

Market Highlights

- The U.S dollar gained momentum following a slew of comments from the Federal Reserve's policymakers, supporting a restrictive monetary policy stance for as long as inflation continues to surprise on the upside. The greenback was also supported by yesterday's data whereby weekly Jobless Claims came in at 212K, lower than the 215K expected. On the other hand, the euro was undermined after major ECB policymaker, Villeroy de Galhau who suggested that the ECB should cut rates in June to avoid falling behind the inflation curve.
- The Pound sterling lost ground against the U.S dollar on growing expectations that the Bank of England might cut rates before the Federal Reserve, thus exerting selling pressure on the GBP. Investors are now awaiting the UK March retail sales data scheduled today.
- The Australian dollar tumbled as soft domestic jobs data prompted the Central Bank to suggest that rates are unlikely to be raised further as it requires greater confidence in the inflation outlook before contemplating the possibility of rate cuts.
- The South African rand weakened, taking its cues from a stronger greenback in the absence of local economic data releases.
- The Japanese yen was little changed against the U.S dollar, trading around the 154.00 mark, despite hawkish comments from Bank of Japan's Governor Ueda stating that the Central Bank stands ready to consider raising interest rates again if significant declines in the Yen substantially boost inflation. In addition, Japan's National Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March climbed 2.7% YoY, compared to a 2.8% uptick in February, according to the latest data released by the Japan Statistics Bureau this morning.
- Gold prices surged after Israel's retaliatory strikes on Iran sparked a global flight to safe-haven assets and rushed flows into the ultimate safe-haven bullion.

Term of the Day: Greenmail

Greenmail is the practice of buying enough shares in a company to threaten a hostile takeover so that the target company will instead repurchase its shares at a premium. Regarding mergers and acquisitions, the company makes a greenmail payment as a defensive measure to stop the takeover bid. The target company must repurchase the stock at a substantial premium to thwart the takeover, which results in a considerable profit for the greenmailer.

Source: Investopedia

Local Securities:

The Bank of Mauritius has accepted the following bid yesterday:

| Tenor | BOM/GOM | Amount (Mio) | Yield | Settlement |
|-------|---------|--------------|-------|------------|
| 364-D | GOM | 2,200.00 | 4.05% | 18-Apr-24 |

Govt of Mauritius Securities

| Date | Tbills/Govt Bonds | Actual | Previous |
|-----------|-------------------|--------|----------|
| 12-Apr-24 | 7 - Day | 4.50% | 4.50% |
| 12-Apr-24 | 91 - Day | 3.18% | 3.20% |
| 12-Apr-24 | 182 - Day | 3.77% | 3.69% |
| 18-Apr-24 | 364 - Day | 4.05% | 3.85% |
| 9-Feb-24 | 2-Year | 3.91% | 3.88% |
| 22-Mar-24 | 3 -Year | 4.92% | 4.71% |
| 11-Mar-24 | 5 - Year | 5.22% | 4.45% |
| 23-Feb-24 | 7 - Year | 5.29% | 4.73% |
| 17-Apr-24 | 10 - Year | 5.68% | 4.41% |
| 24-Jan-24 | 15 - Year | 5.20% | 4.46% |
| 22-Dec-23 | 20 - Year | 5.69% | 5.71% |

Today Economic Calendar:

| Country | Indicators | Poll | Prior |
|----------|--------------------------------|------|--------|
| 10:00 UK | Retail Sales ex Fuel YoY (Mar) | | -0.50% |
| 10:00 UK | Retail Sales YoY (Mar) | | -0.40% |
| 18:15 UK | BoE Breeden Speech | | |
| 18:15 UK | BoE Ramsden Speech | | |
| 18:30 US | Feb Goolsbee Speech | | |

Market Currency

| Currency | Actual | Previous |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| EUR - USD | 1.0632 | 1.0680 |
| GBP - USD | 1.2415 | 1.2473 |
| USD - JPY | 154.41 | 154.28 |
| USD - ZAR | 19.2505 | 18.9955 |
| USD - MUR | 46.940 | 46.900 |
| EUR - MUR | 50.399 | 50.558 |
| GBP - MUR | 58.812 | 58.983 |
| ZAR - MUR | 2.5040 | 2.5340 |

Equities Market

| Indices | Last | Previous | % Change |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| DOW JONES | 37,775.38 | 37,753.31 | 0.06% |
| FTSE | 7,877.05 | 7,847.99 | 0.37% |
| NIKKEI | 37,170.10 | 37,812.31 | -1.70% |
| NASDAQ | 15,601.50 | 15,683.37 | -0.52% |
| SEM | 2,152.27 | 2,146.63 | 0.26% |

We will be pleased to assist you, should you require any further information:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| anju.benimadhu@bankone.mu | 2029322 |
| nawsheen.nunkoo@bankone.mu | 2029321 |
| raymode.yasine@bankone.mu | 2029414 |
| ariana.dawoo@bankone.mu | 2029460 |

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