

News Flash



Economic News

'Cedi depreciation to push fuel prices to 'all time high' -IES'

The Institute of Energy Security is predicting that prices of fuel will reach an all-time high within the second pricing window in March. The IES says fuel prices could go up by 2.5%. This, they attribute to the depreciating rate of the cedi. The Executive Director of the Institute for Energy Security (IES) Paa Kwasi Anamoah Sakyi says prices will go up at the pumps soon. "Our decision is informed by the fact that already the OMC's have depressed margins, they have complained severally. If you look at the price build up and you use the ex-refinery price given to them by the BDC's to do the computation, you realize that the price at which they are charging today, GHS 5.17 on average term is something that makes them break even," he explained. He pointed out that smaller OMCs are the worse hit since they do not have what it takes to achieve economies of scale.

Source: Myjoyonline.com

'Gov't in talks with investors to revive Aveyime Rice Factory'

The government is in talks with some private investors to revive the abandoned Aveyime Rice Factory. According to the Trade Ministry, deliberations are far advanced with a private company called Flamingo to get the factory working in some three months' time. The most recent report confirmed that nothing has changed under a new administration. Most of the machines at the site have been left to rot, as workers have long been sent home. The Ministry says the site is one of the projects earmarked under the one district one factory programme by the government as part of plans to revamp some abandoned factories. Even though there has not been any agreement yet, serious deliberations are said to be ongoing to ensure that the country goes back to the commercialization of rice. While the country spends so much importing rice, one project that could turn the fortunes of the country around is the Aveyime Rice Factory if it is made operational.

Source: Myjoyonline.com

'U.S. Ambassador inaugurates Shea Butter Processing Center to support women'

U.S. Ambassador to Ghana Stephanie S. Sullivan led a ribbon cutting and inaugurated a shea butter processing facility that will support increased economic opportunities for 600 women who collect and process shea nuts. "The United States supports key projects like this to promote economic growth and job creation in Ghana so that young people may build a future of prosperity here at home for the benefit of all citizens and their communities," said Ambassador Sullivan. The U.S. government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), supported the construction of the processing facility and warehouse located in Gizaagunda, northern Ghana. Source: Graphic.com

Corporate News

'World Bank, AfDB commit USD 47bn to African climate finance'

The World Bank and the African Development Bank will together commit more than USD 47bn by 2025 to help African countries tackle the effects of climate change, the banks said on Thursday. Many countries on the continent, especially those on the coast, are among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change such as rising sea levels and coral reef deterioration. Others are prone to more frequent droughts and floods. The World Bank said in a statement it had pledged USD 22.5bn for 2021-2025, while AfDB said it had committed USD 25bn to climate finance between 2020 and 2025. AfDB said the funds would be used to increase investment in renewable energy projects. "The share of our portfolio that was in renewable energy generation between 2013 and 2015 was 59% but from 2015 to 2018 we moved from that to 95%," AfDB president Akinwumi Adesina said.

Source: Citibusinessnews.com

'Parliament approves GHS 2bn request to save five local banks'

Parliament Thursday approved the issuance of a Sovereign Guarantee of up to GHS2 billion in favour of Ghana Amalgamated Trust (GAT) Limited. GAT, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) backed by the government, was incorporated in December 2018 to raise up to GHS 2bn and invest in five indigenous banks. The aim is to rescue the five indigenous commercial banks that failed to meet the BoG's minimum capital requirement of GHS 400m. The beneficiary banks are the state-owned ADB Bank and National Investment Bank (NIB). The rest are Universal Merchant Bank (UMB), Prudential Bank and OmniBank, which is merging with Sahel Sahara Bank. Source: Citibusinessnews.com

Currency - Interbank	Rate 13 Mar	Rate 14 Mar	%Change
USD/GHS	5.2400	5.2400	0.00
GBP/GHS	6.9079	6.9545	-0.67
EUR/GHS	5.9239	5.9233	0.01
CHF/GHS	5.2082	5.2190	-0.21
CNY/GHS	0.7809	0.7804	0.07
ZAR/GHS	0.3635	0.3613	0.61

The Cedi stabilised against the U.S dollar. However it appreciated against the Euro and depreciated against the British Pound.