INTERNATIONAL NEW.

• Spot gold was up 0.8% at \$2,379.21 per ounce, as of 0713 GMT, after hitting an all-time high of \$2,431.29 last Friday. U.S. gold futures edged 0.2% higher to \$2,394.10.

LOCAL NEWS

 The Central Bank of Nigeria has clarified reasons for the significant decline in the nation's foreign exchange reserves, asserting that it wasn't primarily aimed at defending the naira, as commonly believed, but rather to partially repay debts owed to creditors.

Nigerian newspapers, Reuters, and Bloomberg

MARKET UPDATES.

- The bears remained dominant in the market as the liquidity in the system continued to deteriorate. Several sell interests remained across the curve at elevated rates. However, only a few trades were seen to pass through the session in paltry volumes. Average benchmark rates remained elevated and climbed further by an estimated 60bps. In the absence of any major events, we expect the bearish sentiments to persist in the interim.
- The session witnessed a notable decline in activities owing largely to the tightness of the system's liquidity as well as scarcity in supply of bonds. Several trades were recorded majorly on the 34s as players continued to take profit on their winnings while minimal activities were seen on other tenors due to shortage in supply. Average benchmark rates remained unchanged while the 34s inched marginally higher by an estimated 10bps. Without any significant changes, we expect the bearish sentiment to persist in the interim.
- System liquidity opened around NGN665.4billion negative because of funding activities in the interbank market (Opening balances were N131.76bn positive SLF and Term Repo Facilities (TRF) were N796.44bn and Nil, while SDF was N9.93bn. OMO repayment NGN 17bn). With the settlement of about NGN626.81bn successful bond auction bids, interbank rate is expected to rise above 35%. We expect rates to continue to trade in tandem with system liquidity.
- NAFEX fixings rate closed at \$/N1128.83, an appreciation of N14.12 kobo (-1.24%) from where it closed as of 16th of April which was \$/ N1142.95. The interbank trading session was active today with a total volume of \$152.23m during the trading session. trading rates ranged between \$/N981.04.00 and \$/N1220.00 before settling at \$/N1,072.74, this represents an appreciation of N75.40 kobo (-6.57%) from where it closed at previous session on 16th April which was \$/N1,148.14. The Naira traded on the parallel market between the range 1050/1070.

		Offer Rate
USD/NGN (NAFEX)		1,128.83
USD/NGN (NAFEM)		1,072.23
GBP/USD		1.2470
EUR/USD		1.0679
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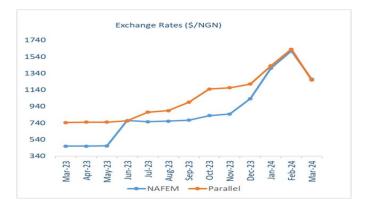
Source: CBN, FMDQ & Reuter		
Money Market	Current Rate	Previous Rate
OBB	32.00%	30.00%

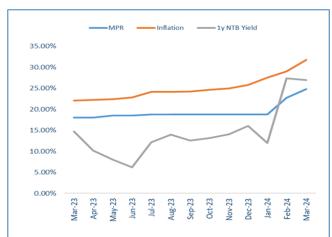
1,128.83

32.50%

1,142.95

30.50%





Source: First Bank (Indicative rates only

NAFEX -USD/NGN

Overnight

DEPOSIT RATES Min- Max	Rates
30-DAY	8.00% - 11.00%
60- DAY	9.00% - 12.00%
90-DAY	11.00% - 13.00%
180-DAY	11.50% - 14.00%
270-DAY	12.00% - 15.00%
365-DAY	12.00% - 15.00%

Source: First Bank					
COMMODITIES	Current	Previous			
Brent Crude (USD/b)	89.83	89.83			
Gold (USD/t oz)	2,394.00	2,383.00			
Cocoa (LISD/MT)	10 933 50	10 933 50			

ource: Bloomberg & ICE