

APEC leaders voice concern over currency turmoil

OSAKA, Japan, Nov 20: Asia Pacific leaders on Sunday voiced concern that volatile currency movements remained a threat to stable trade and economic development, reports Reuters.

The leaders discussed the fact that in several cases volatile currency fluctuations have a negative impact on stable development in trade and economies in the region, a senior Japanese foreign ministry official told reporters.

Some leaders tried to look for ways to stabilise currencies, but others said that currency issues should be determined by the market itself, the Japanese official said. In a joint statement issued after the summit the leaders vowed to press ahead toward the free trade target, adopted last year in Bogor, Indonesia, through voluntary efforts by members.

But lowering tariffs and other trade obstacles were not the only contentious issues. Persistent fears about another rapid rally in the yen continued to haunt the leaders, whose trade balances and economies were hit hard by a dollar free-fall against the yen earlier this year.

The dollar nosedived to a record low of 79.75 yen in April before recovering gradually to well above 100 yen thanks to a global intervention effort initiated by Japan.

Some leaders urged Japan to step up efforts to boost imports to reduce its vast trade surplus. A strong yen also makes it difficult for Asian countries to repay yen denominated loans.

Earlier on Sunday, Malaysia complained in a ministerial meeting with Japan that the yen's strength had been a major factor behind its huge trade deficits as it boosted prices of imports from Japan.

Japan's Foreign Minister Yohei Kono said Tokyo had already cut interest rates on new yen credits to ease the pain caused by the strong yen, but that the yen's strength itself had both merits and demerits.

In April APEC finance ministers meeting in Bali, Indonesia, called for a determined effort for foreign exchange stability.

AFP from Brussels says: The European Commission Sunday welcomed moves by East Asian economic ministers to work toward free

trade in the Asia Pacific area. Trade Commissioner Leon Brittan said in a statement here.

APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) and European businessmen share the same priorities "he said and Asia and Europe work together to achieve them."

He said the executive arm of the European Union was pleased at decisions by the summit in Osaka, Japan to follow World Trade Organisation guidelines, and by China's announcement it would slash tariffs on two thirds of imports by at least 30 per cent from next year.

The leaders of 18 economies declared Sunday they had made an irreversible step to forge free trade.

ZFCL output increases

ASHUGANJ, Nov 20: Zia Fertiliser Company Limited (ZFCL) has so far produced two lakh metric tons of urea fertiliser out of the total production target 5,05,000 metric tons during the four and a half months of the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

This was disclosed to State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-al-Rashid when he visited ZFCL on Sunday, said an official handout.

The production is 65,000 metric tons more than the previous corresponding period of last fiscal year, he was also informed.

Later, the State Minister attended separate meetings with the officials of the ZFCL and representatives of CBA.

During the meeting, he laid emphasis on concerted efforts to achieve the production target and sought co-operation of all in proper production and distribution of the fertiliser.

Managing Director of the mill Al Afzal Khan was also present.

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Tk 125 cr credit programme in 50 thanas soon

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is going to initiate a Taka 125 crore credit programme in 50 more thanas under the ministry's family-based credit programme, reports BSS.

Under the programme, seven lakh youths, both male and female, would be benefited.

This was informed at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Youth and Sports held at the Sangsad Bhaban Sunday with Youth and Sports Minister Sadek Hossain in the chair.

Besides, the government is actively considering a proposal for Taka 1200 crore programme in the youth development sector under the participatory Perspective Plan, 1995-2010.



Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman inaugurated the new premises of Sylhet Sonali Bank yesterday at Zindabazar of Sylhet town. Amir Khosru Mahmud, MP, and Director and M Ahsanul Haque, Managing Director of the bank, were also present.

Saifur opens Sonali Bank office in Sylhet

Fall in export attributed to frequent hartals

SYLHET, Nov 20: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has said frequent hartals are leaving a long term adverse impact on the nation's economy which may be disastrous in the future, reports BSS.

The Finance Minister was addressing as the chief guest a meeting organised in connection with the opening of the newly built divisional headquarters of Sonali Bank at Sylhet town yesterday.

The Finance Minister said during the last few months the export trade of the country marked significant fall which is principally attributable to the frequent hartals called by the opposition.

He said differences of opinion among the political parties is quite natural in a democratic setup, but the most unfortunate thing is that hartal is used here as the only weapon to express the differences of opinion by the opposition parties causing irreparable damage to the economy.

Point out that hartals are creating obstacles to large scale foreign investments, the Finance Minister referred to his recent visits in Malaysia and Iran and said even the Iranian President enquired about the hartals in Bangladesh and observed that such practice was discouraging foreign investors from investing in your country.

The Finance Minister said the recent price hike of essential consumer's items could also be attributable to frequent hartals which hampered free movement of essential commodities.

Rahman urged the opposition to refrain from resorting to hartals and find other means of expressing differences if they are really sincere to see the country's economy on a sound footing.

Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury MP, Sylhet Divisional Commissioner Habibur Rahman, Managing Director of Sonali Bank Ahsanul Haque also spoke on the occasion.

EU preparing to impose taxes on wheat exporters

LONDON, Nov 20: Amid mounting evidence of world food shortages, the European Union (EU) is preparing to impose strict taxes on its wheat exporters for the first time since 1974, the British newspaper Independent reported today, says Xinhua.

EU cereal managers have agreed, as an emergency measure aimed at maintaining Europe's wheat supply and holding down prices, to new regulations which allow taxes on exports, the paper said.

The newspaper quoted officials in Brussels as saying that first export licences under the new system of taxes will be granted to European traders in the next few days.

Without the taxes, there will be a real danger of escalation in European food prices one senior official was quoted as saying.

Throughout the past decade, traders in Europe had been encouraged with subsidies to export agricultural products.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on November 20, '95

Bearish trend

A bearish trend took over the floor of Dhaka Stock Exchange on Monday.

The DSE All Share Price Index experienced a sharp fall of 10.76 points, ending at 866.66 from previous day's 877.42, and market capital fell to Tk 6546.07 from Tk 5646.07.

The transaction in volume decreased by 28 per cent from 181621 to 130448, and value declined by 52 per cent from Tk 5.29 crore to Tk 2.56 crore.

The leading gainer of the day was Bengal Carbide with a rise of Tk 84.65 per share while Apex Foods led the losers with a crushing fall of Tk 1068.66 per share.

The volume traders of the day were: Beximco Pharma (27950), Beximco Denims (12965) and Eagle Star Textile (5900).

Company's name	Change (per share)	Number of shares traded
International Finance	3.00(L)	58
Rupali Bank	5.00(L)	20
Al Baraka Bank	0.00	6
IDLC	103.50(L)	300
United Leasing Co	11.11(L)	120
1st ICB M Fund	3.33(L)	50
2nd ICB M Fund	10.00(L)	85
3rd ICB M Fund	26.62(L)	30
4th ICB M Fund	7.08(L)	30
5th ICB M Fund	12.58(L)	360
6th ICB M Fund	2.84(L)	420
7th ICB M Fund	5.25(L)	2300
Aziz Pipes	12.85(L)	100
Bengal Carbide	84.65(G)	1310
Bangladesh Lamps	42.30(L)	210
Eastern Dyeing	45(G)	2340
Kartim Pipe	16.00(L)	18
Monno Jute	17.50(L)	80
Bangladesh Atlas Bangladesh	79.80(L)	107
Atlas Bangladesh	1.95(L)	960
Bangladesh Autocars	5.00(L)	2255
Sumera Dyeing	62(L)	210
Metalex Corporation	0.00	20
National Tubes	0.00	160
Amam Sea Food	190.00(L)	10
Apex Foods	1068.66(L)	180
B Leaf Tobacco	0.00	115
Dhaka Vegetable Oil	2.00(L)	3100
Zel Bangladesh	0.7(G)	3100
Rupon Oil	2.0(L)	200
Tulip Dairy	4.00(L)	10
Chittagong Vegetable	4.00(L)	50
Beximco Fisheries	10.36(L)	320
Bengal Biscuits	4.19(L)	1800
Meghna Shrimp	1.90(L)	2560
BCC Bangladesh	7.55(L)	3472
Northern Jute	14(G)	1000
Shine Pukur	0.7(G)	2550
Ashraf Textile	1.50(L)	300
Saitham Textile	5.00(L)	110
Eagle Star	1.90(L)	5900
Dulamia Cotton	2.00(G)	100
Apex Spinning	21.29(L)	3080
Beximco Knitting	4.20(L)	280
Dynamic Textile	3.28(L)	380
Mithun Corporation	3.55(L)	440
Mita Textiles	3.45(L)	600
B. Dyeing	5.39(L)	980
Delta Millers	28(L)	1820
Apex Weaving	7.51(L)	3388
Dandy Dyeing	7.62(L)	403
Sonargang Textiles	1.15(L)	600
Beximco Textiles	4.64(L)	1077
BD Zipper Industries	7.44(L)	800
Beximco Denims	2.77(L)	12965
Prime Textile	0.38(L)	250
M. Hossain Garments	1.89(L)	5266
Ambee Pharma	0.00	750
Beximco Pharma	4.0(L)	27950
ACI Limited	5.1(G)	1750
Pharmaco International	4.54(G)	65
Reckitt and Colman	2.55(L)	156
Eastern Chemical	3.08(L)	470
The IBN Sina Pharma	0.00	10
Rahman Chemicals	0.00	30
Bangladesh Chemical	3.1(G)	400
Wata Chemical	10.00(L)	100
National Polymer	10.00(G)	20
Beximco Synthetec Ltd.	4.17(L)	720
Libra Pharma	8.2(G)	540
Orion Infusion	1.3(L)	540
Square Pharma	15.59(L)	180
Maq Paper	4.36(L)	200
Apex Tannery	6.88(L)	600
Armitt Ltd	0.00	50
Bata Shoe	2.9(L)	1600
GG Pall Pen	1.01(L)	700
Monno Ceramic	10.83(G)	2125
Usmania Glass	19.91(L)	140
Savar Refractories	4.7(G)	95
Milton Tanneries	0.00	110
Beximco Ltd	1.09(G)	200
Pharmaco	6.48(L)	680
Apex Footwear	7.01(L)	1360
Eastern Housing	1.41(G)	1120
Confidence Cement	4.70(L)	2540
Meghna Cement	6.07(L)	1950
Lexco Limited	15.44(L)	450
Janata Insurance	5.00(L)	600
Phoenix Insurance	6.11(L)	360
Eastland Insurance	4.61(L)	400
Central Insurance	3.00(L)	220
Karnaphuli Insurance	3.00(L)	200
Rupali Insurance	6.7(G)	1280
National Insurance	5.00(L)	1500
Federal Insurance	2.40(L)	1500
Reliance Insurance	4.33(G)	600
Purabi Insurance	0.00	1467
Delta Insurance	7.88(L)	1426
Beximco Fisheries (Debi)	0.00	1
BD Zipper (Debi)	3.44(L)	68
Beximco Pharma (Debi)	0.00	60
Bangladesh Chemical (Debi)	0.00	21
Eastern Housing (Debi)	10.09(L)	4

Company	FV/ML	Closing Rate	Delta Millers	100/20	116.95
Hossain Garments					105.57
Mithun Dyeing	100/20	113.45			
Padma Textile	100/20	400.00			
Prime Textile		291.00			
Quasem Silk	100/100	7.00			
Rahim Textile	100/5	14.00			
Saitham Textile	100/10	105.00			
S T M (ORD)	100/5	18.00			
Stylecraft	100/5	360.00			
Swan Textile	100/5	35.00			
Talpu Spinning	100/10	140.00			
Tamjuddin	100/10	190.00			
Dandy Dyeing		87.48			
Sonargang Textiles		125.00			
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A five-member delegation on Child Labour Study from Nepal headed by Ananda Ballabh Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Labour, called on Redwan Ahmed MP, President, BGMEA, Monday to discuss various aspects of the garment industry of Bangladesh with special reference to child labour elimination and rehabilitation programme of BGMEA. Mostafa Golam Qudus, Chairman, Standing Committee on child labour and safety measures of the BGMEA, was also present.

Chittagong Stock Exchange

At the close of trading on November 20, '95

Index down, transaction up

The Chittagong All Securities Price Index fell on Monday while transactions on the floor showed a positive sign.

The price index was down by 0.46 point from 426.41 to 425.95 and market capital declined to Tk 2153.29 from 2155.60.

Total turnover in value increased by 136 per cent to Tk 3.20 lakh from Tk 1.35 lakh, and volume increased by 93 per cent to 1640 from 850.

Usmania Glass led the four issues who gained while Apex Footwear topped the list of losers numbering 11. Among 16 issues traded price of one issues remained unchanged.

Company's name	Closing rate (ave)	Previous rate (ave)	Difference	No of securities traded
Janata	208.00	212.00	4.00 (L)	20
Central	162.50	160.00	2.50 (G)	100
Federal	160.00	162.00	2.00 (L)	100
Prime Textile	301.00	302.00	1.00 (L)	100
Apex Weaving	170.75	170.70	0.05 (G)	400
Beximco Denims	150.00	152.25	2.25 (L)	50
Beximco Pharma	93.00	92.60	0.40 (G)	200
Beximco Fisheries	170.00	172.25	2.25 (L)	20
Confidence Cement	341.25	342.50	1.25 (L)	120
Cig Cement	775.00	775.00	0.00	10
Apex Footwear	579.33	585.50	6.17 (L)	30
Shine Pukur	88.50	89.05	0.55 (L)	100
6th ICB MF	220.59	221.00	0.41 (L)	110
7th ICB MF	173.17	176.00	2.83 (L)	150
Usmania Glass	783.00	779.25	3.75 (G)	30
Beximco	71.00	71.50	0.50 (L	