



Thursday, 16th January 2025

**UN chief calls for action together to tackle intertwined global challenges**

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday [15/01] called for action together to tackle intertwined and unprecedented challenges amid the turmoil of the world. "It is understandable to get overwhelmed by the turmoil of our world. But as we look to the year ahead, we must never lose sight of progress and potential. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 16/01/25)

**ECB's Centeno sees interest rates falling to about 2% as inflation under control**

The European Central Bank should continue to lower interest rates to about 2% as inflation in the euro zone was generally under control, ECB policymaker Mario Centeno said. He said the rise in euro zone inflation to 2.4% in December "was already expected" and reflected the fall in energy goods prices in the same period in 2023. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 16/01/25)

**Brief relief for markets after tame US inflation**

Global stocks and non-dollar currencies found some respite from their inflation-related anxieties, buoyed by a strong start to the earnings season and a softish US core inflation reading that revived hopes for Fed rate cuts this year. But the relief rally may be short-lived, with US inflation still looking a bit too warm for comfort - and potentially facing upward pressure if the incoming Trump administration pursues aggressive policies on tariffs and taxes. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 16/01/25)

**Yellen warns extending Trump tax cuts may roil US markets**

Outgoing Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned that plans by the incoming administration to extend the 2017 Republican tax cuts risk roiling financial markets and worsening an already challenging US fiscal outlook. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 15/01/25)

**Inflation revival persists as market risk despite CPI-fuelled rally**

A relatively benign US reading on consumer price increases triggered a sharp relief rally in stocks and bonds, but traders and investors warn that markets are likely to remain anxious about the pace of inflation. The path ahead remains shadowed by ongoing uncertainty about the outlook for further Federal Reserve interest rate cuts. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 15/01/25)

**China sees favorable conditions for foreign trade development in 2025**

There are still many favorable conditions for China's development of foreign trade in 2025 despite external challenges, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said Wednesday [25/01]. MOC official Meng Yue said at a press conference that the global economy and trade are recovering. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 16/01/25)

**Asian hedge funds' 2024 performance best in 15 years**

Asian hedge funds delivered their strongest returns in 15 years last year, capitalising on market volatility, winners in China's wobbly economy and opportunities in artificial intelligence (AI). The HFRI Asia with Japan Index, which tracks hedge funds that mainly invest in the region, rose 12.1% last year - its best annual growth since 2009. HFR is one of the largest global hedge fund data platforms. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 16/01/25)

**Borrowing costs fall after inflation surprise**

Borrowing costs for the UK government have plunged, as an unexpected drop in inflation at home and in core inflation in the US raised bets that central banks will cut interest rates in the months ahead. The interest rate charged on UK government debt dropped below 4.8%, retreating after last week's surge when it had hit the highest level in 16 years. ([www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com) 16/01/25)

**EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES**

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2245	(1.2178)	1.2246	(1.2179)
+USD/EUR	1.0299	(1.0271)	1.0300	(1.0271)
*GHS/USD	14.8426	(14.8366)	14.8574	(14.8514)
*GHS/GBP	18.1747	(18.0680)	18.1944	(18.0875)
*GHS/EUR	15.2870	(15.2395)	15.3023	(15.2535)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 16/01/25 (Rates for 15/01/25 in brackets)

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### **Japan wholesale inflation steady near 4%, BOJ eyes rate hike next week**

Japan's annual wholesale inflation held steady at 3.8% in December on stubbornly high food costs, data showed on Thursday, highlighting persistent price pressures that may prod the central bank to raise interest rates next week.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 16/01/25)

### **Bank of Korea governor says resolving political turmoil key for economy**

South Korea's central bank governor said on Thursday that the most important factor determining the health of Asia's fourth-largest economy in the next few months was whether recent political turmoil would stabilise. "Previously, the biggest variable was US monetary and trade policy. Now, more than that, the biggest factor determining the economy is whether the political process proceeds stably, as we all want, in the next few months,". ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 16/01/25)

### **Bank of Korea unexpectedly holds rates steady amid won slide**

South Korea's central bank unexpectedly left its policy interest rate unchanged on Thursday, weighing the impact of its back-to-back cuts last year while supporting the won which has weakened to a 15-year low versus the US dollar in recent weeks. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 16/01/25)

### **Rupee may not build on recovery despite renewed Fed rate-cut hopes**

The non-deliverable forwards indicated that the Indian rupee is unlikely to recover more on Thursday despite renewed hopes that the US Federal Reserve may cut interest rates this quarter. The 1-month non-deliverable forward indicated that the rupee will open at 86.40 to the US dollar, compared with 86.3625 in the previous session. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 16/01/25)

### **Indonesia central bank says rupiah's weakness under control**

Indonesia's central bank said the rupiah's fall against US dollar was still under control, after the currency slid to its weakest level in more than six months on Thursday following a surprise cut in interest rates the day before.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 16/01/25)

### **Oil steadies after boost from US crude draw, Russia sanctions**

Oil prices steadied on Thursday a day after settling at multi-month highs on the latest US sanctions on Russia and a larger-than-forecast fall in US crude stocks. Brent crude futures were down 23 cents, or 0.3%, to \$81.80 per barrel by 0915 GMT, after rising 2.6% in the previous session to their highest since July 26 last year. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 16/01/25)

### **Gold holds gain as US inflation data boosts rate-cut optimism**

Gold advanced after a surprise slowdown in US inflation revived expectations for Fed rate cuts this year. Bullion traded around \$2700 an ounce the highest in a month after the consumer price index, which excludes food and energy costs rose 0.2% following four months of 0.3% gains. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 16/01/25)

### **Libyan agency calls for halt to public sector appointments amid rising wage bill**

The Libyan state agency mandated to oversee government performance has called for suspension of public sector appointments and contracts due to an excessive wage bill. The Administrative Control Authority (ACA) said the number of public sector employees in Libya had reached 2,099,200, with salary costs totalling LYD372bn over the past 12 years.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 15/01/25)

### **Ugandan shilling firms on scant demand for hard currency**

The Ugandan shilling firmed slightly on Thursday, helped by scant appetite for hard currency from merchandise importers, traders said. At 1018 GMT, commercial banks quoted the shilling at 3,685/3,695, compared to Wednesday's [15/01] close of 3,690/3,700.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 16/01/25)

### **Nigerian inflation rises for fourth straight month in December**

Nigeria's inflation rate rose for the fourth straight month in Dec. advancing to 34.80% in annual terms (NGCPIY=ECI), opens new tab from 34.60% in November, data from the statistics agency showed on Wednesday [15/01]. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 15/01/25)

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