

New Japanese PM receives vote of no-confidence from markets

TOKYO, July 1: Just a day into office, Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama and his unwieldy coalition received a vote of no-confidence from the markets Friday as the Japanese yen shot to another postwar high, reports AP.

Murayama, Japan's first prime minister from the left-leaning Socialists since 1948, sought to build confidence in his once-unimaginable alliance with the conservative Liberal Democrats.

"We will fix what needs fixing," Murayama told reporters in his first news conference as prime minister. "But to work from stability is the most important thing."

Currency traders appeared to take some comfort from Murayama's remarks. The yen, which had shot up to 97.95 to the dollar Friday morning — its highest level since modern exchange rates were established in the late 1940s — closed slightly lower, at 98.78.

But that was still above Wednesday's record high.

The yen has surged on skepticism that Murayama will be able to do anything about Japan's huge trade surpluses, particularly its 60 billion dollar surplus with the United States.

In their first telephone conversation, Murayama told President Clinton Friday that Japan's foreign policies and commitments, including its defence pact with the United States, would not change.

In another phone conversation, Murayama reassured South Korean President Kim Young-Sam that Japan would not change its stance of seeking to resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis through "dialogue."

South Koreans worried that Murayama might push for closer ties with rival communists in North Korea, with whom the socialists have had official "friendly party" ties for 30 years.

"Those are party to party ties," Murayama said. "This is the government."

Murayama declined to

comment on what Japan would do if talks with North Korea failed and the United States resumed efforts to impose sanctions for North Korea's refusal to allow full inspections of its nuclear sites.

Murayama has only a week to prepare to deal with that issues and others before his debut at the summit of the world's leading industrialized nations in Naples, Italy, which begins July 8.

Finance Ministry bureaucrats had hoped to put the final touches on a major tax reform package before the summit, but the Socialists have steadfastly rejected plans for a tax increase.

Economic Planning Agency director Masahiko Komura, a Liberal Democrat, said Friday that he believed that a quick decision on taxes and public works spending would help stabilize the currency markets. But he said he was unsure such measures would be ready before the summit.

Murayama said he wanted to boost public works spending and that he believed his government could find a compromise on tax reform, although not necessarily within this year.

After taking office Thursday, Murayama and his new Cabinet immediately sought to reassure the nation that the government, Japan's fourth in a year, would maintain continuity.

But many observers doubt Murayama's ability to blend the widely divergent policy platforms of the new governing coalition, which includes legislators from both the far left and far right of Japan's political spectrum.

Adding to the uncertainty is the belief that the government will be unstable and short. Both parties have an interest in early elections under the current districting system, which favours them but is due to change later this year.

Bentsen urges Bonn, Tokyo to cut interest rates

WASHINGTON, July 1: US Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen has called on Japan and Germany to cut their interest rates to help prop up the battered dollar, reports Reuter.

This was the first time that Bentsen had publicly asked the two countries to cut interest rates since the dollar's rout began his month. It may reflect mounting frustration with his inability to contain the crisis.

Despite repeated statements by Bentsen that he wants a stronger dollar, the US currency dropped to another post World War Two low against the Japanese yen yesterday.

Dealers said that investors are dumping dollars for a variety of reasons, from a swelling US trade deficit to fears of higher American inflation.

Lower rates in Germany and Japan would make their currencies less lucrative to hold, and thus could lure investors back into the dollar.

Dhaka Stock Prices

Weekly comparison: At the close of tradings on June 22 and June 29, 1994

Company	FV/ML*	1993-94			
		June 22	June 29	High	Low
BANKS (13)					
Al Baraka Bank	1000/1	820.00	820.00	908.00	800.00
AB Bank	100/5	185.00	185.00	200.00	160.00
City Bank	100/5	280.00	275.00	355.00	278.00
Eastern Bank	100/20	110.00	110.00	110.00	105.00
ILIC Ltd	100/20	475.00	480.00	510.00	200.00
IFTC	100/5	170.00	170.00	198.00	140.00
Islamic Bank	1000/1	1485.00	1485.00	1715.00	1300.00
National Bank	100/5	128.95	128.95	145.00	85.00
Punjab Bank	100/5	100.00	100.00	100.00	85.00
Rupali Bank	100/10	71.00	72.00	96.00	60.00
U.C.B.L.	100/5	85.00	85.00	120.00	80.00
ULC	100/20	365.60	375.00	375.00	330.00
Utara Bank	100/5	85.00	85.00	103.00	80.00
INVESTMENT (8)					
ICB	100/5	116.15	116.15	125.00	100.00
1st ICB M.Fund	100/5	700.00	700.00	850.00	350.00
2nd ICB Fund	100/5	288.00	285.00	390.00	160.00
3rd ICB M.Fund	100/5	250.00	245.00	340.00	140.00
4th ICB M.Fund	100/10	245.00	245.00	340.00	140.00
5th ICB M.Fund	100/10	172.00	180.00	240.00	86.00
6th ICB M.Fund	100/10	123.00	123.78	165.00	57.00
Unit Certificate	113.00				
Sales Price	108.00	126.00	127.00		
Re-purchase		121.00	122.00		
INSURANCE (5)					
BOAC	100/10	385.00	380.00	429.00	177.00
Eastern Insurance	100/10	248.00AL	248.28AL	450.00	235.00
green Delta	100/10	355.00	355.00	400.00	178.00
Peoples Insurance	100/10	450.00KD	350.00	375.00	180.00
United Insurance	100/10	345.00XD	345.00	416.00	186.00
ENGINEERING (19)					
Aftab Automobiles	100/5	245.00	228.00	310.00	167.00
Atlas Bangladesh	10/50	65.26	62.00	85.00	41.00
Aziz Pipes	100/5	348.00	348.00	415.00	225.00
Bangladesh AutoCars	100/5	44.19	44.00	80.00	28.00
Bangladesh Lamps	100/5	1440.00	1440.00	1500.00	240.00
B.Thal Aluminium	100/10	117.08	117.08	143.00	77.00
Bengal Carbide	100/5	503.27	528.82	700.00	250.00
Bengal Steel	10/50	20.00	20.00		
Eastern Cables	100/5	122.00	119.01	185.00	65.00
Howlader FVC	100/10	68.00	60.00	116.00	60.00
Karim Pipe	100/5	92.60	100.00	115.00	54.00
Metalex Engineering	100/5	60.00	60.00	75.00	24.00
Monno Staffers	10/05	370.00	370.00	400.00	155.00
Monno Jutex	100/5	900.00	900.00	1000.00	270.00
National Tubes	100/10	90.00	82.00	138.00	56.00
Patner Steel	10/50	8.00	8.00		
Quasem Drycels	10/50	16.32	15.34	21.50	9.00
Renwick Jaineswar	100/5	70.00	70.00	100.00	62.00
Singer Bangladesh	100/5	2000.00	2216.67	3500.00	795.00
FOOD & ALLIED (23)					
A.B Biscuit	100/5	198.00	198.00	199.00	196.00
Alpha Tobacco	10/50	50.00	50.00	58.00	43.00
Amn Sea Food	100/5	500.00	500.00	500.00	675.00
Apex Food	100/5	980.00	980.00	1120.00	610.00
Arora Tea	100/5	55.00	55.00	65.00	45.00
Bangas	100/5	173.00	174.00	175.00	120.00
B.D Plantation	100/5	500.00	500.00	550.00	500.00
Bengal Food	100/5	251.00	249.95	400.00	111.00
B.L.T.C.	100/5	750.00	750.00	800.00	615.00
B.T.C.	10/50	170.00	180.00	250.00	70.00
Cig. Vegetable	100/10	87.67	74.87	130.00	60.00
Dhaka Vegetable	100/5	114.57	100.00	154.25	57.00
E.L. Cernella	100/5	1040.00	1040.00		
Frogleg Export	10/50	3.20	3.20	6.00	1.80
Gemini Sea Food	100/5	70.00	70.00	100.00	34.00
General Plantation	100/5	550.00	550.00		
Modern Industries	100/5	400.00	400.00	501.00	185.00
N.T.C.	100/5	320.00	320.00	400.00	205.00
Rabeya Flour	10/500	NT	NT		
Rupam Oil	10/100	5.80	5.30	10.30	3.30
Tulip Dairy	100/10	75.00	75.00	82.00	50.00
Yousuf Flour	10/50	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Zeal Bangla Sugar	10/50	7.80	7.46	14.00	5.80
FUEL & POWER (4)					
BD Oxygen	10/50	174.00	167.55	227.00	66.00
Eastern Lubricant	10/50	14.00	14.00		
National Oxygen	100/10	70.00	63.00	140.00	49.00
Padma Oil Co.	10/50	70.00	70.00	97.00	41.00
TEXTILE (21)					
Alhaj Textile	10/50	NT	NT		
Apex Spinning	100/20	320.00AL	309.12AL	350.00	268.00
Arbee Textile	112.00	112.00	112.00		
Ashraf Textile	10/50	27.49	26.56	41.00	22.00
Chand Textile	10/50	NT	NT		
Chand Spinning	100/10	50.25	50.00	80.00	50.00
Desh Garments	100/10	115.00	110.00	132.00	70.00
Dulamia Cotton	10/50	18.50	16.00	27.00	10.00
Eagle Star	10/50	10.00	10.00		
GM Ind. Corp.	100/5	36.35	36.13	61.00	21.00
Modern Dying	100/20	359.09	350.00	425.00	157.00
Padma Textile	10/100	5.50	3.55	7.00	2.00
Quasem Silk	10/50	5.20	5.00	7.50	2.50
Quasem Textile	10/50	90.00	85.00	145.00	79.00
Rahim Textile	100/10	80.00	79.00	106.00	66.50
Saitam Textile	100/5	26.00	22.00	26.00	20.00
S.T.M. (ORD)	100/5	425.00	425.00	650.00	150.00
Swan Textile	100/5	120.00	120.00	25.00	8.00
Talpu Spinning	100/10	125.00	120.00	140.00	87.50
Tamjuddin	100/10	175.00	170.00	218.00	120.00
PHARMACEUTICALS & CHEM (20)					
Amber Pharma	10/50	18.20	17.10	30.00	9.00
Bangla Process	100/5	42.00	45.00	70.00	40.00
Bangladesh Chemicals	100/10	450.00	450.00	500.00	290.00
Beximco Infusion	100/5	600.00	570.00	950.00	212.00
Beximco Pharma	10/50	1490.00	1489.93	2500.00	425.00
B. Synthetics	100/20	245.13	232.12	355.00	116.00
Glaxo	10/50	140.00	140.00	140.00	125.00
I.C.I.	10/50	110.00	105.00	115.00	70.00
Kohinoor Chemical	100/5	103.00	108.39	120.00	57.00
National Polymer	100/20	140.00	140.00	150.00	110.00
Petro Synthetic	10/50	9.50	9.50	17.00	6.00
Pfizer	100/5	710.00	650.00	710.00	450.00
Pharma Aids	100/5	281.33	279.20	290.00	160.00
Pharmaco	100/5	74.25	74.25	115.00	50.00
Progressive Plastic	100/5	20.00	20.00	55.00	20.00
Reckitt & Colman	10/50	95.00	95.00	110.00	75.00
Rahman Chemicals	100/10	48.00	51.10	95.00	31.50
Therapeutics	100/5	70.00	70.00	110.00	67.00
The Ibsnina	100/10	110.00	108.00	125.00	95.00
Wata Chemical	100/20	245.00	245.00	330.00	116.00
PAPER & PRINTING (6)					
Eagle Box	10/50	18.00	18.00	25.10	13.00
Monospool	100/5	32.00	30.00	55.00	16.00
Paper Converting	100/5	85.00	85.00	90.00	55.00
Paper Processing	100/10	16.00	16.00	50.00	14.00
Padma Printers	10/50	50.00	50.00		
Sonali Paper	10/50	40.00	40.00	52.00	30.00
SERVICE (2)					
Bangladesh Hotel	10/50	12.00	12.00	NT	NT
Bd Service	10/50	NT	NT	NT	NT
MISCELLANEOUS (18)					
Apex Footwear	100/20	470.50	484.64	825.00	171.00
Apex Tannery	100/5	870.00	870.00	1245.00	330.00
Aramit	10/50	20.00	20.00	30.00	20.00
Baba Shoe	10/100	90.00	91.59	165.00	35.00
Beximco	10/100	54.42	54.00	86.00	18.00
B.S.A.	100/5	80.00	80.00	80.00	55.00
Cig Cement	100/5	360.00XD	389.73XD	575.00	167.50
G. Q. Ball Pen	10/50	134.29	135.00	170.00	75.00
High Speed	100/5	50.00	50.00	60.00	50.00
Himadri Ltd	10/100	6.00	6.00		
Mikon Tannery	100/5	97.70	97.70	21.00	5.00
Monno Ceramic	100/5	660.24	657.00	900.00	270.00
New Dhaka Refrac	100/20	90.00	90.00	99.00	65.00
Phonix Leather	100/5	130.00	130.00	130.00	110.00
Savar Refractories	100/5	52.50	52.50	100.00	52.00
The Engineers	100/5	100.00	100.00		
Triplex Industries	100/10	85.00	85.00	100.00	80.00
Umanita Glass	100/5	400.19	396.00	520.00	246.00
JUTE (12)					
Abad Jute	100/10	NT	NT		
Arwana Jute	10/50	NT	NT		
Baba Jute	10/50	8.50	8.50		
Garma Jute	10/50	NT	NT		
Islam Jute	100/5	100.00	100.00	105.00	45.00
Jute Spinner	100/5	126.67	126.67	130.00	71.00
Muthal Jute	100/5	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00
Northern Jute					