

# Asia, Europe agree on financial market surveillance

Asian and European Union finance ministers have agreed on the need for greater surveillance of financial markets to help them deal with the world economic crisis.

However, proposals by Japan, Germany and France to tie the world's leading currencies together to boost international financial stability have met with opposition.

Following the devaluation in Brazil, many ministers fear that further turbulence could tip Europe and the United States into recession.

The UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, told the meeting in Frankfurt that measures to stop further crises from occurring must be worked out within three months.

Brown has proposed the ap-

pointment of a global regulator to monitor economies, allowing problems to be identified and dealt with sooner.

"These have been undoubtedly troubled times for the global economy. What started off in Asia and then moved to Russia has now hit Latin America, and it's important for us to know that all world authorities remain vigilant," Brown said in a BBC interview.

A meeting of deputy finance ministers from the G7 group of leading industrial powers following the Asian-EU talks also discussed the crisis in Brazil but had little to add.

**Calls to control currency speculators**

Other countries, including Germany, France and Japan,

are calling for tighter controls on currency speculators.

The German Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine joined his French counterpart Dominique Strauss-Kahn and Japan's Ki-ichi Miyazawa in calling for creation of "an exchange rate regime among major currencies which would reduce excessive volatility."

"It's not about taking power away from financial markets, but more about avoiding to a large extent damaging market impacts on the world economies," he said.

Lafontaine insisted that the current system of exchange rate fluctuations was not "a fate determined by God". He said it left many countries at the mercy of financial speculators.

The Japanese finance minis-

ter also proposed a system of pegging Asian currencies to a basket containing the euro, dollar and yen as a way to reduce volatility.

Correspondents say many Asian and European finance ministers, worried about the impact of the Brazilian crisis on their economies, are in favour of some of the new proposals.

But Yves Thibault de Silguy, the EU Commissioner for monetary affairs, told the meeting that exchange rates could not be set by decree. What is important, he said, is to increase global co-operation on economic policies. And for the moment, the European central bank and the United States are also holding back.

— BBC Internet

# China targets three groups for taxes

BEIJING, Jan 17: Chinese tax collectors will target accountants, lawyers and sports stars this year as the cash-strapped government tries to wrest more revenue from the newly rich, says AP.

The three groups join entertainers, stock speculators and landlords who topped last year's list of tax targets, the official China Daily reported Sunday.

Personal income tax collections grew 30 per cent last year to 33.9 billion (\$ 4.1 billion), the newspaper said.

China is trying to revive slowing economic growth with a \$ 1.2 trillion infrastructure spending programme and has tried to tighten loopholes in tax collections.

"Almost all of China's certified public accountants, lawyers and sports stars are in the

high-income ranks, but supervision of their income channels has been inefficient and resulted in income tax losses," the China Daily quoted Sun Ruibiao of the State Bureau of Taxation as saying.

Once considered unnecessary parasites of capitalism, accountants and lawyers now number about 170,000, from almost zero before China launched its economic reforms 20 years ago, China Daily said in its Business Weekly edition.

While sports stars are far less numerous, their incomes are even higher. The tax bureau is ordering professional sports clubs to turn over their members' income taxes, the newspaper said. As an inducement clubs will get a 2 per cent commission on the revenues they collect.

# Exchange Rates

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative) against the taka to clients.					
Currency	Selling TT & OD	Selling BC	Buying TT Clean	Buying OD Sight Export	Buying OD Transfer
US Dollar	48.7050	48.7450	48.3100	48.1570	48.0650
Pound Stg	808893	809557	792187	789678	788498
Deutsche Mark	29.1857	29.2097	28.1956	28.1063	28.0643
Swiss Franc	25.4605	25.4896	24.6432	24.5336	24.4819
Japanese Yen	0.4311	0.4314	0.4199	0.4186	0.4180
Dutch Guilder	25.9028	25.9241	26.0241	24.9449	24.9076
Danish Krona	7.6283	7.6345	7.447	7.4238	7.4127
Australian Dollar	31.3512	31.3772	30.1068	30.0114	29.9666
Belgian Franc	1.4150	1.4162	1.3670	1.3627	1.3607
Canadian Dollar	32.2657	32.2921	31.3599	31.2606	31.2139
French Franc	8.7021	8.7033	8.4069	8.3803	8.3678
Hong Kong	6.2996	6.3047	6.2235	6.2038	6.1945
Italian Lira	0.0295	0.0295	0.0285	0.0284	0.0283
Norway Krone	6.5322	6.5363	6.4170	6.3967	6.3871
Singapore Dollar	29.3722	29.3963	28.4143	28.3243	28.2820
Saudi Rial	13.0227	13.0334	12.8450	12.8043	12.7852
UAH Dirham	13.2976	13.3085	13.1167	13.0751	13.0556
Swedish Krona	6.1880	6.1931	6.1068	6.0874	6.0783
Qatar Rial	13.4174	13.4284	13.2313	13.1894	13.1696
Kuwait Dinar	166.9665	167.1066	154.9391	154.4484	154.2174
Thai Baht	1.3187	1.3198	1.3034	1.2993	1.2973
Euro	57.0823	57.1291	55.1459	54.9712	54.8890

TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
48.2112	47.9074	47.5048	47.1023	46.6667	45.8945

US dollar London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) as of December 17, 1999						
Buying	Selling	Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months
48.0850	48.7050	USD	4.95	4.97	4.97	5.00
48.0850	48.7050	GBP	6.025	5.8125	5.5925	5.3750

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollars						
Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Malaysian Ringgit	Indonesian Rupiah	Korean Won	
42.4042.50	50.6850.78	37.0837.18	3.79953.8005	82998300	11831186	

# Amex notes in Sunday's market

USD/BDT market was sluggish due to weekend in the international market despite high demand for US dollars in the interbank market. Major market players refrain from trading on Sunday's as most of the international centers remain closed on Sunday. Average (USD/BDT) rate ranged between 48.6600 and 48.6650.

Call money market was very active on Sunday. High volume cash withdrawal on the eve of Eid festival led to increase call rates. The call money market opened at 7.00% in the morning, but gradually it reached at 11% on later part of the day. Major market players kept on withdrawing money from the interbank market to keep in reserve for their customers to use before Eid. Average call rates ranged between 8.00% and 11.00%.

In New York on Friday, the US dollar gained in US morning trade, bolstered by surging Brazilian stocks in view of hopes that the South American giant's currency crisis was under control. At midday in New York, the euro was at \$1.1589/95 from \$ 1.1628/38 at the open and \$ 1.1692/97 at Thursday's close. Dollar/yen was at 114.10/15 from 113.11/16 at the open. In New York on Friday, the major closed against the USD at 113.99/114.04 JPY, 1.3835/1.3845 CHF, EUR at \$ 1.1565/1.1570 and GBP at \$ 1.6498/1.6508.

# Shipping Intelligence

## CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 17.01.99.

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L.Port	Local call	Date of Leaving agent	arrival
J/1	Ava	Wheat(G)	Yang	MTA	5/1	20/1
J/2	Great Fortress	Wheat(P)	Turnk	OWSL	28/12	24/1
J/3	Shivva Kaumudi	Rice(G)	Mum	SSL	11/1	24/1
J/4	Asian century	Wheat	Yoko	JF	13/1	17/1
J/5	Gomatin Narce	Cl	Sing	Pro	14/1	23/1
J/6	Lucky Oldendorff	M.Seed	mad	Lutful	10/1	20/1
J/7	Alpine	Cl	Yang	SMS	R/A	-
J/8	Song Lin	Cl	Sing	Bdship	30/12	20/1
J/9	Al Swamu	Wheat(G)	K.Dia	ASLL	R/A	20/1
J/10	Richamond	Cont	Sing	QCSC	-	18/1
J/11	Jammi	Rice(G)	Cal	Royal	2/1	22/1
J/12	Kota Singa	Cont	Sing	Pil(BD)	6/1	17/1
J/13	Banglar Shikha	Cont	Sing	BSC	11/1	18/1
CCT/1	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(BD)	10/1	22/1
CCT/2	Jurong Balsam	Cont	Sing	Nol	6/1	18/1
CCT/3	Diligence Cont	Cont	P.Kel	QCSC	10/1	18/1
RM/14	Youngly	C.Clink	Sing	PSAL	10/1	25/1
CCJ	Anodad Narce	C.Clink	Indo	Delmure	30/12	20/1
CSJ	Anton Topic	Wheat(G)	Sing	SSST	12/1	26/1
TSP	Banglar Maya Repair	Wheat(G)	K.Dia	BSC	R/A	-
RM/3	Nagayev	Tallow	Kand	TSI	15/1	17/1
RM/5	Trent	Hsd	Sing	MSTPL	14/1	-
DOJ	Banglar Shurabh	C.Oil	-	BSC	R/A	17/1
DDJ/1	Tanary Stary	Idle	Para	PSAL	-	31/1

## Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date off.L.Port arrival	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Island Princes (48) 6/1	22/1	Cal	CLA	Rice(P)
Nazlig	17/1	Mong	MBL	Urea
Kim Dong	18/1	Yang	MSL	Rice
Ocean-1	18/1	Yang	SMSL	GI(Log)
Mary Nour	18/1	-	BSL	Cement
Talana	17/1	-	Seacom	Urea
Yasmina	17/1	Yang	SMSL	Cl
Xpress Resolve (48) 4/1	21/1	-	Everett	Cl
Budi Teguh 10/1	19/1	Yang	SMSL	Cl
General Mojica	18/1	Sing	RSL	Cont
Qc Pintail	17/1	Sing	QCSC	Cont
Banglar Groub	18/1	Kara	BSC	Rice(P)
Bunga Maslapang (Cont) 6/1	14/1	-	BOSL	Cont
Sri Hat	20/1	Yang	SMSL	Cl
Makassar Express	19/1	G.Town	Bardih	Cont
Starmar	20/1	-	SSST	Wheat(G)
Arktis Blue11/1	19/1	Hazi	RSR	Cl
Ocean Brava4/1	20/1	-	Everett	Cl
Amfitriti	22/1	-	OIL	Cl
Global Jane	20/1	Mong	AMS	In Ballast
Al Quamar	20/1	-	BSL	Rice
Bright Vega	21/1	-	BBB	Vehi
Dragon Brani10/1	21/1	Sing	Bdship	Cont
Banga Biru 10/1	21/1	Sing	Bdship	Cont
Banglar Urm	22/1	Male	BSC	Cl
Iran Slaam14/1	22/1	-	Everett	Cl
Acacia 13/1	22/1	Sing	BSC	Cont
Banglar Robt	22/1	Sing	BSC	Cont
Qc Teal	23/1	Sing	QCSC	Cont
Coastal Corpus Christi	23/1	-	Wheat(G)	Mgl.
Kota Cahyaa 14/1	24/1	-	Mbsel	Rice(G)
Xing Ye	25/1	-	Cl	Rice(P/GI)
AA Venture	25/1	-	Cl	Rice(P)GI
Banglar Mont	28/1	Sing	BSC	Cont

## Tanker due

Sandgate	18/1	Kuw	MSTPL	Skd
Bela	23/1	Al Jub	ECSL	HSD

## Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Sea bulk Command	-	-	IBS	R/A(22/12)
Hassbat Qatar	C.Oil	Jabe	USS	9/1
Banglar Jyoti	C.Oil	-	BSC	R/A(16/1)

## Vessels at outer anchorage

Ready on :				
Meghna	Cont	Sing	Bdship	11/1
Sea Gallant	Cont	Sing	Pil(BD)	11/1
Abuja	Cont	Col	Bdship	13/1
Banga Biro	Cont	Sing	Bdship	13/1
Koral Hero	Cl	Bdpu	Bdship	14/1
Surabaya Express	GI	Yang	Olm	16/1

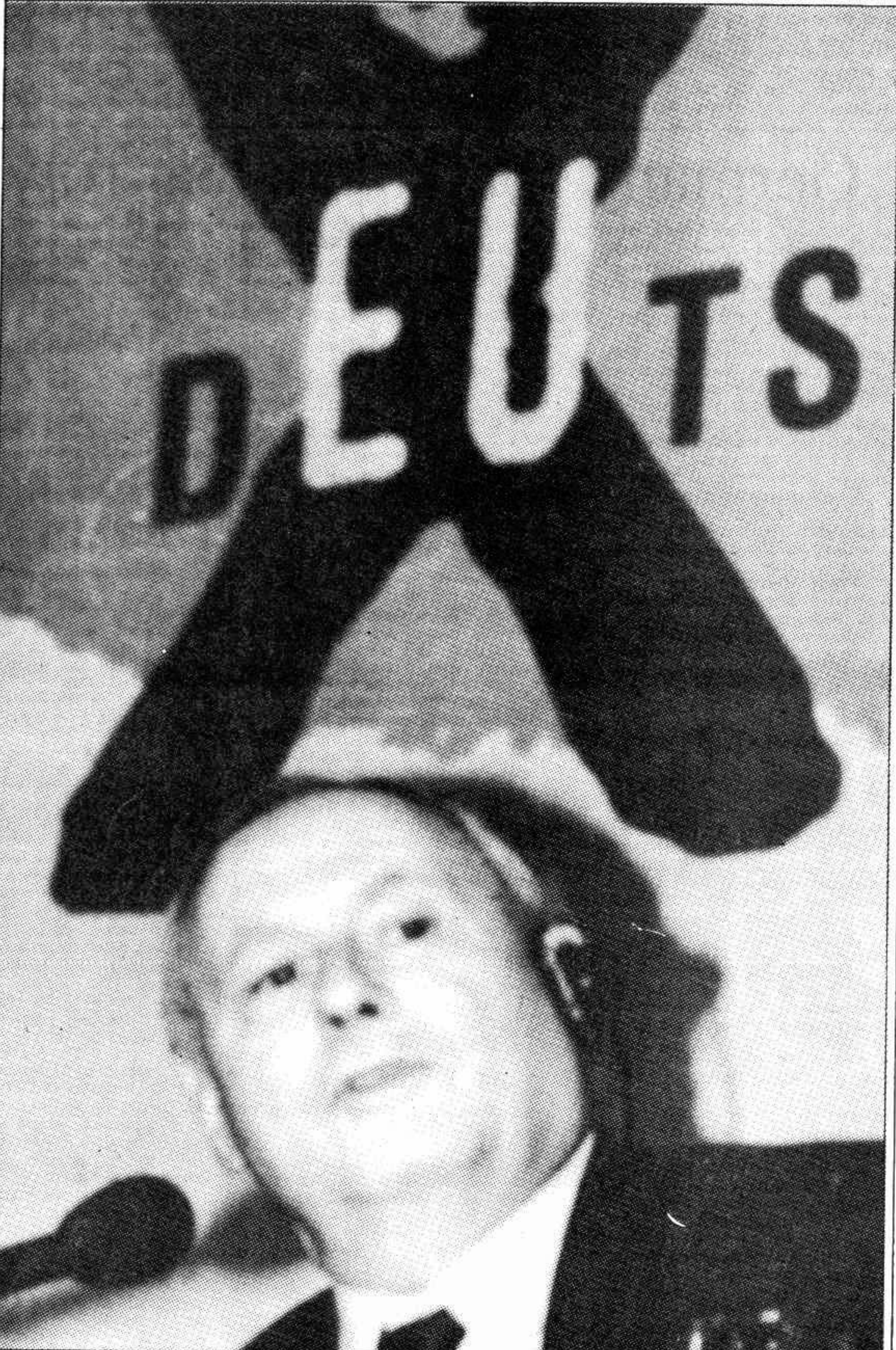
## Vessels awaiting instruction

Karya sentosa	Rice(G)	-	USTC	R/A(18/09)
Ritz	Rice(P)	Kaki	Cross	R/A(24/09)
Delta Star	-	-	RSR	R/A(07/07)
Sea World	-	-	Lams	R/A(5/1)
Al Muztaba	-	-	Cl	R/A(12/1)
Barge : Wombat/le Macareux/PDC-1	-	-	Karna	R/A(30/10)

## Movement of vessels for 18.1.99

OUTGOING	INCOMING	SHIPPING
J/10 Richmond	CCT/2 Meghna	
J/13 B. shukha	J/10 Abuja	
CCT/2 J. Balsam	CCT/3 Sea Giant	
CCT/3 D. Contaner	B. Biro	
CCT/3 D. Contaner	J/13 Qc Pintail	
RM/5 Trent	RM/9 Banglar Shourabh	
	TSP Banglar Gourabh	
	Pacific Hunter	

The above are today's shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.



Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's finance minister and ASEM conference president, sits beneath the ASEM conference logo as he delivers his statement at a press conference in Frankfurt, Germany, on Saturday, after the two-day conference of the Asia-European Finance Minister's Meeting (ASEM) ended at the nearby conference site of Neu-Isernburg. — UNB/AP photo

# Metal: Weekly Roundup

## Gold, silver caught in Brazil currency crisis

LONDON, Jan 17: Precious metals, were caught in the turmoil of Brazil's currency devaluation this week and fears that the crisis will spread to other markets, says AFP.

Both in New York and London, oil lost ground as Brazil shocked the markets out of an optimistic start to the year.

Some base metals, were also hit on the London Metal Exchange, with investors more concerned about the shockwaves from Brazil hitting the international finance markets and then world demand, than the domestic crisis in Brazil itself.

While Brazil is a big metals producer and consumer, current events are unlikely to disturb flows too much, unless the domestic economy collapses Russian style," GNI brokerage said.

**GOLD:** Tarnished. Gold prices fell sharply in the wake of the Brazilian crisis and its ripple effect across world markets.

On the London bullion market, gold prices fell to 286.05 dollars an ounce from 291.30 dollars.

Traders feared that Brazilian producers of the precious metal would flood the market as a result of their country's financial woes.

Andy Smith, a specialist in precious metals from Mitsui Bussan commodities, said that Brazilian gold producers were now likely to sell the metal in bulk following the de facto devaluation of the real.

Analysts also fear that the world's two other major gold producers, Australia and South Africa, may see their currencies fall significantly as a result of the bad news from Brazil, with the result that they may try to make up the difference with in-

creased gold sales.

**SILVER:** Sale. Silver prices fell in the wake of gold and large-scale selling on the part of one US trading house.

Prices on the London bullion market fell by 20 cents to 5.09 dollars an ounce.

**PALLADIUM AND PLATINUM:** Slip. Platinum and palladium prices fell slightly amid rumours that Russia, which is the world's dominant palladium producer and the second biggest platinum exporter might resume exports soon.

Exports have been on ice since December, despite public comments made by Russian officials that they did not want supplies to Japan, the biggest consumer of the metals, to run dry. Russia negotiates export levels on a yearly basis.

**COPPER:** Steady. Copper prices on the London Metal Exchange (LME) remained unchanged as favourable technical factors countered the Gloomy outlook offered by Brazil.

Three-month prices remained unchanged at 1,460.30 dollars per tonne.

Dealers feared that economic turmoil in Brazil, Latin America's powerhouse economy, would swamp the region, and impact on emerging markets around the world, including Asia.

**LEAD:** Light. Lead prices continued to rise, despite the gloomy outlook in Brazil, after a rise in physical demand and a fall in LME reserves.

Three-month prices rose by nine dollars to 495.50 dollars per tonne.

LME stocks fell by 2,450 tonnes to 106,625 tonnes.

**ZINC:** Stable. Technical trades spared zinc prices from

# ROK to get \$5b Japanese loan