

News Flash



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Economic News

'World cocoa supply surplus to grow in 2019'

The global cocoa market will see a supply surplus of 71,900 tonnes in the current 2018/19 year, on the back of last year's smaller surplus, Connecticut-based brokerage JSG Commodities said on Thursday. That follows a surplus of 21,620 tonnes last year reported by the International Cocoa Organization. World production is expected to be 4.81m tonnes in the current crop year that began Oct. 1, higher than last year's 4.64m tonnes, said Eric Bergman, vice president at JSG Commodities in Norwalk. Total grindings in 2018/19 are expected to be 4.69m tonnes, Bergman said. Top producer Ivory Coast is about harvesting what is expected to be a record-large crop. Output from second-largest producer Ghana appears to be stagnating, but growing production from Ecuador is helping to offset the effects of that stagnation, Bergman said. Source: Citibusinessnews.com

'Students Loan Trust releases GHS7m for applicants'

The Students Loan Trust has released about GHS 7m to give out as loans to students of tertiary institutions who have requested for loans from the trust. Out of the amount, GHS 3m has been used to settle outstanding arrears owed about 32,000 students for the 2017/18 academic year. The remaining GHS 4m constitutes part payment made to about 3,247 applicants for the 2018/19 academic year. This is expected to cushion students who applied for the loans to enable them to settle their fees in school and meet other academic commitments. The Head of the Public Affairs Unit of the trust, Mr George Laing, said students received between GHS1, 500 and GHS 3,000 depending on their request, "so on the average they received about GHS 2,550." He said the trust had a relationship with about 119 tertiary institutions in the country. Source: Myjoyonline.com

'ECG's losses swell to GHS 1.15bn in 6 months ahead of Meralco 'takeover'

Despite budgeting to record a loss of GHS 136.45m in the first six months of this year, the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) suffered a net loss of GHS1.15bn as of June 2018. This is largely due to foreign exchange losses resulting from the cedi depreciation, lower tariffs and strong growth in inefficiencies. The half-year loss was more than double the loss the company posted in the whole of 2017. Last year, ECG recorded a loss of GHS 521.95m – the highest since 2014, according to its statement of comprehensive income for the period ending June 30, 2018. Documents released shows that ECG's losses for 2017 and the first half of this year are a reversal of a GHS 725.55m profit that it enjoyed in 2016. The company's Managing Director, Samuel Boakye-Appiah, is reported to have told the Parliament's Select Committee on Mines and Energy that the firm's losses could deteriorate further to over GHS 2bn by December 2018.

Source: Myjoyonline.com

Corporate News

'Kantanka says 13k orders secured from 3 African countries'

Kantanka Auto, Ghana's first domestic car manufacturing company, says it has secured 13, 000 orders from three African countries to help grow the local industry. The company, a unit of Kantanka Group, had its first production models built under its own badge and hit the streets in 2016. Kwadwo Safo Jnr, CEO of Kantanka Automobile, showed off his 'Kantanka Mensah' at the Starrfm's maiden program 'Time with the CEO' last month and revealed that the company has so far received over 13,000 orders from three different African countries in West Africa. According to him, this has been the highest order since the start of production and he hoped it will follow the same trend in the subsequent years. Source: Myjoyonline.com

'AngloGold Ashanti increases gold production to surpass 250,000 oz per annum'

AngloGold Ashanti Iduapriem will for the first time in its history increase its gold production for 2018 to surpass a 250,000 oz per annum. This compares favourably to the actual production of 214,000 oz and 228,000 oz for 2016 and 2017 respectively. The mine has ambitious yet realistic plans to increase production to above 270,000 ounces for the 2019 financial year. Speaking on the sidelines of the 4th Ghana Chamber of Mines Industry Awards held recently in Accra, Jasper Musadaidzwa, Managing Director of AngloGold Ashanti Iduapriem Limited said the company had two years ago, set itself the goal to cross the quarter-million ounces mark by 2018. "This was our main goal. We were hopeful that the way we are inclusive in working with our people, the manner in which we plan our business, innovate and implement our strategies would eventually carry us across the line," he said. Source: Myjoyonline.com

Currency - Interbank	Rate 05 Dec	Rate 06 Dec	%Change
USD/GHS	4.8080	4.8095	-0.03
GBP/GHS	6.1206	6.1442	-0.38
EUR/GHS	5.4476	5.4834	-0.65
CHF/GHS	4.8139	4.8549	-0.85
CNY/GHS	0.7011	0.7001	0.14
ZAR/GHS	0.3466	0.3395	2.09

The cedi depreciated against all the major trading currencies.