

Ghana

Market Related News

Afreximbank to establish African Quality Assurance Centre across Africa:

As part of moves to strengthen intra African trade and ensure that goods and services exchanged on the continent meet global standards, the African Export and Import Bank (Afreximbank), in collaboration with key stakeholders is rolling out African Quality Assurance Centres. The centres when fully activated will not only boost trade within the African Continent but also enhance the capacities of indigenous producers. This was disclosed by the President and Chairman of the African Export and Import Bank (Afreximbank), H.E Prof. Benedict Oramah at the 30th AGM in Accra...[Citibusinessnews](#)

IMF deal: Ofori-Atta talks up urgent reforms: Minister of Finance Ken Ofori-Atta has emphasised the crucial need for reforms to be accompanied by a sense of urgency, in line with the US\$3billion 3-year International Monetary Fund (IMF) Extended Credit Facility. The reforms focus on expenditure controls, non-arrears accumulation, revenue growth, improved revenue collection by the Electricity Company of Ghana and energy sector reforms, Mr. Ofori-Atta said, urging Ghanaians to brace for necessary changes on the back of the IMF deal. ...[Thebftonline](#)

GSE shows mixed performance as benchmark index gains while financial stocks lag behind: The Ghana Stock Exchange witnessed a day of mixed fortunes as the benchmark index, GSE-Composite, displayed resilience with a notable gain of 12.04 points, closing at 2,712.95 points. This achievement translates into a commendable year-to-date return of 11.01%. However, in contrast, the GSE Financial Stocks Index struggled to gain momentum, advancing marginally by 0.48 points and closing at 1,694.77 points, leaving it with a disappointing year-to-date return of -17.43%...[Norvanreports](#)

Ecobank Ghana and HDG Homes Limited sign partnership agreement: HDG Homes Limited and Ecobank Ghana PLC recently signed a partnership agreement to, among others, offer mortgage financing to support clients who are desirous of acquiring landed properties developed by HDG Homes or its subsidiaries. HDG Homes is the anchor developer for Airport City Kumasi, a €300 million development project, situated on a 55-acre prime location in Kumasi...[Myjoyonline](#)

Afreximbank sign term sheet for \$400m facility for industrial parks: The African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and ARISE Integrate Industrial Platforms (ARISE IIP) on Tuesday, in Accra signed a term sheet for a \$400 million tranche under a proposed \$1 billion global credit facility. This is to support ARISE IIP in the development of industrial parks and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in several African countries and to avail funding to meet trade finance requirements and to finance capital expenditure in support of the expansion of operating Industrial Parks...[Myjoyonline](#)

General Business News

Government to expand LEAP to 2.5million extremely poor Ghanaians by 2024: Government has pledged to expand the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) programme to all 2.5 million extremely poor individuals by 2024. According to Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta, this is in line with its tradition of compassion and care for the underprivileged “We expect to strengthen social protection through increases in social spending to protect the most vulnerable and the poor from the impact of adjustments under the programme”, the Minister pointed out...[Myjoyonline](#)

Inflation to remain above 10% until end-2025 – BoG: Barring any unanticipated shocks, inflation is projected to gradually trend downwards but remain above the upper band of 8±2% until the end of 2025. According to the May 2023 Monetary Policy Report by the Bank of Ghana, risks to the inflation outlook are fairly tilted to the downside supported by the relative stability in the exchange rate, reduction in ex-pump petroleum prices, alongside base drift effects...[Myjoyonline](#)

UBA, AfCFTA to support SMEs in Africa with \$6billion funding: The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat and the United Bank of Africa have signed an agreement to support Small and Medium Enterprises in Africa with 6 billion dollars to scale up and expand into multinational companies. According to the Secretary General of the African Continental Free Trade Area, Wamkele Mene, the SMEs will be provided with access to the global markets and capital to enable them to grow...[Myjoyonline](#)

GDP grows 4.2% in Q1 2023: The economy grew 4.2% in the first quarter of 2023 – January to March – compared to 3.0 in the same period of 2022, according to provisional estimates released by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS). This growth was driven by the services and agriculture sectors, which recorded growth rates of 10.1 percent and 4.8 percent respectively. Industry however contracted by 3.2 percent in the same period...[Thebftonline](#)

Telecommunication network AirtelTigo rebrands as AT: AirtelTigo, a leading telecommunication network, has officially changed its brand name to AT, effective Thursday, June 22, 2023. In November 2017, Airtel and Tigo merged and became one company – AirtelTigo. Since that merger, the company has traded under the name AirtelTigo offering various telecommunication services from data to mobile money services and other mobile services...[Citibusinessnews](#)

“The wise investor recognizes that success is a process of continually seeking answers to new questions.”-Sir John Templeton.

Africa

Market Related News

Nigeria's Tinubu says needs quick US funding for energy transition: Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu said on Monday the United States should help with more funding to help Africa's leading oil producer accelerate its energy transition plans as he pledged to meet the country's climate change goals. Oil remains Nigeria's biggest foreign exchange earner and like many African nations, Nigeria argues that it still needs to exploit its hydrocarbons to help provide power to millions of citizens without electricity...[Reuters](#)

Egypt seen leaving interest rates on hold on Thursday: The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) is expected to leave its overnight interest rates unchanged on Thursday after President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi appeared to rule out any devaluation of the currency in coming months, a Reuters poll showed on Monday. The median forecast in a poll of 17 analysts is for the bank to maintain its deposit rate at 18.25% and its lending rate at 19.25% when its regular monetary policy committee (MPC) meets. None of the analysts expected rates to change....[Reuters](#)

Why government didn't convert Sh537billion pending bills into bond: The government shelved a plan to convert pending bills into a bond following concerns it would significantly increase the pile of debt at a time the country's position has been classified as being at high risk of debt distress. Securitization of pending bills would imply the government floats a bond to offset the backlog of arrears, a proposal that was touted by Kenya Kwanza in the run-up to the August 2022 general election....[Businessdailyafrica](#)

Zambia wins debt relief, setting precedent for stressed nations: Zambia reached an agreement in principle to restructure \$6.3 billion of debt with bilateral lenders, setting a precedent for a growing list of countries struggling to service their liabilities. The deal was announced by a French official Thursday, and later confirmed by the southern African nation's finance ministry. Zambian President called the agreement a significant milestone in our journey towards economic recovery and growth and marks the first major relief won by a developing country under the Group of 20 nations' Common Framework...[Norvanreports](#)

Nigeria amasses \$3 billion debt to traders for oil swaps: Nigeria has accumulated up to \$3 billion in debts to trading houses such as Vitol and oil majors for fuel supplies and is trailing four to six months behind schedule in repaying them with cargoes of crude, four traders and executives told Reuters. Nigeria will likely take months to clear the debt, which will complicate reforms by new President aimed at weaning Africa's largest economy and most populous nation off costly fuel subsidies that have contributed to growing debt and foreign exchange shortages...[Reuters](#)

General Business News

Kenya signs trade deal with European Union to safeguard exports: Kenya on Monday signed an Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union that will guarantee duty-free access for its farm produce into its biggest export market. European goods entering Kenya will see tariffs reduced over a 25-year period under the agreement, officials said at a signing ceremony in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. The deal took seven months to negotiate, making it one of the fastest the EU has ever struck, officials from both sides said...[Reuters](#)

Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline Project gains momentum with multiple MoU signings: Nigeria, Morocco, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Benin, and Guinea have signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) regarding the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline Project. This significant development took place at the headquarters of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Abuja on June 16th, 2023. The project's Steering Committee also gathered to assess its progress and discuss strategic matters...[Myjoyonline](#)

Sisi asks lenders for 'understanding' of economic pressures facing Egypt: Egypt's development partners should show understanding of the economic pressures it is under as it pursues development plans and tries to manage a growing debt burden, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said on Thursday. "Programs for renewables, water distillations, improving road networks and using electric transportation vehicles cost us major sums of money," Sisi told a finance summit in Paris...[Reuters](#)

Subsidy removal, unification of currency rates the right decisions – Prez Tinubu says: President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has reaffirmed his commitment to upholding the elimination of fuel subsidies and the unification of Nigeria's currency rates, as these actions are anticipated to help the nation's economy become more competitive. The president made his stance clear on June 22 when speaking with a group from the Africa Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) at the Summit for New Global Financing Pact that was taking place at the time in France. He underlined that a competitive Nigeria will draw Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs), hence boosting the nation's economic development...[Norvanreports](#)

Tunisia working with IMF on 'fair' economic programme, central-bank governor says: Tunisia working with IMF on 'fair' economic programme, central-bank governor says: Tunisia is working with the International Monetary Fund on a "fair" economic reform programme that takes account of vulnerable groups, central bank governor Marouan Abassi said on Friday. His comments come after Tunisian President Kais Saied told IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva during a meeting in Paris on Thursday that the fund's conditions to provide financial support to the North African country risk sparking civil unrest...[Reuters](#)

Global

Market Related News

IMF working on global central bank digital currency platform: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is working on a platform for central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) to enable transactions between countries, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on Monday. "CBDCs should not be fragmented national propositions... To have more efficient and fairer transactions we need systems that connect countries: we need interoperability," Georgieva told a conference attended by African central banks in Rabat, Morocco....[Reuters](#)

UBS to Face Penalties over Credit Suisse's Archegos Fiasco: UBS Group AG faces hundreds of millions of dollars in regulatory fines over Credit Suisse Group AG's dealings with Archegos Capital, as the Swiss bank inherits its former rival's entire litigation portfolio, according to a person familiar with the matter. The US Federal Reserve's fine over Archegos may be as high as \$300 million, while the UK's Prudential Regulation Authority could impose a penalty of up to £100 million (\$128 million), the person said. Switzerland's financial regulator doesn't have the authority to impose fines. ...[Bloomberg](#)

Bank of England hikes rates to 5% in surprise move: The Bank of England raised interest rates by a bigger-than-expected half a percentage point on Thursday after it said there had been "significant" news suggesting British inflation would take longer to fall. The BoE's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted 7-2 to raise its main interest rate to 5% from 4.5%, its highest since 2008 and its largest rate increase since February, following stickier inflation and wage growth since its policymakers met last in May...[Reuters](#)

U.S. bank regulator says tougher rules coming for banks over \$100 bln in size: The head of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation said Thursday that bank regulators are considering applying an upcoming set of stricter capital rules to banks with over \$100 billion in assets. FDIC Chairman Martin Gruenberg said in a speech the spring turmoil in the banking sector showed firms of that size pose a risk to the financial system and merit stricter oversight. Three banks failed during the spring, requiring regulators to step in and backstop deposits...[Reuters](#)

EU's powerful lending arm eyes first 'debt-for-nature' swap: The European Union's powerful lending arm, the European Investment Bank, expects to back its first 'debt-for-nature' swap this year as it bolsters efforts to stem biodiversity loss. Debt-for-nature swaps, which help countries cut their debt in return for conservation commitments, are attracting growing interest after Ecuador's record \$1.6 billion deal last month to protect the Galapagos Islands...[Reuters](#)

Oil prices fall as fears of a global economic slowdown grow: Crude oil prices extended a slide that began earlier this week as fears of a global slowdown prevailed over supply constraint considerations. Remarks from the Federal Reserve's chairman Jerome Powell added to pressure on benchmarks. Powell said this week that he sees at least two more rate hikes by the end of the year. The statement suggests current efforts to rein in inflation have not done the job, which in turn suggests that the situation is graver than many believed originally, including Powell himself. Bullish factors remain in the game, however, likely limiting oil's losses...[Norvanreports](#)

Interest in Central Bank Digital Currencies picks up in Latin America and Caribbean while crypto use varies: Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are at the forefront of digital money adoption, offering valuable lessons for the rest of the world. While El Salvador has made headlines by granting legal tender status to Bitcoin, other LAC countries have made significant strides in the introduction of central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) to either enhance financial inclusion and payment systems' resilience or lower cross-border remittances' costs, as our recent research shows....[Norvanreports](#)

Turkey's lira sinks to record low after unconvincing rate hike: Turkey's lira weakened as much as 3.3% to a record low on Friday, extending losses a day after the central bank's large rate hike failed to assure markets that President Erdogan was abandoning his long-held unorthodox policies. The lira touched a record low of 25.74 against the dollar at 1006 GMT, down some 27.3% this year, and was at 25.6480 at 1039 GMT. The central bank raised its key rate by a hefty 650 basis points to 15% on Thursday, falling well short of expectations of a larger initial tightening that analysts said would have underlined a longer-term commitment to battle inflation....[Reuters](#)