



BANK OF GHANA NEWS BRIEF

News Summaries from Foreign and Local Media

Tuesday, 4th June 2024

Most central banks optimistic about tokenisation

Central banks generally see opportunities in the use of tokenisation in payments, the Payments Benchmarks 2024 show. Asked if “overall, does the tokenisation of payments provide more opportunities or more challenges for your central bank?”, most central banks are optimistic. (www.centralbanking.com 04/06/24)

Swift tests AI-driven fraud detection

The international payments consortium Swift is launching two pilot programmes to test the viability of artificial intelligence (AI) in detecting fraud, it announced on May 30. The first programme will use live traffic data to amend the existing Payment Controls service, while the second aims to enhance information sharing between financial institutions.

(www.centralbanking.com 03/06/24)

ECB rate-cut expectations start to unravel before first move

Strong economic data and vocal European Central Bank hawks are pushing some analysts and investors to waver in their expectations for interest-rate cuts this year. While most economists still foresee quarterly reductions following this week’s initial move, some reckon sticky inflation, rapid wage growth and surprisingly robust euro-zone output will constrain monetary loosening.

(www.bloomberg.com 03/06/24)

Dollar finds a footing after tumbling on weak economic data

The dollar ticked up after falling to its lowest against the euro, sterling, and Swiss franc since mid-March overnight as signs of a softening U.S. economy boosted the case for earlier Federal Reserve interest rate cuts.

(www.reuters.com 04/06/24)

ASIA Growth fears mount, 'bad news is bad news'?

Asian markets could be in for a choppy ride on Tuesday [04/06], with investors unsure whether to interpret Monday's [03/06] steep fall in U.S. Treasury yields and the dollar as an encouraging sign for risky assets or a warning that growth is evaporating.

(www.reuters.com 04/06/24)

German Finance Minister: inconceivable we won't agree budget, economy package

It is inconceivable that Germany will not adopt a budget and a package to inject momentum into the economy but the government will not make cuts on security or modernising infrastructure, Finance Minister Christian Lindner said on Tuesday [04/06].

(www.reuters.com 04/06/24)

German unemployment rises more than expected in May, labour office says

The number of people out of work in Germany rose more than expected in May, Federal Labour Office figures showed on Tuesday [04/06]. The office said the number of unemployed grew by 25,000 in seasonally adjusted terms. Analysts polled by Reuters had expected that figure to rise by 10,000.

(www.reuters.com 04/06/24)

UK factories return to growth, prices rise by most in a year, PMI shows

British manufacturers reported a return to growth last month after a long slowdown, according to a survey published on Monday, but the higher prices charged by firms may add to the Bank of England's caution about cutting interest rates. The final reading of the S&P Global UK Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index for May rose to 51.2 from 49.1 in April. (www.reuters.com 03/06/24)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2786	(1.2738)	1.2787	(1.2739)
+USD/EUR	1.0882	(1.0852)	1.0882	(1.0853)
*GHS/USD	14.1223	(14.1230)	14.1365	(14.1372)
*GHS/GBP	18.0568	(17.9899)	18.0763	(18.0093)
*GHS/EUR	15.3688	(15.3275)	15.3828	(15.3415)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 04/06/24 (Rates for 03/05/24 in brackets)

* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 04/06/24 (Rates for 03/05/24 in brackets)

Wet weather keeps cloud over UK spending in May

Wet weather and ongoing cost-of-living pressures kept a cloud over British consumers in May, with one survey showing the weakest spending growth in more than three years. Barclays said spending on its customers' debit and credit cards was only 1.0% higher than a year earlier, slowing from 1.6% annual growth the month before and the weakest increase since February 2021. (www.reuters.com 03/06/24)

BOJ must be vigilant to yen's impact on economy, says deputy governor Himino

Bank of Japan Deputy Governor Ryozi Himino said the central bank must be "very vigilant" to the impact the yen's moves could have on the economy, suggesting the currency's weakness will be among factors affecting the timing of its next interest rate hike. (www.reuters.com 04/06/24)

South Korea consumer inflation slows to 10-month low

South Korea's consumer inflation slowed for a second straight month in May to a 10-month low, official data showed on Tuesday [04/06], coming in lower than market expectations. The consumer price index (CPI) in May stood 2.7% higher than a year earlier, slower than a rise of 2.9% in April and a gain of 2.8% tipped in a Reuters survey of economists. It was the slowest annual increase since July. (www.reuters.com 04/06/24)

India seeks firms make additional disclosures to fast-track public offers, document shows

India's market regulator wants companies looking to go public to share more information as it seeks to fast track public offers, according to a letter sent to merchant bankers last week. (www.reuters.com 04/06/24)

Vietnam expands massive bank rescue effort

Vietnam's central bank lent another \$1.2bn to ailing Saigon Joint Stock Commercial Bank over the last two months, according to a bank document seen by Reuters, taking the total to \$24.5bn as part of its efforts to rescue depositors. (www.reuters.com 04/06/24)

European shares slip as energy shares weigh

European shares slipped on Tuesday [04/06] as weakness in crude prices dragged energy stocks, while investors refrained from placing huge bets before the European Central Bank's interest rate decision later this week. The continent-wide STOXX 600 (. STOXX), opens new tab was down 0.4% by 0810 GMT, snapping a three-day winning streak. (www.reuters.com 04/06/24)

Oil extends losses on oversupply woes

Oil prices fell sharply on Tuesday to extend losses from a four-month low hit in the previous session on worries about increased supply later in 2024. Benchmark Brent crude futures fell 1.5% to \$76.18 a barrel while WTI crude futures were down 2.1% at \$72.64. (www.rttnews.com 04/06/24)

South Africa's fiscal stance to stay balanced under coalition, Treasury says

South Africa's National Treasury intends to stick to a balanced fiscal stance under a coalition government, its director-general said on Tuesday [04/06], after the African National Congress (ANC) lost its majority in last week's election. "I think that our fiscal strategy is achievable, even in a coalition environment ... because it's quite balanced. (www.reuters.com 04/06/24)

Slowdown in Egypt's non-oil sector eases in May, PMI shows

A slump in Egypt's non-oil private sector showed signs of easing in May as improving price stability after the country's currency devaluation in March and its \$8bn loan agreement with the IMF began to restore confidence, a survey showed on Tuesday [04/06]. (www.reuters.com 04/06/24)

Zambia's debt restructuring limps over line as painful test case

More than three-and-a-half years, or 1,300 days, after resource-rich Zambia formally declared itself bankrupt it is about to drag itself out of default, leaving some hard lessons for richer nations about how their much-vaunted debt relief plan performed. (www.reuters.com 04/06/24)

DISCLAIMER: This information has been compiled by the Communications Department of Bank of Ghana for general reference purposes only. While every effort is made to ensure that the information is accurate, the Bank of Ghana does not guarantee nor does it accept any responsibility or liability for the accuracy or completeness of the content or for any loss which may arise from reliance on information contained in this document.