



DOMESTIC NEWS

The Kenya shilling held firm on Wednesday but dollar demand from the fuel sector continued to exert downward pressure on the local unit. Commercial banks quoted the shillings at 115.70/90.

In other local news on commodities, the Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) postponed this week's trading on the shortage of supplies. The auction, which is set to break for a month starting May, has been characterised by a shortage of quality beans for trading in the last couple of weeks. The main auction is normally conducted on Tuesday every week, but NCE had to skip this week as there were no supplies in the market. The main crop season that has been sustaining the market since last year November has come to an end, forcing the auction to take a break early as it awaits the crop from eastern and western parts of the country when it resumes in June.

Indicative Forex Rates

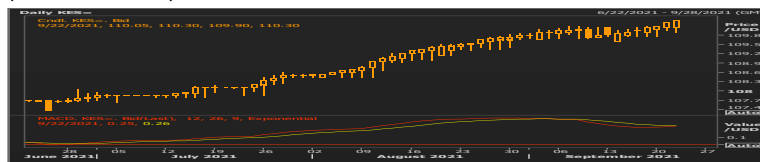
	Buy Cash	Sell Cash	Buy TT	Sell TT
USD/KES	112.30	119.30	113.80	118.80
GBP/KES	140.96	148.96	140.66	149.36
EUR/KES	117.40	125.30	118.20	125.70
AED/KES	30.03	33.03	28.37	33.37

Money Rates	Market	Current	Previous	Change
Interbank Rate		4.720%	4.680%	0.020
91-Day T-bill		7.448%	7.424%	0.024
182-Day T-Bill		8.373%	8.315%	0.058
364-Day T-Bill		9.755%	9.745%	0.010
Inflation		5.560%	5.080%	0.480
CBR RATE		7.000%	7.000%	0.000

Source; Central Bank of Kenya)

LIBOR Rates	USD	JPY	GBP
6 Months	1.82771	0.03255	1.65320
12 months	2.54629	-	-

(Source: Reuters)



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The dollar was up on Thursday morning in Asia, nearing heights not seen in two decades. A brewing energy crisis in Europe slammed the euro, and investors also digested the Bank of Japan's latest policy decision. The U.S. Dollar Index that tracks the greenback against a basket of other currencies gained 0.42% to 103.395 by 11:48 AM ET (3:48 AM GMT). The index hit a five-year high of 103.28 and a further push above 103.82 would see it hit levels not seen since late 2002.

On the other hand, the euro was stuck at \$1.0553 after hitting a five-year low of \$1.0515 on Wednesday. It has fallen 4.6% in April to date and is headed for its worst month since early 2015. The single currency is now dangerously close to huge chart support levels stretching from \$1.0500 down to 2017's low of \$1.0344. A break could hit lows not seen since 2002 and risk a damaging decline below parity.

In the commodities market, Oil prices dropped on Thursday as investors remained cautious about dwindling fuel demand in China, the world's biggest oil importer, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Brent crude futures fell \$1.48, or 1.41%, to \$103.84 a barrel by 0426 GMT. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures slipped \$1.39, or 1.36%, to \$100.63 a barrel.

Both contracts settled over 30 cents higher in the previous session due to ongoing concerns about tight worldwide supply, and another drawdown in U.S. distillate and gasoline stocks.

Gold was down on Thursday morning in Asia, falling to a two-month low. A stronger dollar hurt demand for the yellow metal, and an imminent U.S. interest rate hike also dampened sentiment for the safe-have asset.

Gold futures gained 0.56% to \$1,878.10 by 12:57 AM ET (4:57 AM GMT) after hitting their lowest since Feb. 24 earlier in the session. The dollar, which normally moves inversely to gold, was up on Thursday and hit a five-year high of 103.28. A further push above 103.82 would see it to levels not seen since late 2002.

Indicative Profit Rates on Deposits		
	Amounts > 10 million	Amounts >100,000
	KES	USD
2 Weeks	6.55%	0.35%
1 Month	6.75%	0.55%
3 Months	7.00%	0.80%
6 Months	7.50%	1.25%
1 year	8.00%	1.75%

Indicative Cross Rates		
	Bid	Offer
EUR/USD	1.0080	1.1410
GBP/USD	1.2075	1.3380
USD/AED	3.6140	3.6945
USD/JPY	123.50	132.00