

G7 meet resolves differences but effect on dollar doubtful

AFP, Boca Raton, Florida

The world's leading economies, after a weekend meeting here, may now be in accord on an approach to currency markets, but their unity is unlikely to check a slide in the dollar that has lately alarmed Europe and Japan, analysts warn.

As investors and traders awaited the start of currency dealing this week, market watchers predicted that compromise language hammered out by Group of Seven policymakers will have little pronounced impact on the dollar, which has recently plunged to record lows against the yen and the European single currency.

Finance ministers and central bankers from Britain, Canada,

France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States crafted a statement Saturday that sought to assuage European anxiety about "excess volatility" on exchange markets while acknowledging US insistence that such markets remain "flexible."

"Excess volatility and disorderly movements in exchange rates are undesirable for economic growth," the key passage reads.

"We emphasize that more flexibility in exchange rates is desirable for major countries or economic areas that lack such flexibility to promote smooth and widespread adjustments in the financial system, based on market conditions."

For Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo bank, "it sounds like a statement that's going to suit just about everybody because it allows different interpretations."

"I think the Europeans will say it means that the dollar has fallen too fast, and the Europeans could jawbone or even intervene to slow the decline of the dollar."

Joseph Quinlan, chief market strategist at Bank of America, said the Boca Raton statement did not provide markets "much to play on."

"We'll get back to the dollar drifting lower until we get some news or big data," Quinlan predicted, adding that markets will look for an improvement in US trade and current account figures before pushing the greenback higher.

He said the statement appeared to offer a good compromise between the US position that free market forces should determine the value of a currency and Europe's contention that some form of action is needed to keep the dollar from sliding out of control.

"I'm encouraged in the sense that the US didn't strong-arm the Europeans. It sounds like they split the difference."

G7 ministers gathered here as fears mounted in the 12 nations using the euro and in Japan that Washington's apparent preference for a weaker dollar would cut into their export earnings and imperil economic recovery.



PHOTO: SIBL

Kazi Anwarul Mahub, managing director of Social Investment Bank Limited, and KMA Shamim, chairman of Electronic Transactions Network Limited, exchange documents after signing an agreement in Dhaka yesterday. Under the accord, account holders of the bank will be able to obtain e-cash ATM/Debit Card services from 20 ATMs of the network.



PHOTO: CITIBANK NA

Md Asaduzzaman Khan, executive director of Bangladesh Bank, Mamun Rashid, CEO of Citibank NA Bangladesh, Bashar M Tareq, country treasurer, Citibank- Bangladesh, and Vinay Awasthy, asst vice-president, Citibank- India, pose for a photograph with the participants of a training session on foreign exchange products and future direction of products organised by Citibank NA in Dhaka yesterday.

Ericsson wins \$400m service contract from India's Bharti

AFP, New Delhi

Bharti Televentures, India's largest private telecoms company, on Monday awarded a 400 million-dollar service contract to Swedish giant Ericsson.

Bharti awarded the contract to Ericsson for managing 13 of its 21 Airtel mobile networks.

"The three-year service agreement with Ericsson is all-encompassing and is towards the management, maintenance, quality and capacity expansion of the Airtel networks in these circles," said a joint company statement.

Apart from six million mobile subscribers, Bharti has 544,900 fixed-line customers.

Bharti is one of the most aggressive players in the Indian telecoms market, an industry which has emerged as the barometer of the opening of the country's economy.

Ericsson, the world's biggest producer of mobile telephone equipment, has been supplying telecoms equipment to Bharti Televentures since the early 1990s.



PHOTO: AGRANI BANK

ASM Imdadul Haque, managing director of Agrani Bank, and Nik Hassan Nik Mohd Amin, executive vice-president-Corporate and Institutional Banking of Bhumiputra Commerce Bank, Malaysia, sign a remittance agreement on behalf of their organisations recently in Malaysia. Under the deal, Bhumiputra Commerce Bank will collect money from Malaysia and transfer the funds to Agrani Bank in telegraphic process.

CURRENCY

Following is Monday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank					
Sell	Currency		Buy		
TT/OD	BC	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer	
59.1500	59.2000	USD 58.2550	58.0839	58.0144	
75.9604	76.0246	EUR 73.3838	73.1683	73.0807	
110.3739	110.4672	GBP 107.2766	106.9615	106.8335	
46.5392	46.5786	AUD 44.4078	44.2773	43.2244	
0.5672	0.5677	JPY 0.5470	0.5454	0.5447	
48.4717	48.5127	CHF 46.8363	46.6987	46.6428	
8.2551	8.2620	SEK 7.6588	7.6363	7.6271	
45.0049	45.0430	CAD 43.6204	43.4922	43.4402	
7.6185	7.6249	HKD 7.4888	7.4668	7.4578	
35.2104	35.2402	SGD 34.3708	34.2698	34.2288	
16.2357	16.2495	AED 15.7327	15.6865	15.6677	
15.8986	15.9123	SAR 15.4114	15.3661	15.3477	

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar				
Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai bath	Nor kroner
NZ dollar	Malaysian ringit			

Local Interbank FX Trading
Local interbank market was active on Monday. US dollar became stronger against Bangladeshi taka due to increased demand for import.

Local Money Market
Money market was active. Call money rate was steady and remained unchanged at 5.00-6.00 per cent.

International Market
The dollar hit a two-week low on the euro and an 11-year trough against sterling on Monday as the market decided a Group of Seven warning against "excess volatility" in exchange rates did not herald action to support the greenback. The dollar has come under broad-based pressure on the view that the US current account deficit is unsustainable and the US administration is happy to see it fall to correct that imbalance and boost economic growth ahead of November's presidential election. Disappointing US jobs data reinforced expectations for lower US interest rates. Against the yen, the dollar was holding at 105.60 yen, just above a three-year low set last week. At 1630 hours on Monday, euro was at 1.2733/84, GBP was at 1.8575/79, yen was at 105.66/69 against US dollar.

This memorandum is issued by Standard Chartered Bank and is based on or derived from information generally available to the public from sources believed to be reliable. While all reasonable care has been taken in its preparation no responsibility or liability is accepted for errors of fact or any opinion expressed herein.

Clarification
The daily currency rates and commentary on market published on this page yesterday were of another date. A computer glitch caused the error. We regret the inadvertent mistake.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 09/02/2004

Berth	Import	Name of	Cargo	L. port	Local	Dtof Leaving
No.	vessels		call	agent	arrival	disch.
J/1	Ducky Sapphire	GI(St. C)	Mumb	Bma	1/2	1 0 / 2
3031						
J/2	Eleana	Sugar(P)	Durb	Bsl	25/1	15/2 1110
J/3	Meres Sajinda	Wheat(P)	Tuti	Rsa	5/2	10/2 364
J/4	Banglar Mamata	GI (Log)	Yang	Pml	6/2	1 5 / 2
402						
J/5	Ocean Pride	GI(Maize/ Log	Yang	Psal	26/1	15/2 1094
J/6	Tai Ping	GI (Peas)	Sing	Usl	30/1	13/2 1356
J/7	Wang Jae Sun	Sugar(P)	Sing	Usl	3/2	13/2 2142
J/8	Hlone Ywa	B. Mpate	Yang	Total	3/2	11/2 --
J/9	Paros	GI (Y.peas)	Vanc	Litmond	28/1	18/2 251
J/10	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	6/2	10/2 27
J/11	Budi Aman	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	6/2	9/2 169
J/12	QC Dignity	Cont	P. Kel	Qcsl	6/2	11/2 439
J/13	Orient Freedom	Cont	Sing	Pssl	4/2	9/2
Cct/1	Tug De Li & Zhong Ren-1501	--	Z. Zhou	Owsl	7/2	10/2

Cct/2	Mardios	Cont	P. Kel	Rsl	6/2	10/2 225
Cct/3	Banglar Shikha	Cont	P. Kel	Sing	Bsc	5/2 9/2--

Anchor Vessels due at outer anchorage		Date: 9/2/2004				
Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port	Local agent	Cargo	Load port	
Blue Sea	9/2	Kaki	Ssa	Clink	Ctg	
Dino	9/2		Rsship	Ballast	--	
Orient Enterprise	10/2	Ptp	Pssl	Cont	Sing	
Banga Borti	10/2	Sing	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing/P.
BBC Sealand	10/2	Sing	Mbl	Defense	--	
Inwa	10/2	Bang	Gpsl	Sugar(P)	--	
Kota Naga	10/2	Sing	Pil (Bd)	Cont	Sing	
Mercs Komari	11/2	Kaki	Able	Sugar (P)	P. Kel	
Rio Negro	10/2	P. Kel	Qcsl	Cont	P. Kel	
Long An	11/2	--	Rainbow	GI (H.r.st)	--	
Bright-Pescadores(Liner)	11/2	Yang	Everett	GI(St.c	--	

Tanker due				
Satamat-2	10/2	Sing	Oim	Bitumen(RM/3)
Al Deerah	10/2	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd (RM/)

Vessels at Kutubdia				
Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Dea Captain	--	--	lbsa	R/A (6/2)
Afroditi	C. Oil	Jebe	Ssst	8/2
Banglar Shourabh	C. Oil	--	Bsc	R/A

Vessels at outer anchorage				
Vessels ready				
Xpress Resolve	Cont	Col	Everbest	6/2
Banga Borak	Cont	Cont	Sing	Bdship 6/2
Dongtai Fortune	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	7/2
Pac Makassar	Cont	Hald	Pssl	8/2

Vessels not ready				
Theresa-II	Cpol	Dumai	Bma	8/2
Sea Luck-V		C.Clink	Tanj	Bsl 8/2

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction				
Banga Biraj	--	--	Bdship	R/A (29/12)

Vessels not entering				
Fuan Cheng		Tsp	Tamp	Litmond 5/2
Iran Sadoughi		Clink	Kouch	Uniship 6/2
Prosperous Ocean	Clink	Tuba	Asil	7/2
Sinar Sejati	Clink	Kohsi	Mbl	7/2
Panagia-1	Clink	Mala	Move	8/2

STOCK