth,". (www.bloomberg.com 21/04/24)

European shares likely to open on firm note as middle east tensions ease

European stocks are likely to open on a steady note as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East eased, given Iran's tamed response to Israel's apparently small strike against the country. The pan European STOXX 600 ended flat with a negative bias. The German DAX dipped 0.6% and France's CAC 40 finished marginally lower while the UK's FTSE 100 edged up 0.2%. (www.rttnews.com 22/04/24)

Oil prices decline as geopolitical tensions ease

Oil prices traded lower as fears of a wider Middle East conflict ebbed. Benchmark Brent crude futures dipped 0.7% to \$86.71 a barrel, while WTI crude futures were down 0.7% at \$81.66. (www.rttnews.com 22/04/24)

South Africa evades us censure even as it builds links to rivals

S.Africa is playing all sides when it comes to foreign policy as the country seeks to position itself as a leading voice of the Global South, and the approach seems to be working so far. The BRICS group of developing nations held its annual summit in S.Africa last year and the Group of 20 is set to follow suit in 2025. (www.bloomberg.com 22/04/24)

Angola's central bank governor forecasts FX stability amid inflation concerns

Angola's central bank sees relative stability for the country's kwanza currency this year, Governor Manuel Tiago Dias said, cautioning that the bank's inflation forecast could be raised due to changes in fuel price subsidies. (www.reuters.com 17/04/24)

South Africa faces upside risk to inflation, financial conditions, central bank governor says

S.Africa faces upside risks to its inflation outlook, Governor Lesetja Kganyago said, but the latest data has not shown evidence of price pressures from food despite adverse El Nino weather wreaking havoc across Africa. Data out had shown headline inflation fell to 5.3% year-on-year, down from 5.6% in February. (www.reuters.com 22/04/24)

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