

IMF wins new powers to police global economy

REUTERS, Washington

The International Monetary Fund won new powers to police the world economy after its 184 member countries endorsed a new framework to monitor how the economic policies of one country affects others.

The countries, represented by finance ministers or central bank governors, also agreed that some emerging economies needed more say in IMF decision-making that could lead to a proposal for ad hoc increases in their voting shares by the next IMF gathering in September.

"We resolve to make the IMF more fit for purpose in a global economy and more able to address challenges that are quite different from those of 1945, when the IMF was created," Britain's finance minister, Gordon Brown, who also chairs the IMF's policy-setting committee, told a news conference.

"The IMF should be more able to address global questions with multilateral surveillance," Brown said.

The International Monetary and Financial Committee, or IMFC, said IMF surveillance would focus on spillovers and links between countries' economic policies and reaffirm their monetary, fiscal and

exchange-rates frameworks.

IMF Managing Director Rodrigo Rato will have the authority to bring nations together on an ad hoc basis to thrash out any economic misalignments based on IMF analyses.

Officials said this would create a new forum that better reflected the rise of Asia in the global economy and could possibly replace bodies like the Group of Seven industrial countries, which some say can no longer call all the shots.

One of the problems facing the G7 is that major economic players like China are not part of the club, even though it is the fourth-largest economy in the world.

The United States has pressured the IMF to broaden its surveillance to include the exchange rates of emerging countries, as Washington also pushes Beijing to loosen its tightly managed currency.

The IMF made the case that such a move was also critical to coordinating economic policies and preventing the unruly unwinding of huge global imbalances in trade and investment flows that could spark a world recession.

Member countries welcomed efforts to enhance monitoring of exchange rates but most said they were hesitant about the IMF publishing analyses on the theoretical fair value of currency rates because

it was market sensitive.

China, however, said this did not mean the IMF should interfere in how countries manage their exchange rates.

"Fund surveillance should comply with the objective of promoting exchange and financial stability and respect the autonomy as to exchange rate systems that is granted to all (IMF) members," China's Governor Zhou Xiaochuan told the IMF committee.

In addition, Japanese Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki, said rebalancing the global economy not only had to do with more Asian currency flexibility.

"I believe what is paramount now for each member country and region is to implement steadily the policy measures needed to strengthen its respective economic fundamentals, which would contribute to resolving global imbalances in a smooth and orderly manner while maintaining sustainable growth," he said.

Addressing reporters, the IMF's Rato said the committee gave him a clear mandate to propose changes to the voting shares, or quotas, of some countries by September.

KSA may set up strategic oil reserve in China

AFP, Riyadh

Chinese President Hu Jintao has discussed with Saudi leaders during his current visit a proposal to set up a strategic oil reserve in China fed by Saudi supplies, a Chinese official told AFP.

The plan was raised during Hu's talks with King Abdullah on Saturday and both sides want to see it through, the official said, requesting anonymity.

The reserve would be on top of the oil supplies Saudi Arabia exports to China for its daily needs, and which reached some 22.18 million tons last year, he said Sunday.

McDonald's Q1 profit down 14pc

AP, Chicago

McDonald's Corp posted its largest quarterly earnings decline since 2002 Friday, a 14 percent drop that reflected a big tax gain a year ago and came as customers continued spending significantly more money at its restaurants.

Lower profits failed to dent three years of momentum for the fast-food leader, with same-store sales rising 5.2 percent worldwide and its flagship US operation still resurgent thanks to successful new products, later hours, a strengthened breakfast business and cashless pay options.

McDonald's executives said more new US menu items such as a big breakfast burrito are in the works and promised a big push in China, where the company plans to build drive-thrus at a rapid pace to take advantage of the explosive growth in car ownership and traffic.

Rolls-Royce, Kawasaki to develop Airbus engine

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's Kawasaki Heavy Industries will work with British aerospace giant Rolls-Royce to develop a new engine for the new Airbus A350 passenger jet.

The two companies will decide on a basic design of the new engine, Trent1700, by the end of 2007, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

The new engine will be based on Trent1000, also developed by Kawasaki and Rolls-Royce, and will cost between 15 billion yen (128 million dollars) and 20 billion yen, the business daily said Sunday.



PHOTO: BANGALINK

Raed El-Shafi, manager (Sales support) of Banglalink and Mahbubur Rahman Sakib, chief executive officer of Agrani Communications, inaugurate Banglalink's 11th sales centre at Lalbagh in Dhaka recently. The centre will offer some services such as SIM replacement, post-paid bill collection and new connection. Scratch cards and handsets will also be available at the centre.



PHOTO: UTTARA BANK

Shamsuddin Ahmed, managing director of Uttara Bank Limited, speaks at the zonal heads' conference of the bank in Dhaka recently. Additional Managing Director Md Abdus Sattar and Deputy Managing Director MA Halim are also seen.

CURRENCY

Following is Sunday's (April 23, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell		Buy	
TT/OD	BC	TT Clean	OD Sight/Doc
70.3700	70.4000	USD	69.3000
88.3918	88.4294	EUR	84.4836
126.5745	128.8285	GBP	122.2244
53.5868	53.8096	AUD	50.5544
0.6120	0.6123	JPY	0.5894
55.5977	55.6214	CHF	53.8169
9.2940	9.2966	SEK	8.6669
62.4124	62.4390	CAD	60.2671
9.0867	9.0906	HKD	8.9260
44.5662	44.5852	SGD	43.2314
18.3154	19.3237	AED	18.7161
18.9111	18.9191	SAR	18.3295
12.1374	12.1425	DKK	11.0108
237.5715	237.6749	KWD	235.7280

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
45.07	60	102.7	37.828	6.3595	0.6338	3.66

Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was subdued on Sunday.

Local Money Market
Money market was active on Sunday. Call money rate eased and ranged between 16.00 and 18.00 percent compared with 22.00-28.00 percent.

International Market
International markets were closed on Sunday due to weekend. The dollar dropped to three-week lows against the yen on Friday after a draft communique

from the Group of Seven nations indicated that it was considering singling out China in their call for more flexibility in exchange rates. The dollar was already under selling pressure after Sweden said it had cut the dollar share in its foreign exchange reserves and Russia's finance minister questioned the dollar's "absolute" preeminence as the global reserve currency. The euro was down 0.6 percent versus yen. Against the Swiss franc, the dollar fell 0.2 percent, while sterling rose 0.2 percent against the greenback.

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PHOTO: APOLLO HOSPITALS

Richard Larison, chief executive officer (CEO) of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, and Hamidul Huq, managing director of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL), exchange documents after signing a corporate agreement on behalf of their organisations. Under the deal, Apollo Hospitals will offer medical services and special benefits to UCBL staff.



PHOTO: SIBL

The 3rd extra ordinary general meeting of Social Investment Bank Ltd was held in Dhaka yesterday. SIBL Chairman Md Shah Alam presided over the meeting.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 23/4/2006

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/2	Brave Royal	C. Clink	Krabi	BRSL	21/4	27/4	--
J/3	Ken Cape	R. Seedwt	Vanc	USL	16/4	3/5	495
J/4	Bibi-m	GI(St. Bil)	Chenn	RSA	15/4	25/4	4004
J/5	Selyo Spirit	GI(St. C)	Hong	H&SL	20/4	23/4	3230
J/6	Dolphin-ii	GI	Viza	Sunshine	20/4	24/4	2587
J/8	Marisa Green	Cont	P. Kel	Everbest	17/4	24/4	160
J/9	New Sea Star	Cont	Sing	QC SL	16/4	23/4	249
J/10	Banga Borti	Cont	Sing	Bdship	14/4	24/4	228
J/11	Kota Ria	Cont	Sing	PI(Bd)	17/4	25/4	287
J/12	Cape Henry	Cont	Sing	APL	18/4	27/4	--
CCT/1	Banglar Shikha	Cont	Sing	BSC	18/4	25/4	212
CCT/2	Esham	Cont	P. Kel	CEL	22/4	25/4	--
GSJ:	Orionis	Urea	Ruwais	PSAL	10/4	27/4	--

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name Of Vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Kamat Tari	24/4	--	Seacom	Sing	--
Oel Excellence	23/4	CBO	PSSL	Cont	Col
San Mateo	24/4	Sing	Nyk	Vehi	5 Pkgs
Oc Honour	23/4	P.kel	QC SL	Cont	Sing
Santa Barbara	23/4	Kant	Uniship	C. Clink	MTC/Mir
Pretty Flourish	23/4	Novo	Mutual	Wheat(p)	--
Cakra Kembar	26/4	Honi	Mutual	GI(copra)	--
Banga Bodor	24/4	P.kel	Baridhi	Cont	P. Kel
Kota Berjaya	24/4	Sing	PI(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Kota Cahaya	25/4	Sing	PI(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Banga Bonik	26/4	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Banglar Robi	25/4	Col	BSC	Cont	Col
New Blessing	26/4	P. Kel	CEL	Cont	Sing
Liang Shan	26/4	Shanghai	Cosco	GI	--
Oc Dignity	26/4	Sing	QC SL	Cont	Sing
Kota Rukun	26/4	Sing	PI(Bd)	Cont	Mgl
Paragon Pescadores	25/4	Sing	H&SL	GI(St. Coil)	--
Yongxing	26/4	--	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Osg Bosstec	27/4	--	Seacon	Cont	Col
Xpress Makalu	28/4	--	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Kota Petani	28/4	Sing	PI(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Sea Master One	28/4	Sing	PHL	Cont	Sing
Selatun Megah	28/4	Sing	PI(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Diana Scan	28/4	S. Rach	Sunshine	GI(P. Cargo)	--

Tanker due

Tablim	24/4	Lumut	Rainbow	CPO(RM/3/4)
Al Kuwailah	24/4	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Kems	--	--	IBSA	R/A (23/4)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready				
Eastern Star	Cont	Sing	PHL	18/4
Oel Freedom	Cont	Ptp	PSSL	15/4
Western Star	Cont	Sing	Vega	18/4
Banga Biraj	Cont	Sing	Bdship	16/4
Emily-c	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	19/4
Romy	Cont	Sing	PI(Bd)	19/4
Xpress Manaslu	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	R/A (21/12)
Trusty Resolve	Cont	Col	Seacon	R/A (21/12)
Pu Trusty	Cont	Col	Seacon	20/4
Phu Tan	Cont	Ptp	PSSL	21/4

Vessels not ready

Banglar Shourabh	C. Oil	K. Dia	BSC	R/A
Au Co-1	Raw Sugar	Bang	Parik	21/4
Continent-4	GI(S. Ash)	P. Band	Cia	22/4

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Bumi Jaya	--	Visa	Unicom	10/11/2004
Banga Barta	Ballast	Col	Baridhi	10/3

Vessels not entering

Ocean Heart	Salt	Kand	Sigma	13/2
Freedom	Raw Sugar	Sant	USL	2/4
Nancy	C. Clink	Nant	Move	2/4
Ocean Hope	C. Clink	Kang	Bashun	9/4
Sarim	C. Clink	Lumut	Litmond	14/4
Hao Xing	C. Clink	Sing	KSM	17/4
Georgios-ii	Wheat(p)	Turk	USL	19/4
Midas	C. Clink	Cebu	ASLL	19/4

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPAs supplied by Family, Dhaka.