

Turkish Treasury borrows over \$2B through auctions

Anadolu Agency, 24.10.2017



Turkey's Treasury Undersecretariat held three separate auctions to borrow nearly 8.2 billion Turkish liras (around \$2.2 billion) from the domestic markets, according to an official statement.

Turkey's Treasury reported that 1.07 billion Turkish liras (\$289 million) in 12-month zero coupon bonds (new issuance) were sold at an auction. The bonds will be settled on Wednesday and mature on Oct. 24, 2018. Total tender for the bonds was 1.38 billion Turkish liras (\$372 million) with a 77.8 percent accepted/tendered rate, said the statement.

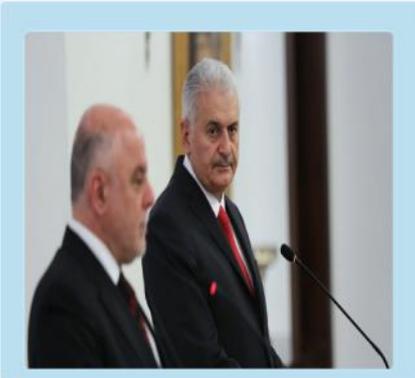
The undersecretariat stated that the interest rate of the newly issued 12-month zero coupon bonds was accepted at a 12.40 percent term rate. At the second auction on Monday, the Treasury borrowed 4.25 billion Turkish liras (\$1.15 billion) by selling 5-year fixed coupon bonds (semiannually, re-open, third issue) which will be settled on Wednesday and mature on Aug. 17, 2022.

According to the statement, that total tender for the 5-year fixed coupon bonds was 5.8 billion Turkish liras (\$1.56 billion), with a 73.1 percent accepted/tendered rate. The Treasury said the interest rate of the fixed coupon bonds was accepted at a 5.79 percent term rate, while annual simple and compound interest rates were 11.58 and 11.92 percent, respectively. At Monday's third auction, for 10-year CPI indexed government bonds (semiannually, re-open, third issue), the Treasury borrowed 2.87 billion Turkish liras (\$775 million). The government bonds will be settled on Wednesday and mature on July 7, 2027.

The total tender for the 10-year bonds was 4.28 billion Turkish liras (\$1.15 billion) with a 67 percent accepted/tendered rate. The interest rate of the re-opened government bonds was accepted at a 1.44 percent term rate, with annual simple and compound interest rates of 2.88 and 2.90 percent, respectively.

Turkey ‘total defender’ of Iraq’s territorial integrity

Anadolu Agency, 26.10.2017



Ankara will work to protect Iraq’s territorial integrity and political unity, Turkey’s prime minister said.

Speaking at a news conference with his Iraqi counterpart Haider al-Abadi at the Cankaya Palace in the capital Ankara, Binali Yildirim said Turkey was an “absolute defender” of the neighbor country. “Iraqis’ joy is our joy, their sorrow is our sorrow. That’s why Turkey is an absolute defender of Iraq’s territorial integrity and political unity,” said Yildirim. Turkey will continue to support Iraq “unhesitatingly in the wake of the slightest development that harms its unity,” said Yildirim.

In his remarks, the Turkish premier reasserted Turkey’s opposition to last month’s illegitimate independence referendum by northern Iraq’s Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) and praised Baghdad’s stand in the wake of the poll. On economic ties between Turkey and Iraq, Yildirim said: “Turkey is determined to increase investments, and particularly boost the trade volume, alongside cooperating in the reconstruction of terror-stricken areas in Turkey and Iraq.”

Iraq’s Abadi, for his part, said: “We are here with a ministerial delegation in order to enhance relations in all fields, including the economy, trade, oil, energy, water, and also cultural cooperation, in addition to political and security cooperation.” Abadi also praised Turkey’s support for Iraq’s territorial unity and constitutional sovereignty. “The clear support by you [Turkey] and other states for Iraq’s unity and the sovereignty of the constitution and law in Iraq has had a large impact in helping Iraqis end this dangerous case and direction,” he said.

Tension has steadily mounted between Baghdad and the Erbil-based KRG since Sept. 25, when Iraqis in KRG-held areas -- and in several disputed parts of the country -- voted on whether to declare independence from the Iraqi state. According to results announced by the KRG, almost 93 percent of registered voters cast ballots in favor of independence.

The illegitimate referendum was heavily criticized by most regional and international actors, many warning that it would distract from Iraq’s fight against terrorism and further destabilize the region. Last week, government forces moved into several parts of Iraq disputed between Baghdad and the Erbil-based KRG, including the oil-rich Kirkuk province. On Wednesday, the KRG -- fearing military escalation by Baghdad -- offered to “freeze” the results of last month’s unconstitutional poll, halt all military activity, and enter into talks with the central government.

Renewables cooperation to positively impact EU-Turkey

Anadolu Agency, 25.10.2017



Greater cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Turkey in renewable energy and energy efficiency could make a major positive impact on relations, said Brussels-based think tank, Bruegel, in its latest report *A New Strategy for EU-Turkey Energy Cooperation*.

Bruegel stated in the report, penned by fellows at Bruegel - Simone Tagliapietra and Georg Zachmann, that cooperation in energy and climate issues could be a component in fostering a positive agenda for EU-Turkey relations.

The EU scale up the financial support it currently provides within the framework of its climate commitments to Turkey's renewables and energy efficiency. "However, to make a real impact on long-term energy, climate and environmental sustainability and on overall macroeconomic and geopolitical stability, current priorities in the field should be changed, shifting the focus from the highly visible but less impactful gas and electricity sectors to sectors such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, nuclear energy and carbon trading," the report read.

"This would make a stronger case for renewables and efficiency projects in Turkey, particularly as the cost of capital continues to represent a major barrier for these investments," the report said, and added that on carbon markets, the EU can offer institutional support to Turkey; similar to the support it gives to other countries like China. "Only by shifting these priorities can EU-Turkey energy and climate cooperation take on a truly strategic role as part of the EU-Turkey relationship and ultimately become a vibrant component of a much-awaited 'positive agenda,'" it stressed.

The report also noted that Turkey has sought to become a full member of the European integration project since 1987 but, notwithstanding significant advances such as the establishment of the EU-Turkey customs union in 1995, bilateral relations have faced many difficulties, such as Germany and France's open opposition to Turkish EU membership. The report once again reiterated that gas has been at the heart of EU-Turkey energy discussions.

It said Turkey has emerged as a potential key transit country because of its strategic position between Europe and the gas-rich countries of the Caspian and the Middle East and is in a position to significantly contribute to the security of the EU's gas supply. Bruegel explained that EU-Turkey cooperation on renewables and energy efficiency is much less developed than cooperation on gas and electricity, and has mainly consisted of European financial support for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Turkey. The European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Commission have provided support that dates back as far as 1965. "Stronger EU-Turkey cooperation in the field could have a major positive impact, particularly taking into account the still limited development of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Turkey," it said.

Turkey's Enerjisa to be ready for IPO in 2018: CEO

Anadolu Agency, 20.10.2017



Enerjisa, owned by Turkey's Sabanci and German E.ON, will be ready for its initial public offering (IPO) at the beginning of 2018, however, shareholders will have the final say on the timing of the offering, the company's CEO said in Barcelona.

Enerjisa CEO Kivanc Zaimler, speaking to Anadolu Agency in Barcelona where he received a Customer Services Reward at the weekend, explained that the shareholders, who will determine the exact timing of the IPO, want to manage the company in a more effective way. Zaimler clarified that part of the company's strategy was to split it into two companies.

Which occurred during the summer. The company was divided into Enerjisa and Enerjisa Uretim (Production) AS with the former focusing on electricity distribution and retail, and the latter on generation. "We can say that the distribution and retail side will be ready for an IPO at the beginning of 2018. The duty of the company's management is to make the company ready for the processes but the timing of the IPO will be determined by the shareholders," Zaimler announced. He also cited that IPOs would not only reveal the real value of a company but also act as a reference point in the sector. Turkey's Hacı Omer Sabancı Holding and German E.ON each own a 50 percent share in Enerjisa.

Turkey's electricity demand to grow further. Zaimler predicts that Turkey's electricity consumption will rise with the country's ongoing urban transformation. Turkey's domestic electricity consumption is smaller than in European countries and is equivalent to almost a quarter of the U.S.' consumption, he said. "However, immigration is a factor increasing electricity consumption along with urban transformation [in Turkey] that is being carried out in numerous parts of the country, and due to this urban transformation, electricity demand is almost tripling," he said.

Urban transformation refers to the construction of new buildings with state support, including tax advantages, to replace old demolished buildings determined unfit for habitation by the Ministry of the Environment. This process sees a rise in electricity consumption as generally the replacement higher buildings, which house greater numbers, use more power. Zaimler said Enerjisa would invest 5 billion Turkish liras between 2016 and 2020 for electricity distribution to meet demand and to modernize the existing infrastructure.

Since the beginning of 2017, Enerjisa has issued 1.2 billion Turkish liras in bonds on five separate occasions, Zaimler said, adding that the company was the first to issue bonds for investments in the sector. Enerjisa is a leading electricity distributor company in the country that services 14 cities and has around 9 million customers.

Turkey aims to provide jobs to 3.2 million more people

Anadolu Agency, 25.10.2017



The Turkish government aims to provide additional employment for 3.2 million persons in the next three years, Turkey's finance minister said on Tuesday. "The most significant result of our growth target will show itself in employment.

In this context, we aim to create extra employment for 3.2 million citizens in the coming three-year period. Thus, we will increase the number of employed to 31.4 million," Naci Agbal stated while presenting the budget to the parliament's Planning and Budget Commission.

Turkey will reduce its unemployment rate to single digits by increasing employment, Agbal added. The targeted annual unemployment rate at the end of 2017 is 10.8 percent, 10.5 percent for next year, 9.9 percent in 2019 and 9.6 percent in 2020, according to Turkey's Medium Term Program (MTP). The unemployment rate in Turkey was at 10.7 percent in July, i.e. 28.7 million people, according to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat).

Agbal said that the government had increased employment opportunities thanks to a strong growth performance and active labor force policies and incentives. The government has provided employment for 7.9 million people since 2007 and 1.1 million in the past year, Agbal said. He added that Turkey became the top country among OECD members in terms of providing employment with an average increase of 3.4 percent annually between 2007 and 2017. The number of employed people in Turkey increased to 27.2 million in 2016, up from 24.8 million in 2012, according to TurkStat.

Turkish housing sales up in September

CNBC, 24.10.2017



The number of residential properties sold in Turkey soared by 28.8 percent annually in September, the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) said on Tuesday.

A total of 140,298 houses changed hands in September, up by 16.7 percent compared to a month earlier. The number of properties sold to foreigners jumped by 75.2 percent year-on-year in the month, TurkStat revealed. Of the total sales, 2,236 houses were sold to foreigners, with approximately 35.6 percent (or 797 units) of them in Istanbul, the country's largest city by population.

Following Istanbul, the Mediterranean holiday resort city of Antalya came second with sales of 520 properties, while the Aegean province of Aydin, the northwestern province of Bursa and the Black Sea coast province of Trabzon shared third place with sales of 119 properties. Official data showed that Iraqis topped the list of buyers in September with 383 properties. Saudi Arabians followed with 344 units, Kuwaitis 160, Russians 129 and British 103.

KRG proposes to freeze referendum results

Anadolu Agency, 25.10.2017



The Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) on Wednesday proposed to freeze its illegal referendum and halt military operations.

“As Iraq and Kurdistan are faced with grave and dangerous circumstances, we are all obliged to act responsibly in order to prevent further violence and clashes between Iraqi and Peshmerga forces,” the KRG said. “Clashes have caused damage to both sides and could lead to a continuous bloodshed, inflicting pain and social unrest among different components of Iraqi society,” it, highlighting clashes between Iraqi and Peshmerga forces that erupted on Oct. 16.

“Certainly, continued fighting does not lead any side to victory, but it will drive the country towards disarray and chaos, affecting all aspects of life,” it continued. In order to “fulfill our responsibilities and obligations towards the people of Kurdistan and Iraq,” the KRG proposed an immediate ceasefire and halt of all military operations, freezing the results of the referendum conducted in Iraqi Kurdistan and starting an open dialogue with the Iraqi government on the basis of the Constitution. On Sept. 25, Iraqis in KRG-held areas -- and in several areas disputed between Baghdad and Erbil -- voted on whether to declare independence from Iraq.

According to results announced by the KRG, almost 93 percent of registered voters cast ballots in favor of independence. The illegitimate referendum was heavily criticized by most regional and international actors, with many warning it would distract from Iraq’s ongoing fight against terrorism and further destabilize the already volatile region.

Iraqi prime minister to visit Turkey on Wednesday

Anadolu Agency, 23.10.2017



Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi will arrive on Oct. 25 in the capital Ankara, where he would meet his Turkish counterpart Binali Yildirim at Cankaya Palace, a prime ministry official said on Monday.

The premiers would likely to discuss ways to enhance cooperation in order to contribute to regional peace, stability and safety, the official, who asked not to be named due to restrictions on talking to the media, told Anadolu Agency. Another topic in the agenda would be the progress after Erbil-based Kurdish regional government’s illegitimate referendum and the steps that can be taken mutually in this regard.

On Sept. 25, KRG-controlled-held areas -- and several disputed parts of the country -- voted on whether or not to declare independence from the Iraqi state. According to poll results announced by the KRG, almost 93 percent of those who cast ballots voted in favor of independence. The illegitimate referendum faced sharp opposition from most regional and international actors (including the U.S., Turkey and Iran), who warned that the poll would distract from Iraq’s fight against terrorism and further destabilize the region.

Iraq sends reinforcements to Kirkuk oil fields

Anadolu Agency, 23.10.2017

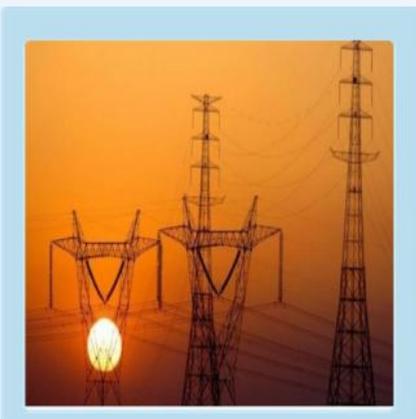


The Iraqi government on Sunday sent reinforcements to Kirkuk in order to secure oil facilities in the northern city, according to a local police officer.

“Large police troops were dispatched to Kirkuk oil fields as part of a plan to secure oil facilities there,” Capt. Hamed al-Obaidi told Anadolu Agency. Al-Obaidi said the Iraqi army will leave the task of securing the oil fields in Kirkuk to the police. Last week, Iraqi forces seized control of the oil fields in Kirkuk from the Kurdish Peshmerga forces, which took control of the disputed province in 2014. The move came amid tension between Baghdad and the KRG.

Eni to invest €4 billion for industrial transformation

Anadolu Agency, 24.10.2017



Eni will build on the €15 billion it has spent over the last three years to enhance the company’s business by investing some \$21 billion further in the next four years, \$4 billion of which will be designated for industrial transformation, the company announced.

From 2009 to 2016, Eni invested around €1.5 billion in research, enabling the company to develop more than 300 proprietary technologies and over 6,000 patents. The company stated that the future transformation will affect all sectors of the company’s business, not only refining, but also in the upstream and chemicals sector.

Also it will affect for power generation and site remediation. The transformation also aims to focus on low-carbon technologies and to encourage more efficient use of energy, without reducing employment. Additionally, the company aims to investing in technology and skills. “Eni’s transformation process has already produced significant results in terms of energy efficiency and the development of resources, enabling the company to be competitive and to continue to create long-term value,” the company said.

Russia hopes German president's visit will boost ties

Anadolu Agency, 26.10.2017



German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier's current visit to Moscow will strengthen ties, President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday.

"I hope that your visit will help us to contribute to the development of our bilateral relations and to strengthening our interstate relations," Putin was quoted as saying by Russia's official TASS news agency. Steinmeier said "alienation" in recent years between Germany and Russia should be overcome. "For this we need to continue the dialogue.

We need long-term intentions on both sides to overcome the crisis," Steinmeier said, according to TASS. Steinmeier was on a working visit in Moscow at the invitation of Putin. The leaders are expected to discuss bilateral relations and international developments, particularly the situation in Syria, as well as a settlement of the Ukrainian crisis.

3 years later, Spain sends new ambassador to Libya

Anadolu Agency, 24.10.2017



Three years after the closure of Spain's Embassy in the conflict-torn country, the head of the Presidential Council of Libya's UN-backed unity government approved a new Spanish ambassador to Libya.

According to a statement by his office, Fayez al-Sarraj received the diplomatic credentials of Francisco de Miguel, Spain's new ambassador, in a ceremony attended by the unity government's foreign minister, Mohamed Siala. Years after the closure and departure of the embassy staff, Spain plans to reopen its embassy in the capital Tripoli soon.

In 2014, along with all foreign missions operating there, Spain withdrew its Libyan diplomatic mission immediately after the outbreak of armed battles between different factions.

Irish gov. to be sued in landmark climate change case

Anadolu Agency, 24.10.2017



Friends of the Irish Environment (FIE), a network of environmentalist citizens, announced that the network has launched a legal challenge against the Irish Government's failure to take the required action to avert dangerous climate change.

FIE has filed a lawsuit against the Government of Ireland and Ireland's Attorney General. "The case is the first of its kind in the country," FIE underlined. The group also stated that the legal challenge claims that the Irish National Mitigation Plan regarding in the government's climate change policy.

It does not do enough to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions and is a violation of Ireland's Climate Act, the Irish Constitution and human rights obligations. FIE on Tuesday obtained permission from the High Court to proceed with its lawsuit. The government has three weeks to file its reply, although this may take much longer, and the case should then be heard in 2018. They also claim that the plan falls far short of the steps required by the Paris Agreement on climate change. Previously, in global climate change litigation, 900 Dutch citizens filed a case against the Dutch government and currently 21 young children are taking on the U.S. government for global warming.

US state secretary meets Saudi king in Riyadh

Anadolu Agency, 23.10.2017



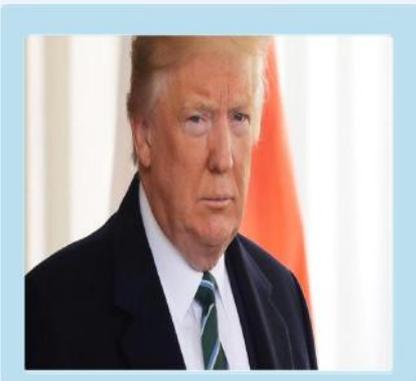
Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz on Sunday held talks with U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in the Capital Riyadh. The talks tackled bilateral relations and regional developments, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

Tillerson arrived in Riyadh on Saturday for the first leg of a regional tour that will also take him to Qatar. The top American diplomat is expected to take part in the first coordination meeting between Iraq and Saudi Arabia later on Sunday.

This is Tillerson's second visit to Saudi Arabia and Qatar in four months as part of efforts to solve the Gulf crisis that broke out after Riyadh, along with Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, cut diplomatic ties with Doha, accusing it of supporting terrorism.

US will seek 'good faith' agreements with China: Commerce Secretary Ross

Reuters, 25.10.2017



President Donald Trump will seek “tangible” agreements on trade with China when he visits the country next month, but results on key issues such as market access may take longer, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said.

Ross said the United States is seeking “immediate” results, like the deals American companies GE and Boeing Co struck in Saudi Arabia in May, as “a sign of good faith.” But, speaking at the Paley International Council Summit in New York, Ross said intellectual property rights and tariffs are more complex and will take a longer time to negotiate.

Trump administration efforts on trade continue on multiple fronts, with U.S. negotiators grappling with Canada and Mexico on updating the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Trump will head to Asia from Nov. 3 to 14 to visit Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam and the Philippines for talks that will include discussions on trade.

Ross on Wednesday described Chinese President Xi Jinping as a “Mao-like” figure after a week-long Communist Party conclave after which the country unveiled on Wednesday a new leadership line-up without naming a clear successor. The Trump administration is seeking agreements with China on market access, respect for intellectual property rights and to resolve what he said is an imbalance in tariffs on automobiles, among other issues, according to Ross.

Despite Trump's fierce criticism of China's trade practices during the presidential campaign, he has mostly held off on any major trade action while his administration works with Beijing on issues including conflict with North Korea. On NAFTA, Ross said “we're just now getting to the really hard issues,” and said talks would likely continue past an initial year-end deadline, to March. He did not outline which issues were sticking points. Trump, who blamed NAFTA for shifting U.S. manufacturing jobs to Mexico during his election campaign last year, has repeatedly vowed to scrap the treaty unless it can be renegotiated on terms more favorable to the United States.

US House passes budget map, paving way for tax reform

Anadolu Agency, 27.10.2017



The House of Representatives approved a \$4 trillion budget resolution for fiscal year 2018 that could help Republicans pass a tax reform proposal later this year.

By a narrow 216 - 212 vote, the bill includes a reconciliation process that will enable the Senate to pass President Donald Trump's tax legislation with a simple majority of 51 votes instead of 60 that would need support from Democrats. But the legislation that previously passed in the Senate and aims to cut taxes by \$1.5 trillion in the next decade faced opposition in the Republican-controlled chamber.

Twenty Republican lawmakers voted against the measure, including five representatives from New York and three from New Jersey -- the states whose middle-class residents are expected to be most negatively affected by the proposed tax plan. "We must provide middle class tax relief and lower the burdens on job-creating small businesses," New York congressman John J. Faso said in a statement on his personal website. "I could not, however, vote in support of a budget resolution that singled out for elimination the ability of New York families to deduct state and local taxes."

Congressman Leonard Lance of New Jersey released a similar statement. "I opposed the budget blueprint today because the state and local tax deduction was specifically singled out for elimination under the proposal ... I could not support a budget blueprint with such language," he said on his website. The tax reform legislation is expected to be formally introduced next week, while a draft is scheduled for early next month. The Trump administration seeks to lower corporate taxes to make American companies more competitive in the global economy, but lower taxes could mean a higher national debt that currently stands above \$20 trillion.

Trump says Russia is hurting US efforts on North Korea nuclear issue

Reuters, 26.10.2017



President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that Russia was hurting U.S. efforts to rid North Korea of nuclear weapons while China had been helpful. In an interview with Fox Business Network, Trump said it would be easier to resolve the North Korea nuclear issue if the United States had a better relationship with Russia.

“China is helping us and maybe Russia’s going through the other way and hurting what we’re getting,” Trump said of the North Korea situation. A series of weapons tests by North Korea and a string of increasingly bellicose exchanges.

This is between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un have ratcheted up tensions. Trump has pressed China to help rein in North Korea’s nuclear program. China, North Korea’s sole major ally, accounts for more than 90 percent of trade with the isolated country. Trump said in a tweet that he spoke with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday and the conversation included North Korea. U.S.-Russia relations have been strained over allegations Russia meddled in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, Moscow’s annexation of Crimea from Ukraine and its backing of the Syrian government. “I think we could have a good relationship” with Russia, Trump said. “I think that North Korean situation would be easier settled.” Trump said during last year’s campaign he hoped to improve relations with Moscow.

European markets lower as investors monitor earnings, ECB meeting

CNBC, 25.10.2017



Markets in Europe were lower morning as investors digested earnings reports and waited to hear from European Central Bank (ECB) President Mario Draghi.

The pan-European Stoxx 600 was 0.15 percent lower with most sectors moving into negative territory. Technology stocks were the worst-performers in early trade dragged down by Nokia. The firm fell 13 percent in early deals after reporting sales and network profit below consensus. Banking stocks were also among the biggest losers after lower-than-expected results in the sector.

Deutsche Bank posted a better-than-anticipated surge in net income. Net income stood at 649 million euros (\$768 million) for the third quarter. But shares were down more than 1 percent as the German lender remained less attractive than its international peers. The British bank Barclays reported a worse than expected profit before tax for the third quarter. The lender dropped more than 4.5 percent in early deals. In other sectors, Orange saw third-quarter revenue falling even though it broke record sales growth in France. The stock was up 1.3 percent.

Debenhams said its full-year pretax profit was down by 16.6 percent on Thursday. The retailer said however it was well prepared for the Christmas period. Bayer dropped 2.4 percent after announcing a 4 percent increase in quarterly underlying core earnings on growth in pharma sales, but cautioned against a weak consumer health care business. ABB reported earnings slightly above expectations, saying its focus on robots for the food and beverage industry has paid off. It was up by 2 percent.

Nigeria puts the brakes on W. African single currency

Anadolu Agency, 25.10.2017



Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari Tuesday dashed hopes of introducing a single currency by 2020 in certain countries of West Africa citing a lack of “economic fundamentals”.

Buhari was in the Nigerien capital of Niamey for a high level Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) meeting along with Presidents Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana, Ivory Coast’s Alassane Ouattara, Faure Gnassingbe of Togo and host President Mahamadou Issoufou.

“President Buhari said the necessary economic fundamentals among countries continue to differ over the years, making it more difficult to pull through with the project by 2020,” a government statement said. Nigeria represents the region’s biggest economy. Buhari added that “domestic issues in ECOWAS member countries relating to their constitutions and dependence on aids continue to affect the framework for implementing the single currency in the sub-region”.

“Nigeria advises that we proceed cautiously with the integration agenda, taking into consideration the above concerns and the lessons currently unfolding in the European Union. To that end, Nigeria will caution against any position that pushes for a fast-track approach to monetary union, while neglecting fundamentals and other pertinent issues,” added the statement. The idea of a single ECOWAS currency has been discussed for nearly 20 years. The year 2020 has been mentioned as a target date for its implementation.

Taiwanese firms seek more solar trade with Turkey

Anadolu Agency, 20.09.2017



Taiwanese photovoltaic companies that have attended the second day of the PV Taiwan exhibition on Thursday organized by Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), have expressed their ambition to expand research and development and trade with Turkey.

The Taiwan Solar Energy Corporation or TSEC is a solar panel cell manufacturing company with customers worldwide that has already made inroads to the competitive Turkish solar panel market. Robin P.Y. Chien told that the company is focusing on the production of high quality solar cells and modules.

Also it provides a service for power plant installation, operation and management. The company is in contact with seven companies in Turkey, he said. "We have had one and a half years of contact with Turkish companies. We sell solar energy cells to these customers that have the module capacity in Turkey," he explained. The company hopes to strengthen its partnership with Turkey by building on solar trade in the country, he said. The Brave C&H Supply Co. Ltd produces high-tech screens for solar cells and has set up multiple automated production lines in factories across Taiwan, Suzhou and Chengdu.

"Their screens are excellently applied to ultra-precision printing needs for solar cells, touch panels, electronic components, and printed circuit boards alike," Morice Lin, vice president of the company during the PV Taiwan exhibition. "Apart from the transfer of screen technology overseas while providing an unique total solution, Brave actively builds international marketing channels and professional business networks," he explained. Part of this networking has extended to Turkey and he said that discussions are currently taking place with a Turkish university for long-term research and development.

He said the Center for Solar Energy Research and Applications (GUNAM) of the Middle East Technical University in Turkey use their own products for testing, but GUNAM wants to test more of the Brave C&H company's products for experimental purposes. Several Taiwan-based research, development and production companies introduced their products to global solar energy customers including the Hamak Solar firm. One of the first photovoltaic system companies in Taiwan, Hamak Solar Company, launched its new Solar Motor Drive product.

The Research and Development and Product Engineer of the Hamak Solar firm, Dylan Wu, told Anadolu Agency that the Solar Motor Drive is suitable for use in off grid solar fields like agricultural and rural areas as well as in cooling systems in factories. The 1.5 kilowatt device, which plans to retail for around \$550, uses electricity generated from photovoltaics and acts as a water pump, water aerator, factory blower and for cooling systems. “The device gives maximum torque even at minimum sunlight and in addition the device does not need any battery,” he explained.

Chinese party official says Beijing will not set target to double GDP from 2021

Reuters, 26.10.2017



China will not set a target to double gross domestic product (GDP) from 2021, a senior Communist Party official said on Thursday, as top leaders look to high-quality growth in the long term.

Yang Weimin, vice minister of the Office of the Central Leading Group on Financial and Economic Affairs, told a news conference the government will not solely pursue economic growth and will emphasize the quality of its growth. China aims to double GDP and per capita income by 2020 from 2010 levels, a target set in 2012, and growth is on track.

A shift away from the kinds of ambitious long-term growth targets Chinese policymakers have set around key leadership summits would be a departure from past practice and mark a new strategy for longer-term economic development. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and many economists have urged Beijing to lower or do away with official growth targets altogether to reduce the country’s reliance on debt-fueled stimulus and get higher quality growth.

In the opening speech of a key twice-a-decade Communist Party Congress this week, President Xi Jinping said China would deepen economic and financial reforms and further open its markets to foreign investors as it looks to move from high-speed to high-quality growth. Xi set bold long-term goals for China’s development, envisioning it as a modern socialist country by 2035, and a modern socialist “strong power” with leading influence on the world stage by 2050.

However, this week’s congress did not include any public announcements about new economic growth targets. Some analysts believe the government will continue to set annual growth targets through to 2020. Yang said China will focus on preventing “major risks” in the economy, fighting poverty and pollution by 2020, and that the party congress will no longer set a target to double GDP from 2021.

“The main contradiction of our society has changed and our country’s economic development has been shifted to high-quality growth from high-speed growth,” Yang said. “We will not solely pursue economic growth, but will achieve growth by enhancing quality, efficiency and changing growth drivers.” China’s economy will likely grow 6.8 percent in 2017, topping the state target and accelerating for the first time in seven years, a Reuters poll showed, as Beijing walks a tightrope by containing debt and property risks without stunting economic growth. China’s growth target for this year is around 6.5 percent and some analysts expect the government to keep the target in 2018.

UK GDP comes in at 0.4% for third quarter, beating estimates

CNBC, 25.10.2017



The U.K. economy grew by 0.4 percent in the third quarter of this year, beating market estimates, and potentially boosting the chances of a rate hike by the Bank of England. This was a rise of 1.5 percent year-on-year, according to the Office for National Statistics, with services and manufacturing being the main drivers of growth, as well as the auto sector.

In the second quarter, the U.K.’s gross domestic product (GDP) rose 0.3 percent (quarter-on-quarter) in the three-month period. Prior to the release, sterling was trading very slightly down against the U.S. dollar at \$1.312.

However, it quickly turned higher on the data. It was trading at 1.3168 against the greenback at 10:00 a.m. London time. The better-than-expected data suggests that the Bank of England’s anticipated move to raise interest rates to 0.5 percent in November remains on course. The U.K. central bank dropped the figure to 0.25 percent in the wake of the U.K.’s vote to exit the European Union in June 2016.

“We’re at a point now where no rate hike on November 2 could disappoint the markets and lead to a drop in the value of the pound,” said Danielle Haralambous, U.K. analyst at the Economist Intelligence Unit, following the data release. “If there is a rate hike, we believe it will be a one-off, returning the policy rate to 0.5 percent,” she added. However, despite coming in higher than expected, “growth was not particularly broad based,” warned Ruth Gregory, U.K. economist at Capital Economics. Gregory pointed out that construction output fell by 0.7 percent quarter-on-quarter, though industrial production was up by a “strong” 1 percent.

According to Gregory, the U.K. economy looks set to grow by roughly 1.6 percent this year, and approximately 2 percent in 2018. Peter Dixon, economist at Commerzbank, said that the U.K. economy is “running around 0.5 percent per year more slowly than prior to the EU referendum.” He added that it was unclear “whether this is a permanent downward shift in growth or whether it reflects cyclical issues.”



Announcements & Reports

The missing pieces of the euro architecture

Source : Bruegel
Weblink : <http://bruegel.org/2017/10/the-missing-pieces-of-the-euro-architecture/>

Trends in Extremist Violence and Terrorism in Europe through End-2016

Source : CSIS
Weblink : <https://www.csis.org/analysis/trends-extremist-violence-and-terrorism-europe-through-end-2016>

Actualising East: India in a Multipolar Asia

Source : Brookings
Weblink : <https://www.brookings.edu/research/actualising-east-india-in-a-multipolar-asia/>

Upcoming Events

13th Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF)

Date : 26 December 2017
Place : Beijing - China
Website : <http://bruegel.org/events/13th-asia-europe-economic-forum/>

Emerging Markets and Europe: Time for Different Relationships?

Date : 27 December 2017
Place : Brussels - Belgium
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/524-emerging-markets-and-europe-time-for-different-relationships/>

What future for Europe's Social Models?

Date : 27 December 2017
Place : Brussels - Belgium
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/526-what-future-for-europes-social-models/>



Challenges for Growth in Europe

Date : 27 December 2017
Place : Brussels - Belgium
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/521-challenges-for-growth-in-europe/>

Global Governance of Public Goods: Asian and European Perspectives

Date : 28 December 2017
Place : Paris - France
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/529-global-governance-of-public-goods-asian-and-european-perspectives/>

The Future of the Welfare State

Date : 28 December 2017
Place : Berlin - Germany
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/541-the-future-of-the-welfare-state/>

Vision Europe Summit 2016

Date : 28 December 2017
Place : Lisbon - Portugal
Website : <http://bruegel.org/events/vision-europe-summit-2016/>