

IMF proposes emergency liquidity cushion for emerging economies

AFP, Singapore

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is proposing an emergency liquidity facility to help Asian and other emerging economies deal with any financial crises.

Takatoshi Kato, the IMF's deputy managing director, told a seminar in Singapore on Monday that despite

the buoyant global economy, precautions must be taken against future instability.

IMF officials said the world had faced a slew of financial crises over the past 15 years, including the Asian financial crisis in 1997-1998.

"A key challenge for most emerging market countries these days is to continue to reduce domestic vulnera-

bilities, so as to make themselves more resilient to large and volatile capital flows and avoid future crises," Kato told the two-day seminar on "crisis prevention".

Many emerging markets, especially in Asia, have accumulated large reserves to guard against vulnerabilities but those reserves come at high cost, he said.

The IMF has been examining a lower-cost solution that provides a "high-access" line of credit to emerging market countries with strong macro-economic policies but which remain vulnerable to shocks, Kato said.

"This instrument would provide a liquidity cushion for our members and would be designed to help them avoid crises and respond to them if and when they do occur," he told policymakers and capital market representatives.

Kato said possible elements of a new instrument are expected to be elaborated on at the IMF/World Bank annual meetings in Singapore this September.

The IMF in May forecast a brisk 7.0 percent economic growth across Asia for 2006 but warned significant risks, including sharply higher oil prices, remain.

Mark Allen, director of the IMF's policy development and review department, told a news conference at the end of the seminar Tuesday that the design of the facility was still being worked out.

It aims to complement other regional facilities including the Chiang Mai Initiative, a swap arrangement that allows East Asian central banks to tap into each other's foreign exchange reserves during a financial crisis.



PHOTO: BEPZA

Prasanta Bhushan Barua, member (Investment Promotion) of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza), and Zahedul Hoque, managing director of NLZ Fashion Limited, sign a lease agreement on behalf of their organisations in Dhaka on Monday. Under the deal, NLZ Fashion will establish a knit textile and garment unit in Chittagong EPZ with an investment of \$1.5 million.



PHOTO: BEPZA

Selim RF Hussain, acting chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh, hands over a cheque for Tk 15 lakh to Zahida Ispahani, adviser to Islamia Eye Hospital, at a function in Dhaka recently. The bank also donated ten computers to the hospital for its modernisation programme. Shah Masud Imam, head of Corporate Affairs of the bank, was also present.

Toyota announces new Ontario parts plant

AFP, Ottawa

A division of Japanese auto giant Toyota will build a new auto parts facility in Canada's Ontario province, officials announced Monday.

The new plant will supply seats, door trim and carpet for some 150,000 Toyota RAV4 sport utility vehicles to be built in Woodstock, Ontario each year, company president Shuhei Toyoda said in a statement.

Japan's Toyota Motor Corp., which surpassed US-based General Motors as the dominant car manufacturer in Canada earlier this year, said it would open a new assembly plant in Woodstock to build the RAV4 in 2008.

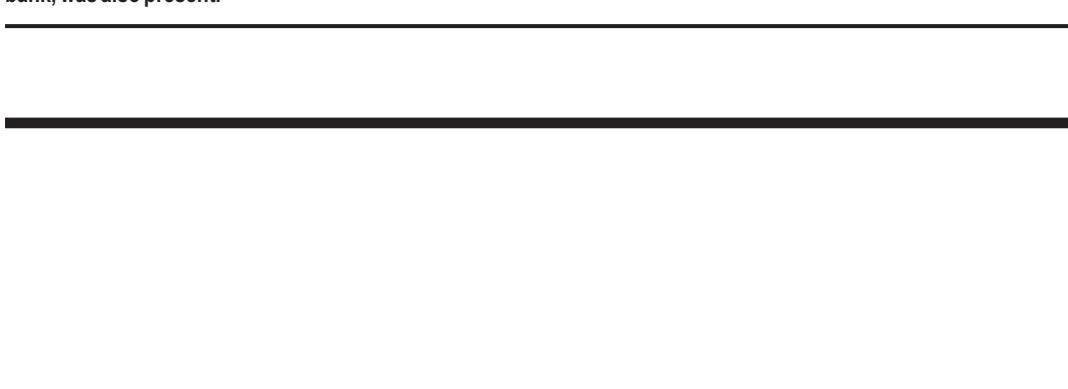


PHOTO: STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

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PHOTO: DBBL

Dutch Bangla Bank Limited Managing Director Md Yeasin Ali hands over a payment order of Tk 2 lakh recently to A J Faisel, country representative (Bangladesh) of Engender Health, a non-government organisation (NGO) working for ensuring women's rights and reproductive health in Bangladesh. The NGO will utilise the money for the treatment of fistula affected women.



PHOTO: JANATA BANK

Janata Bank Managing Director S M Aminur Rahman inaugurates the new location of the bank's Panam Nagar branch recently. Deputy managing directors Md Mizanur Rahman and Nazmus Salehin were also present at the function.

CURRENCY

Following is Tuesday's (July 11, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

TT/OD	BC	Currency	Buy		
			TT/Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
70.2700	70.3000	USD	69.0500	69.0270	68.9810
90.6905	90.7292	EUR	86.2268	86.6979	86.6401
130.9267	130.9267	GBP	125.8022	125.7603	125.6764
53.7003	53.7233	AUD	50.8760	50.8591	50.8252
0.6265	0.6268	JPY	0.6018	0.6016	0.6012
57.8640	57.8887	CHF	55.6451	55.6265	55.5895
10.1846	10.1890	SEK	9.2119	9.2089	9.2027
63.2664	63.2934	CAD	60.8745	60.8543	60.8137
9.0620	9.0658	HKD	8.8638	8.8609	8.8550
45.5589	45.5783	SGD	43.6611	43.6465	43.6174
19.2880	19.2962	AED	18.6475	18.6413	18.6289
18.8872	18.8953	SAR	18.2657	18.2597	18.2475
12.5359	12.5413	DKK	11.3169	11.3131	11.3066
239.6386	239.7431	KWD	237.0210	236.9443	236.7910

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee | Pak rupee | Lankan rupee | Thai baht | Norkrone | NZ dollar | Malaysian ringgit

45.97 | 60.28 | 103.95 | 37.855 | 6.2687 | 0.6114 | 3.65

Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was active on Tuesday. Money market was active on Tuesday. Call money rate remained unchanged and ranged between 6.50 and 7.00 percent.

Local Money Market

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STOCK

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 11/7/2006

Berth	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Vera	Wheat(P)	Ukra	Jnship	1/6	12/7	174
J/2	Santa Suria	GI(R.Log)	Yang	Ambl	29/6	12/7	1000
J/3	Xuan Cheng	Gypsum/Tsp	Fang	Cosco	17/6	14/7	120
J/4	Huang Shan	GI	Chin	Cosco	3/7	14/7	508
J/5	African Protea	Slag	Viza	Move	30/6	12/7	1834
J/6	Long Grow	Sugar	Tuti	Litmond	5/7	16/7	24
J/7	Delmas Kaveri	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	2/7	12/7	61
J/8	Yong Jiang	GI	Inch	Cosco	5/7	15/7	755
J/9	Golden Star	Urea(BCIC)	Ruwai	Peal	27/6	19/7	544
J/10	QC Test	Cont	Col	Qsl	4/7	13/7	180
J/11	New Sea Sar	Cont	Mala	Qsl	3/7	12/7	338
J/12	Selatan Megah	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	3/7	11/7	12
J/13	Del Wisdom	Cont	Ptp	Pssl	2/7	12/7	170

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Kota Berjaya	11/7	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Yongxing	11/7	Singl	Pssl	Cont	Col
QC Honour	11/7	Sing	Qcls	Cont	Sing
Amala	12/7	—	Seacom	Raw Sugar	—
Atlantica-1	12/7	Toama	Safe	Scraping	—
Tai	12/7	Deli	Ahz	Scraping	—
Brave Royal	12/7	Krabi	Brsi	C. Clink	Royal
Banga Bori	12/7	Sin	Bdship	P. Kel	—
Carakaya Niaga-III-4	12/7	Yang	Sunshine	Gil(Log)	—
Hawaiian Eye	12/7	Ling	Prog	Gil(H. St)	—
Port Alice	12/7	—	Everett	Gr. Slag	—
Amer	13/7	P. Kel	Cel	Cont	Sing
QC Dignity	14/7	Pkl	Qcls	Cont	Sing
Phu Tan	13/7	Col	Pssl	Cont	Col
Coastal Express	13/7	Kol	Bsca	Cont	L/para

Tanker due

Tank Oil | 11/7 | Pasi | Rainbow | Cpo(RM/4)

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
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Outside port limit

Wira Keris | -- | -- | lbsa | R/A (7/7)

Vessels at outer anchorage vessels ready

Kanok Naree	Wheat(P)	Turk	Litmond	21/6
Banglar Robi	Cont	Ptp	Bsc	5/7
Esham	Cont	P. Kel	Cel	5/7
Kota Petani	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	5/7
Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	6/7
Banga Biraj	Cont	Sing	Bdship	6/7
Cape Henry	Cont	Sing	Apl	7/7
Emily-C	Cont	P		